

Clerks Corner January 2017

Welcome to Wenham in 2017! Whether you are new to Town or not, there is much to know about our Annual Town Meeting. Around this time, just as it snows and gets cold in New England, the Wenham Board of Selectmen begins to organize the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. This year the warrant was opened on January 10th. The warrant will become the outline for the Town Meeting so now is a good time to follow the Selectmen's Tuesday night meetings at Town Hall, on HWCam.org or on TV (Comcast channel 8 or Verizon channel 36). Knowing what issues are being brought to the Town Meeting helps voters to have an educated say in the Meeting. *If you have opinions or concerns about Town matters, bringing them to the attention of the Selectmen via the Town Administrator's office is a more direct way of getting them addressed than using social media alone.*

Open Town Meeting is the oldest and most direct form of government dating back to the 1600's. It is a gathering of residents with the purpose of giving every registered voter a voice in all matters concerning our town. It is where every vote matters and every vote counts. Please note however, that only those in attendance have the opportunity to have a say in what passes and what does not. Please be sure to allow your voice to be heard by marking your calendars now and reserving Saturday April 1st from 1-4'ish to be involved in the policies that will affect you and your families in the years to come.

Before the Meeting, at noon, the Wenham Village Improvement Society sponsors the Annual Town Luncheon. The lunch is free, open to all residents and is a great opportunity to meet other Wenham-ites.

The Thursday following Town Meeting, April 6, 2017, is our Annual Town Election which is held at Town Hall from 7am to 8pm. There are 14 seats available this year; 2 seats on the Board of Assessors, 1 seat on the Board of Health, 1 seat on the Board of Selectmen, 1 seat on the Hamilton-Wenham Library Trustees, 4 seats on the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee, 1 seat for the Moderator, 1 seat on the Planning Board, 1 seat for the Town Clerk, 1 seat on the Water Commission and 1 seat on the Housing Authority. Nomination papers can be taken out now and are due February 16, 2017. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

In other news, all households should have received and are returning their 2017 census forms. Dog licenses are also due now. If you did not receive a mailing, please contact the Clerk's office at 978-468-5520 x1.