

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, § 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Wenham Board of Health (BOH) was held on Wednesday April 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM virtually on Zoom.us.

With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

Board Members Present: Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair; Gerald Donnellan; Regina Baker

Also Present: Maribeth Ting, Public Health Nurse; Greg Bernard, Health Agent

Anthony Ansaldi, Town Administrator; Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services; Recording Secretary Catherine Tinsley

Police Chief Tom Perkins and Captain Kevin DiNapoli

Fire Chief Stephen Kavanagh and Deputy Chief Jeff Baxter

HW Recreation Director, Sean Timmons

Board of Selectmen: Jack Wilhelm, Chair; John Clemenzi, Catherine Harrison

In response to the Covid19 Virus pandemic, the Massachusetts Governor closed all non-essential businesses and issued stay at home advisory. To comply with the Governor's orders, this meeting took place virtually on zoom video.

The Chair Identified that this was a virtual meeting, that the meeting was being recorded, all could be heard, and votes would be taken by roll call.

Mr. Wilhelm declined to call the BOS meeting to order at this time, pending required BOS action.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Discussion)

- Update from Public Health Nurse, Maribeth Ting
 - The following emails were received on April 1, 2020:
 1. Email from Kristin Sleeper, MD & Eric Sleeper, MD Re Support COVID19 positive cases be confidential
 2. Email from Ann Krantz Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 3. Email Jen Caufield, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 4. Email Judy Bubriski, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 5. Lisa Terranova, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 6. Michelle Bailey & Matt Bailey, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 7. Patrick Waddell, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 8. Rick Woodland, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 9. Robert Corcoran, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 10. Sandra Pavao Roman, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 11. Tom Starr, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 12. Tracey Hutchinson, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 13. Trudy Reid, Re Support COVID19 positive cases be public.
 14. Missy Berry, Town of Wenham Conservation and Open Space Coordinator, Re Support from residents to keep the trails open for walking

Ms. Ting expressed concern with providing regular updates to town residents on the number of cases in Wenham.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides county data each day at 4 pm on the state web site.

Ms. Ting noted the DPH has a long-time practice to provide discretion to the municipalities of how best to disseminate the information to the communities.

The BOH received a number of emails that supported the BOH provide the number of COVID19 cases specific to Wenham be made public.

Ms. Ting reported that as of 4 pm, the Town of Wenham had 3 confirmed cases of COVID19 and one presumed case; all have recovered. There have been no new cases in Wenham the past 5 days and opined that this is most likely due to the lack of testing than the number of people with the disease.

Ms. Ting asked that residents exhibiting COVID19 symptoms who have been advised by their physician to quarantine at home, notify that Board of Health at 978 468 5520 ext. 4. The Public Nurse will contact and work with this person and

Approved 4.15.2020

notify first responders of the addresses so they can put on the protective suits if they are called to that address. It was stressed that if anyone with COVID19 calling 911 should identify themselves to dispatch as having the virus.

Ms. Ting recommended the town's web site be updated weekly with COVID19 statistics.

Ms. Baker identified herself as an emergency room nurse and spoke on the communities' desire to have an awareness of current COVID19 cases in town. Ms. Baker stressed that the daily numbers don't reflect the actual number of infected people as the number changes frequently and the public needs to remain vigilant about protective behaviors regardless of the number of cases in Wenham.

Ms. Ting was directed by the Board to draft a statement to post for a weekly update of Wenham COVID19 cases.

The BOH will increase the informational resources on the town's web site.

- Discussion on Wenham public parks, playgrounds, playing fields, and trails

Dr. Ting introduced this discussion to close public places and stated that the Hamilton Board of Health and Board of Selectmen recently closed town parks and playgrounds in Hamilton. It was questioned if Wenham would do the same.

Dr. Ting noted signs have been put up in public places to practice social distancing and play equipment taped off.

The BOH discussed how to safely secure public parks, trails, playgrounds and keep them open for use during this time, or having the ability to close these areas during the state of emergency and if/when/ how enforcement would be instigated. It was observed the town of Hamilton adopted a warning/fine structure.

Ms. Baker opined that with the increase of COVID19 infections in Essex County, that public areas be closed and extra signage be put up to encourage people to follow the safety guidelines to prevent the virus from spreading in the community. Mr. Donnellan questioned if putting up signs was enough.

Mr. Timmons reviewed Hamilton's approach to closures by locking the courts and making the sport nets unavailable.

The police were given enforcement rights; the first violation is a warning along with information the second and third fines were financial.

Police Chief Perkins said he met with Town Counsel regarding these actions and the Police Department would need the BOH authority to enforce closures. He noted parks were not as much as an issue but the Rail Trail was heavily used.

Chief Perkins went on to recommend that all parking lots for public places be closed as a deterrent to the public. Specific to the Rail Trail, Chief Perkins recommended temporary "no parking" signs be staggered along Route 97 in the area of the Rail Trail.

Although the Board was concerned with limiting people getting out, the COVID19 virus is a huge public health risk and warrants the closures of these gathering areas. Mr. Ansaldi said he reached out to abutting communities that share the Rail Trail but has not heard back if those towns plan on closing their sections.

The Board members agreed to coordinate the park, playground, and trail closures with the Town of Hamilton.

It was agreed a reverse 911 be issued to inform residents of this update.

VOTE: The Board of Health members voted unanimously by roll call vote to close all Wenham parks, playgrounds, and trails starting Friday April 3, 2020 at noon through May 4, 2020.

Board of Selectmen: With a quorum present, Mr. Wilhelm called the BOS meeting to order at 6:44 pm.

Each selectman was present for the BOH discussion to close parks, playgrounds, and trails.

Ms. Harrison identified she had been listening to the discussions to close the parks, playgrounds and trails in Wenham and concurred with the BOH action.

Mr. Clemenzi asked for an end date to the closures and it was agreed the closures would be through May 4, 2020.

It was clarified the closure includes the WVIS (Wenham Village Improvement Society) tennis courts and playground and the Iron Rail Soccer Fields.

Chief Perkins added that the Salem Beverly Water Board indicated they would mirror the Town's decision and also close the Wenham Canal to the public.

VOTE: The BOS voted unanimously by roll call to close all (Wenham) public parks & playgrounds, and trails including the WVIS tennis courts, Iron Rail Soccer Fields, and the Rail Trail in Wenham effective April 3, 2020 at noon and this decision be reviewed again by May 4.

VOTE: The Board of Health members voted unanimously by roll call to authorize the Wenham Police Department the ability to enforce public closures by the appropriate means starting April 3, 2020 at noon.

VOTE: The BOS voted unanimously by roll call to adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Approved 4.15.2020

- Appointment Part-time, temporary Public Health Nurses:

Maribeth Ting is the part time Public Health Nurse for Hamilton and Wenham. With the amount of work needed during this crisis, five temporary per diem nurses are to be appointed as temporary public health nurses with a term ending with the Municipal State of Emergency; a grant has been submitted through NEMA (National Emergency Management Association) to cover this cost to the town. These nurses will assist Ms. Ting

1. Gwen J. McDonald
2. Jessica Baker
3. Sandi Hickey
4. Lynne Nardella
5. Lisa Druskat

VOTE: The Board of Health members voted unanimously by roll call to appoint Gwen J. McDonald; Jessica Baker Sandi Hickey; Lynne Nardella; and Lisa Druskat as temporary Public Health Nurses effective April 1, 2020 through the end of the Municipal State of Emergency Declaration.

VOTE: The Board of Health members voted unanimously by roll call to authorize Jackie Bresnahan to sign the Certificates of Appointments for the Board of Health.

- Change in position structure for part-time permanent Public Health Nurse for the duration of the State of Emergency
Dr. Ting cited a conflict of interest and recused himself as a family member of the Public Nurse Maribeth Ting.

Ms. Bresnahan stated that the Public Health Nurse position is a stipend position at 3 hours a week. The BOH was asked to recommend a change in the Public Health Nurse stipend position, to an hourly position during the Municipal State of Emergency Declaration. Ms. Bresnahan noted that expenses in response to the COVID19 are eligible for reimbursement from the Mass Department of Public Health. The hourly rate would be paid at \$35 per hour.

VOTE: The Board of Health voted unanimously by roll call to change the positions structure for the part time Public Health Nurse during the for the Municipal State of Emergency. 2-0-0. Mr. Ting returned to the meeting.

Updates from Staff, if any

Mr. Bernard said he has received queries from other local towns if Wenham is allowing septic soil testing and septic system replacement during the Municipal State of Emergency. He went on to say that soil testing and septic replacements are considered essential and would be allowed as necessary. There is currently one project at this time.

New business

Ms. Bresnahan reported that she would be submitting a request to the DPH for funding and supplies based on what has been spent to date. The Town will also submit data collected from residents over the age of 60 collected during the phone banking.

Review and approval of outstanding minutes: March 30, 2020

The minutes were held for review.

Schedule next meeting: April 15 at 6pm. This meeting will be held virtually on Zoom

Adjourn - *The Board adjourned unanimously by roll call vote at 7:05 pm*

Respectfully Submitted By
Catherine Tinsley
4.4.2020