
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 Friday April 10, 2020 at 5:00 PM virtually on Zoom.us.

- Call to order –With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the meeting to order at 5 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;
Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary

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.

- Identify that this is a virtual meeting, the meeting is being recorded, identify all attendees.
The Chair identified that this was a virtual meeting, the meeting was being recorded, all could be heard, and votes would be taken by roll call.

1. COVID-19 (Coronavirus Discussion)

a. Update from Public Health Nurse

Ms. Ting provided an update that there have been six confirmed COVID19 cases in Wenham and a number of presumed cases; of the confirmed cases, five have recovered and one person is home recovering.

Ms. Ting continued to expressed concern that number of cases reflected was related to the limited number of residents that have been tested and noted that the number of cases in Essex County continues to rise exponentially and is anticipated to peak soon. Ms. Ting reiterated that it was critically important for residents to stay home and only go out for essentials and then, following new guidelines, to wear a face mask. Any residents presumed to be infected should call the Public Health Nurse for information and guidance.

As the situation evolves, the Town's web site is updated regularly with new information from reputable sources.

b. Discussion on community forum/panel with public health and safety

The Health Fair will now be a live forum on HWCAM with a discussion panel to answer questions from the public. The panel will consist of members of Public Safety, the Public Nurse, and a BOH member. Ms. Baker volunteered to serve on the panel. There will be two forum sessions on April 16.

c. Discussion on other outreach and communication strategies, if needed

Ms. Bresnahan requested the BOH make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to approve a robocall to inform residents of the health forum panel on April 16, to include date, times, and how to submit questions.

VOTE: The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote to recommend to the BOS to authorize the use of robocall to residents to publicize the important panel discussion on the April 16.

2. Appoint Jackie Bresnahan as BOH signatory for Health Agent payroll and other bills

VOTE: The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote to Vote to authorize Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services, as the Board of Health signatory, for the Health Agent, for payroll and other bills through the end of the State of Emergency.

3. Updates from Staff, if any

Mr. Bernard reported he anticipates to issue Certificate (s) of Completion (COC) units at Wenham Pines, Main St. There are a couple active septic permits in town; this is less than usual but the health office remains open.

Mr. Donnellan referred to the new construction at 128 Topsfield Road, and said that there was so much standing water in the cellar hole that it needed to be pumped out. Mr. Bernard is monitoring the site and noted that the retention area is working to prevent water from flowing onto Topsfield Road, but there was concern that water was being pumped into the stormwater system and this will be followed up.

Approved 4.15.2020

Ms. Bresnahan reported that the Health Department is proceeding with the camp permits at Gordon College, as this is a lengthy process, in the event that the camps open this summer. No requests have been received to date regarding pool openings at Gordon College or The Maples.

Ms. Bresnahan also mentioned that the Assistant Health Inspector, Bobbie Cody has kept the food service establishments in town up to date of the FDA (Federal Food Administration) best practices that have been released during the crisis and that inspections would begin after May 4 or pending the end of the State of Emergency.

The Inspector of Animals, Ann Jackman has one case of a possible exposure of rabies; a domestic dog vs rabid raccoon.

4. New business, not reasonably anticipated by the Chair for discussion only.

The Board members observed that the Town of Hamilton BOH will consider directing residents to wear masks when out in public; many other local communities have opted to enact this precaution.

5. Schedule next meeting, if necessary

The BOH next meeting: Wednesday April 15 at 6 pm

- Adjournment – *The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn at 5:24 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By

Catherine Tinsley

4.11.2020