

TOWN OF WENHAM
BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting of April 15, 2020
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

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 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM virtually on Zoom.us.

- Call to order –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;
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.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Discussion)
Update from Public Health Nurse

Ms. Ting reported that Wenham has 7 confirmed Covid19 cases with other presumed cases. Those infected with the virus have recovered. Ms. Ting stressed that these numbers do not reflect the true situation as testing, although improved, remains difficult to get.

COVID19 information is updated on the Town's web site and includes resources and links for additional information.

The Public Health Forum is tomorrow, Thursday April 16 at 3 pm and 7 pm and will be held live on Zoom aired on HWCAM. Questions from the public are being accepted through zoom chat, phone calls, emails, etc.

Follow up from Wenham BOS meeting, if needed

The Wenham and Hamilton Boards of Selectmen met jointly Monday. During this meeting it was mentioned that the Hamilton Board of Health was meeting (tonight) to consider issuing an emergency order that residents wear a face (mask) covering; this was not discussed by the Selectmen.

It was noted that other local communities have issued an order for residents to put on a face mask when entering a place of business. Although Wenham has few businesses, the Board of Health members agreed this was a practical and protective measure due to public and health concerns.

Ms. Baker noted that everyone at the hospital, including administrative staff, wears a mask all day.

Known businesses open in Wenham included, but were not limited to, 97Market, Tendercrop Farm, Wenham Tea House, Grassy Roots, and operating food service are Gordon College and Buker School.

The Board agreed this to include town employees at the Fire Station, Police Station, Town Hall, Department of Public Works and any other department that people are present.

Ms. Ting made a video with clear guidance on how to properly wear a face mask over both the nose and mouth; this promotional public service announcement will be aired on HWCAM

Vote: The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote to order (Wenham) essential business's open to public, to require both the public entering the business and the employees, to wear face covering (mask) until the State of Emergency expires on May 4, 2020 or extended by the Governor be starting Friday, April 17 at 12:01 am.

Vote: The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote that Wenham Municipal Offices/Departments be included in the face covering BOH order.

Vote: The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote to present to the Wenham Board of Selectmen the face covering order to require face coverings be worn in businesses open to the public, including municipal offices, and recommend the Board of Selectmen vote on this same motion and discuss a fee structure.

Approved 5.6.2020

Vote: The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote to authorize Jackie Bresnahan to sign the (face covering) Order on behalf of the BOH Chair, Dr. Ting.

Mr. Ansaldi will put this on the BOS meeting agenda for Tuesday April 21, 2020.

Updates from Staff, if any

- Mr. Bernard reported that he has a couple inspections but there is not a lot of septic projects.
- Ms. Bresnahan reported that the Assistant Health Agent mailed the 2020 forms for camps, pools, and seasonal food establishments to Gordon College, etc. and would proceed as normal as this permitting process is very time consuming and, in the event these are not cancelled, the town would be on schedule.
- The Public Nurse will draft a letter for the BOH to provide residents with the appropriate authorization confirming the completing of their quarantine.

Vote: The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote to authorize the BOH Chair, Dr. Ting to sign a letter of quarantine confirmation.

Review and approval of outstanding minutes - February 19, 2020; March 31, 2020; April 1, 2020, April 10, 2020

Vote: The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the minutes as edited.

Schedule next meeting: Wednesday, April 22 at 8:30 am

Adjournment – *The BOH voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn at 7 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted

By Catherine Tinsley

4.15.2020