

TOWN OF WENHAM  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Meeting of April 22, 2020  
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

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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 22, 2020 at 8:30 AM virtually on Zoom.us. Meeting ID 974-1907-7372

**Call to order** –With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

Board Members Present: Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair; Regina Baker; Gerald Donnellan (A 8:48 am)

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; Police Captain DiNapoli

Selectman 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.

- 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 reported that she confirmed a second positive COVID case without receiving notification from Maven.

Maven is a disease management platform used by public health officials, medical providers, epidemiologists and laboratories to provide support and share information during an outbreak crisis.

Both times the people self-quarantined as advised by their Physician. Ms. Ting observed that with the low number of cases in Wenham, having no notification twice is significant. Ms. Ting is following up with the state; part of the problem may have been with the reporting from the lab.

Regarding the community tracing collaborative, the public health volunteers are being phased out of contact tracing.

The public health volunteers will continue to offer support with policies, generate ideas etc.

Also, if there are active cases, the town can use Maven to flag for additional part-time health nurses for additional assistance.

A number of seniors reported not having a thermometer. The Fire Department placed an order for thermometers which will be distributed by prioritizing situations.

- b. Update on website and communications

The town web site has been updated and now includes the face covering policy approved by the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen, a written list of the questions and responses from the April 16 public forum, and a tab for mental health resources during COVID.

- 2. Follow up from Wenham BOS meeting, if needed

Dr. Ting reported the Selectmen voted to affirm the BOH policy for face coverings at their meeting on Tuesday April 21. The Selectmen asked the Board of Health to add parks, playgrounds, and consider a fine structure.

Dr. Ting observed that there is no fee/fine structure for the police to enforce.

Captain DiNapoli said people are respectful of guidelines and policies and responding well to verbal warnings.

Regarding the face coverings, Dr. Ting initiated a discussion to create a fine structure for the police to enforce.

The State allows up to a \$1000 fine, but the fine amount is decided locally.

It was noted that the Town of Hamilton has instituted a structure to start with verbal warning(s), a \$100 fine, and a \$300 fine.

Ms. Bresnahan has sent notification for the face covering order to the food service establishments in town.

Ms. Bresnahan cautioned that the fine structure must be in place prior to being enforced.

*Approved 5.6.2020*

The board members supported a fee structure be in place but preferred the use of verbal warnings and monetary fines be used for reoccurring situations at the discretion of the police.

*VOTE: The Board of Health members voted unanimously by roll call vote with regard to the emergency face covering order, to set up a fine structure as follows: the first is a verbal warning, the second be a \$100 fine and the third \$250 fine that the Police Department will enforce for the length of the term of the emergency effective immediately.*

- 3. Updates from Staff, if any

Mr. Bernard reported he has been doing inspections and soil testing. He mentioned that there is a proposed one lot sub division on Arbor Street that he is submitting comment to the application to the Planning Board.

The assistant health agent continues to work on summer camp applications in the event they are allowed to open this summer. Ms. Bresnahan noted of interest that the Wenham Museum will hold their attic treasure sip and shop event virtually this year. She also noted several towns have banned ice cream trucks from operating in their towns this summer; enforcement is unknown.

- 4. Review and approval of outstanding minutes - There were none.

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

The BOH received a request to consider putting a hold on yard burning while people are home and cannot get away from the smoke. Ms. Bresnahan said spoke with Fire Chief Kavanagh and there is minimal time to act as the season ends April 30. Chief Kavanagh said that a higher number of burn permits have been issued this year and the Fire Department closely monitors all addresses issued a permit. The BOH has an advisory roll but cannot stop permitting in particular. It was noted that this is not specifically related to COVID-19 and is appropriately with the Fire Department to monitor.

Dr. Ting asked if there were resources with the public nurses to look into this for another time; Ms. Ting will look into this.

- 6. Schedule next meeting, if necessary

Ms. Baker questioned since the Governor closed the schools for the remainder of the school year, if there may be changes to extend the May 4th order and to include playgrounds and parks, currently closed.

Mr. Ansaldi recommended the BOH meet jointly with the BOS on Tuesday April 27 to further discuss extending any orders as this would be a joint authorization.

**Adjournment** – *The board members voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn at 9:07 am.*

*Respectfully Submitted By*

*Catherine Tinsley*

*4.22.2020*