

TOWN OF WENHAM
BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting of May 13, 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 May 13, 2020 at 8:30AM virtually on Zoom.us.

Call to order –With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the meeting to order at 8:30AM.

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

Also Present: Maribeth Ting, Public Health Nurse; Greg Bernard, Health Agent; Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary; Police Chief Perkins and Police Captain DiNapoli; Fire Chief Kavanagh and Fire Deputy Jeff Baxter; Kim Butler, Library Director; Dianne Bucco, Town Clerk

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 the (total) updated confirmed COVID-19 positive cases in Wenham was 16 with 21 residents quarantined and 2 reported deaths from COVID-19.

Ms. Ting acknowledged people are getting anxious to get outside but stressed the importance of continued health and safety measures be followed.

One important update to protocol is that people exposed to COVID-19 no longer self-quarantine but are now to contact their primary care doctor for testing.

- Update from the Board of Health

Continued discussion of election health and safety protocols

Dr. Ting noted the BOS voted at their meeting last night to change the election date from June 4 to June 25, in part to allow for more time to prepare. The Town Clerk, Dianne Bucco participated in this discussion.

Ms. Bucco said that her office does not have the cleaning supplies at this time as outline in the protocol for disinfecting and asked for assistance from the BOH of what products to order and how the screening must be done.

The BOH asked for the number of staff working the elections. This discussion will continue.

- Continued discussion of library curbside pickup health and safety protocols

The Library Director Kim Butler participated in this discussion.

Ms. Ting expressed her concern that library books are being circulated. Dr. Ting acknowledged the BOH received the safety protocols from Ms. Butler but reiterated that a library has been determined by the Governor as non-essential and may not be open. He asked Ms. Butler to elaborate on the curbside pick-up.

Ms. Butler clarified that this curbside pick-up being referred to was a “grab & go”. Books that were set aside for the book sale, which have been untouched and in storage, were bagged and put outside for pick-up and are not to be returned. Each bag contained a written protocol including that books are not to be shared.

Ms. Butler reassured the board that there has not been any mention of library circulation curbside service to the public and any mention of a curb side pick-up/drop off have been internal.

Ms. Butler confirmed that no staff were in contract with the public and she was monitoring participation to avoid people waiting. Captain DiNapoli said the police department could assist if needed.

Mr. Bernard cautioned setting precedence with allowing this program and observed that it may be only a week before the Governor allows libraries to operate with his reopening plan to be announced Monday, May 18.

There will be an internal safety process for staff and patrons when the library does open and lending starts up again.

Ms. Butler briefly summarized the library has gloves, masks, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, soap/water for when the library can reopen.

- Discussion on COVID-19 response

The board acknowledged they received several emails on the opening of parks/trails in conjunction with the Governor opening golf courses. Dr. Ting reiterated that the BOH reaffirmed their vote to keep public trails, playgrounds, parks, closed during the Governor's state of emergency; it is anticipated the Governor will present his reopening plan Monday May 18.

Ms. Ting noted that only the golf course is open with specific guidelines from the state but with no access to the restaurant or bathrooms. The BOH has received calls that there appears to be too many golf carts on the course than allowed for mobility challenged patrons. The board will send a letter to the owner of Wenham Country Club Golf Course of the importance to follow the protocol and guidelines issued by the Governor including that security must properly sanitize golf carts between use and those using golf carts must have documentation of their limited mobility to use a cart.

After the letter is issued the police will follow up and patrol the course area.

VOTE: The board of health voted unanimously by roll call vote to send a letter to the Wenham Country Club to reaffirm the protocol and guideline regulations for golf courses and allow the Public Nurse, Maribeth Ting to sign the letter for the board of health.

The Board concurred to work with the Town of Hamilton to coordinate the eventual reopening of parks, playgrounds and trails to avoid one area being overwhelmed with the public. It was noted that compared to opening of golf courses which are controlled access, limited interaction, one directional, consist of many acres, the public will gather at parks and playgrounds, potentially intermingle, and park equipment will not be sanitized. The board maintained their concern for safety protocols to be followed when these public places are reopened.

Ms. Ting suggested if the rail trail is open that the swamp walk be closed off as it is too narrow to maintain a 6-foot distance but Chief Perkins noted the board walk is more in Danvers than Wenham. He stated that no parking would be allowed along Route 97 even when the trail is open.

Any unanticipated COVID-1 related discussion

- Updates from staff, if needed

Mr. Bernard continues with daily operations which are still a bit slower than usual. He is able to be more flexible with inspection days/ times during the crisis.

The Assistant Health Inspector, Bobby Cote continues with health inspections and code enforcements.

Gordon College will not be holding their La Vida camp this summer.

There is still no guidance from the Governor on pools and camps; this is anticipated to be addressed Monday.

- Review and Approval of any outstanding minutes

The minutes were held for review.

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

- The second Public Health Forum is Thursday May 21 at 3 pm. Dr. Ting and Ms. Baker Regina will attend for the board of health.
- There is a joint meeting with the Hamilton Board of Health Friday, May 15 at 5 pm to discuss a reopening plan for parks and playgrounds.

The board will meet on May 20 at 8:30am.

- Adjourn – *The board unanimously adjourned by roll call at 9:37 am.*

Respectfully Submitted By

Catherine Tinsley

5.13.2020