

TOWN OF WENHAM  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Meeting of June 3, 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 June 3, 2020 at 8:30AM virtually on Zoom.

- 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 (838); Gerald Donnellan  
Also Present: Maribeth Ting, Public Health Nurse; Greg Bernard, Health Agent; Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary; Police Captain DiNapoli; Fire Chief Kavanagh; Police Chief Perkins  
Present not participating: Selectman Harrison

*Due to the COVID19 Virus pandemic, and restrictions concerning in-person gatherings ordered by the Governor, this meeting took place virtually on Zoom. Dr. Ting 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 accumulative confirmed positive COVID-19 case count in Wenham was 20 and 19 have recovered. Additionally, 25 residents quarantined, of which 22 completed their quarantine and 2 deaths have been attributed to the virus. Ms. Ting referenced charts and graphs showing COVID-19 related statistics for Wenham of the 19 cases:

Gender: 58% (11) male & 42% (8) female

Age: 0-10 (1); 20-30 (5); 30-40 (2); 40-50 (3); 50-60 (4); 60-70 (2); 70-80 (2)

Ms. Ting noted that as of June 1 the state changed the classification of reported cases to include probable cases.

Ms. Ting questioned if the board wanted the towns' report to include probable cases. Probable cases are those with a positive antibody test and those that were exposed to someone that tested positive and had symptoms.

The board agreed to include probable cases of COVID-19 in a separate column on the town web page with explanation.

Ms. Ting will draft an update to the Town's webpage on COVID-19.

*Vote: The board voted unanimously by roll call that the Public Nurse start reporting the number of probable cases, in alignment with the state recommendation, on the town's web page and to be updated twice a week.*

Ms. Ting reported that she received inquiries to the reopening of the tennis courts.

This includes the West Wenham tennis courts on Topsfield Road and the Pingree Park tennis courts, Main Street. The BOH does not have jurisdiction over the Wenham Village Improvement Society tennis courts, Monument Street, or the Gordon College tennis courts, Hull Street. It will be confirmed that the tennis courts at Pingree Park were closed last year by the Board of Selectmen due to safety concerns. The Hamilton BOH opened the tennis courts in Hamilton on June 1.

Dr. Ting noted that the United States Tennis Association (USTA) has put out guidance for no contact tennis during the pandemic; this information will be linked to the town's website.

After considering the options to opening tennis courts, the board agreed to open the courts for singles play only.

*Vote: The board voted unanimously by roll call vote to open the tennis courts per the guidance of the Department of Public Health and the United States Tennis Association, limited to singles play and that (players) follow current safety guidance from public health starting Friday June 5 at 5 pm.*

*\* The board later amended the opening date to Monday June 8.*

- Update from the Board of Health
  - The Governor's next phase will begin June 8, 2020. This is primarily related to outdoor activity classes and organized recreation camps, and restaurants opening.
  - The Board of Selectmen set the town meeting date for Saturday July 11, 2020. Based on the results of a recent survey of residents, town meeting will be held outdoors under a tent. The BOH will work with the town departments and staff to safely hold town meeting.

Approved 6.10.2020

- Follow up from Joint Meeting with Hamilton Board of Health

The Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Health will continue to meet jointly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Wenham BOH opened public trails and parks earlier than Hamilton BOH, but recreation trails and parks not under the BOH jurisdiction opened the same day as Wenham. The Boards will meet later in June.

- Updates from staff, if needed
  - Mr. Bernard reported that septic applications, plan reviews, soil testing, and inspections continue.
  - Ms. Bresnahan reported that Gordon College is not holding summer camps this year but the Health Assistant Bobbi Cody would work with the camp directors to improve policies and procedures for next year.

The Governor's plan allows restaurants to open with outdoor seating. Food establishments in town may be eligible to apply to increase outdoor seating capacity, which must be approved by the Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen as the local licensing authorities. Additional information and guidance were expected from the DPH to include the opening of public pools.

- Police Chief Perkins said he received a request for a fare well parade to be held along Perkins Street. Teachers and staff of Buker school will line the street and parents/students in vehicles would be invited to drive by. The proposed date is June 16. The board members had no concerns with this event done in a safe manner.

Ms. Harrison observed there seemed to be a lot of new changes and questioned if the board would consider a robocall to residents, noting there are people that do not have access to internet.

Ms. Bresnahan noted COVID-19 information and updates are being posted on the HWCAM bulletin and the website continues to be updated. Ms. Bresnahan suggested the robocall be done after the Governor announces his plan to include updated information. The board asked that COVID-19 safety protocol be included and residents be reminded to physical distance, wear face covering, and wash hands.

After thoughtful discussion, the board decided to change the opening date of the tennis courts to Monday June 8.

*\*Vote: The board voted unanimously by roll call vote to change the date of opening the tennis courts from Friday to Monday June 8.*

- Annual Appointments: Terms from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

All appointees must be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

- Health Agent: Gregory P. Bernard
- Assistant Health Agent: Roberta (Bobbie) Cody
- Public Health Nurse: Mary E. Ting

The BOH will reorganize after the June 25 annual elections.

The appointment of the Animal Inspector is under the jurisdiction of the state. Anne Jackman was reappointed.

Dr. Ting stated he would recuse himself from the Public Nurse Appointment being a family member to avoid the appearance of conflict.

- *Vote: The board voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Gregory P. Bernard as Health Agent for a one-year term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 and approve the Scope of Services.*
- *Vote: The board voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Roberta Cody as Assistant Health Agent for a one-year term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.*
- *Vote: The board voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Mary E. Ting as Public Health Nurse for a one-year term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Dr. Ting abstained.*

*Vote: The board voted unanimously by roll call vote to authorize Jackie Bresnahan to sign the appointment certificates in the boards stead and submit to the town clerk.*

- Review and Approval of any outstanding minutes: May 6, 2020; May 13, 2020; May 20, 2020

Joint Hamilton & Wenham BOH meeting of May 15, 2020 and May 22, 2020

*Vote: The board voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the meeting minutes.*

- Adjourn - *The board unanimously adjourned by roll call at 9:41AM.*

Respectfully Submitted By

Catherine Tinsley

6.6.2020