

TOWN OF WENHAM
Joint Hamilton & Wenham Board of Health
Meeting of May 22, 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 joint meeting of the Wenham Board of Health (BOH) with the Hamilton BOH was held on Friday May 22, 2020 at 5:30pm. 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.

Wenham call to order - With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the Wenham BOH meeting to order at 5:34pm.
Board members present: Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair; Gerald Donnellan. Not present: Regina Baker
Maribeth Ting, Public Nurse; Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary
Officials present not participating: Selectman Harrison

Hamilton call to order - With a quorum present, Mr. Smith called the Hamilton BOH meeting to order at 5:44pm.
Board members present: David Smith, Chair; Christopher Small (A-5:43pm). Not present; Dr. Giselle Perez

The Chairs identified that this was a virtual meeting, the meeting was being recorded, all could be heard, and votes would be taken by roll call.

Abbreviation used
DPH Department of Public Health
HW Hamilton and Wenham

The agenda was taken out of order.

- COVID-19 (Coronavirus Discussion)

- Update from Wenham Public Health Nurse

Ms. Ting reported that the Town of Wenham has 18 confirmed COVID-19 cases; all have recovered. Additionally, 21 individuals were subject to quarantine; all have completed their 14-day quarantine. And 2 deaths have been attributed to COVID-19.

Ms. Ting continues to meet weekly with Public Safety and Public Health.

Ms. Ting added that the DPH guidelines have changed frequently and now those who have experienced possible exposure, with or without symptoms, seek nasopharyngeal swab test as quickly as possible.

Ms. Ting went on to promote other safety measures regarding the prevention of tick born diseases with parks, trail and fields opening, and to stay well hydrated in the warm weather, and use sunscreen.

- Update from the Wenham Board of Health

Ms. Bresnahan reported that about 30 people attended the public health forum on zoom.

The Town of Wenham will stream a pre-recorded video for Memorial Day on HWCAM throughout the day.

- Update from Hamilton Public Health Nurse and update from the Hamilton Board of Health

Mr. Smith stated that the Hamilton Board of Health issued a Memorial Day Weekend message encouraging residents to take advantage of the (non-town owned) public recreation areas in Hamilton that are open such as Greenbelt properties, Chebacco Woods, and Bradley Palmer State Park and included all safety precautions in the statement.

Mr. Smith spoke with Sean Timmons, HW Joint Recreation Department, who making decisions about summer programs.

The Town of Hamilton planned to hold a public health forum, similar to Wenham, on Thursday May 28. It is uncertain if this will take place due to an unexpected issue that needs the Hamilton's BOH attention at this time.

Mr. Smith reported that Hamilton has (about) 28 cumulative cases of positive COVID-19 with 8 deaths attributed to the virus.

Mr. Smith said that the Town of Hamilton has scheduled their annual town meeting for June 20, 2020 to be held outside at the high school football field under a tent in accordance with the Governor's orders.

Regarding the HW Regional High School graduation, the DPH will not allow a high school graduation under a tent, even without sides, and have strict guidelines for graduation ceremonies to take place and are encouraging ceremonies to take place after mid-July.

Approved 6.3.2020

Mr. Small joined the meeting giving the Hamilton BOH a quorum and Mr. Smith called the Hamilton BOH meeting to order at 5:44pm.

Mr. Small observed there are many concerns and questions being raised with the Governor's reopening plan. One category is places of worship. Mr. Smith reached out to the three main churches in Hamilton and confirmed they are aware of the reopening guidelines i.e. 40% capacity, attendees must wear face coverings, etc.

Dr. Ting noted that during the May 15 joint HW BOH meeting a sub-committee was formed to look at the criteria for reopening parks, trails, etc. but the Wenham BOH met Wednesday and took action to reopen trails and parks in Wenham in line with the Governor's reopening orders. He noted that *Safer at Home* is still preferred. He questioned if the sub-committee is still warranted but observed the Boards still need to discuss and coordinate the opening of tennis courts, basketball courts, public restrooms, and Pleasant Pond.

Mr. Smith expressed the HBOH and Jt. Recreation's concerns with opening Patton Park as a large public space. The Boards will work jointly on opening the recreation courts.

Mr. Small said that he was at Cranes Beach recently. He observed signs were posted but less than 50% people at Cranes beach were wearing face coverings or following protocol and suggested this is an indication of how the public is dealing with these safety guidelines and the importance to continue education and signage.

Mt. Ting noted that the Wenham Public Safety has provide COVID-19 educational material at high traffic areas such as the Rail Trail and Pingree Park.

- Any unanticipated COVID-19 related discussion

The HW Community House has indicated that they would like to hold their annual block party, possibly as a parade, and have requested to speak with the boards of health of how this can happen safely.

Mr. Smith and Dr. Ting will speak with the HW Community House Director to further discuss the block party. The Boards agreed to continue to work together as the state reopens.

- New business, not reasonably anticipated by the Chairs for discussion only.
- Adjourn - *The Hamilton & Wenham BOH unanimously adjourned the meeting by roll call vote at 6:04 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By
Catherine Tinsley
5.26.2020