

TOWN OF WENHAM
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of April 1, 2020
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 delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Wednesday April 1, 2020 at 6 pm virtually on Zoom.us.

The Town of Wenham has a three-member Board of Selectmen elected for three-year terms with one seat up for election each year. Catherine Harrison (2020); John Clemenzi (2021); Jack Wilhelm (2022)

The Board of Selectmen serve as the chief executive body of the Town. The board's duties include in part appointing the Town Administrator and other board/committee members, developing goals and policies, preparing the town report, the annual budget, and presenting the warrant for Town Meeting.

The Board typically meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in Town Hall. The BOS meetings are posted on the Town calendar. All meetings are open to the public and may be viewed on local cable channels HWCAM.org or You Tube HWCAM.

Due to the Covid19 Virus, "social distancing" was instituted and this meeting took place virtually on zoom video. This meeting was Identified as being recorded, all could be heard, and votes would be taken by roll call.

The Board of Health (BOH) meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

Mr. Wilhelm declined to call the BOS meeting to order at 6 pm, pending required BOS action.

Call to order: *With a quorum present, Mr. Wilhelm called the meeting to order at 6:44 pm.*

Board of Selectmen present: Jack Wilhelm, Chair; John Clemenzi, Vice Chair; Catherine Harrison, Clerk

Board of Health members present: Dr. Andrew Ting; 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; Recording Secretary Catherine Tinsley; Police Chief Tom Perkins and Captain Kevin DiNapoli; Fire Chief Stephen Kavanagh and Deputy Chief Jeff Baxter; Sean Timmons, HW Recreation Director

Discussion on parks, playgrounds, playing fields, and trails

G.L. c. 111, § 104: "If a disease dangerous to the public health exists in a town, the selectmen and board of health shall use all possible care to prevent the spread of the infection and may give public notice of infected places by such means as in their judgment may be most effectual for the common safety. Whoever obstructs the selectmen, board of health or its agent in using such means, or whoever willfully and without authority removes, obliterates, defaces or handles such public notices which have been posted, shall forfeit not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars." Of note, action under § 104 requires a vote by both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health.

After a lengthy and thoughtful discussion, the BOH voted unanimously to safely secure public spaces and close (Wenham) parks, playgrounds, playing fields, and trails effective April 3, 2020 through May 4, 2020.

The BOS were present for this discussion and called their meeting to order and confirmed that parks, playgrounds, playing fields and trails be closed.

Mr. Clemenzi asked for an end date to the closures and it was agreed the closures would be through May 4, 2020.

It was clarified the closure includes the WVIS (Wenham Village Improvement Society) tennis courts & playground, and the Iron Rail soccer fields. Chief Perkins added that the Salem Beverly Water Board indicated they would mirror the Town's decision and also close the Wenham canal to the public.

VOTE: The BOS voted unanimously by roll call to close all public parks & playgrounds, and trails including the WVIS tennis courts, Iron Rail Soccer Fields, and the Rail Trail in Wenham effective April 3, 2020 at noon and this decision to remain in effect until May 4 unless circumstances change before then.

VOTE: The Board of Health members voted unanimously by roll call to authorize the Wenham Police Department the ability to enforce public closures by the appropriate means starting April 3, 2020 at noon until May 4.

VOTE: The BOS voted unanimously by roll call to adjourned at 6:53 pm.

The BOH continued with their posted agenda.

Respectfully Submitted By
Catherine Tinsley 4.6.2020