
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 with the Hamilton Board of Health, was held Wednesday October 21, 2020 at 10am. *Due to the COVID19 Virus pandemic, and restrictions concerning in-person gatherings ordered by the Governor, this meeting took place virtually on Zoom. The Chair announced the meeting was being recorded and those BOH Members present.*

The Wenham Board of Health (BOH) makes regulations as it deems necessary for the public health and safety of the Town. The Wenham Board of Health is responsible for the enforcement of State Sanitary Codes, State Environmental Codes and Wenham Board of Health Regulations. Areas of responsibility include: septic systems, housing and dwelling units, food service establishments, private wells and recreational camps for children.

BOH members: Gerald T. Donnellan (2021); Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair (2022); Regina Baker (2023)

- Call to order - *With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the meeting to order at 10 am.*

Board members present: Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair; Gerald Donnellan. Not present: Regina Baker

Also present: Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services; Maribeth Ting, Public Health Nurse; Greg Bernard, Health Agent; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary

- Covid-19 Update from Public Health Nurse
 - Ms. Ting gave an update to the Board regarding the Covid-19 cases in Wenham.

There is one new case at Gordon college which is not reflected in the Wenham reporting due to the positive test report going to the home address of the person which is outside of Wenham.

- The state is changing the way weekly reporting is done by releasing the color-coded map on Thursdays and releasing the data information for the map on Wednesday; this may not impact Wenham.

- The state and the town's web site both have information to minimize COVID-19 risk during Halloween activities.

- Event request for the Community House at Pingree Park

The Director of the Community House has requested the use of Pingree Park for a couple Saturday mornings (to be determined) after November 28 to hold a Santa event. This is an outside no contact event. Santa will be in a sleigh on a flatbed truck, gloves & face coverings will be worn, physical distancing maintained, and sanitation protocols between visits. The visit with Santa is by appointment only and participants will wait in their vehicle until their time and be required to follow COVID safe protocols.

Ms. Ting participated in this discussion with the Board.

The Community House will be informed of the following concerns: Crowd control, people not congregating, everyone remain in their vehicle until their appointment and follow the guidance and protocols as described.

The vote to approve the field use is on the Selectmen's November 2 meeting.

Vote: The Board members voted unanimously by roll call to allow the Community House to hold the Santa event as presented, provided people stay in their vehicles until their appointment.

- Updates from staff

Mr. Bernard continues to be busy with inspections, and issuing Certificate of Compliances.

- Flu Clinics – October 14
 - Follow Up

Ms. Ting reported that 264 flu vaccines were given during the drive thru flu clinic last week and noted the town still has pediatric and high dose vaccines left. Ms. Ting observed there was great support from community and was used as a public health emergency preparedness exercise.

It was noted that the Town of Hamilton is holding drive through flu clinic today at the public safety building.

Ms. Ting encourage residents, who still want to get the vaccine, to reach out to local pharmacies or their health care providers. It was unknown if the town would hold another flu clinic because of the availability to order additional vaccines.

Ms. Ting continues to attend training for the software the state is rolling out for municipalities to use during their clinics. This has the potential to stream line paper work, process billing etc.

- Update, discussion, and potential response on Citizens Petition regarding Board of Health

Dr. Ting reviewed that the citizen's petition on the Special Town Meeting warrant that the boards of health's recommendations when to open/close schools during a pandemic not be stricter than Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) or the State Department of Public Health (DPH) narrowly passed 65 to 60.

It is unknown how the vote will impact the town considering the recent actions taken by both the Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Health to repeal their original vote and declare the recommendation not mandatory and to follow DESE and DPH guidance.

The language of petition did not reflect the guidance since the change by DESE for schools to strongly collaborate with local Boards of Health, the capability for rapid response testing, requirement for schools to report all cases, and that the Superintendent must consult with commission regarding school closures during the pandemic.

- Approval of outstanding minutes - October 7, 2020

The Board unanimously voted by roll call to approve the minutes of October 7, 2020.

- Schedule next meeting

The next meeting was not scheduled.

New business, unanticipated by the Chair (for discussion only)

Ms. Bresnahan announced she is attending a seminar next week and there would be minimal coverage in the Permitting Office.

Adjournment - *The Board unanimously adjourned by roll call at 10:35am.*

Respectfully Submitted By
Catherine Tinsley
10.24.2020