
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 Thursday November 19, 2020 at 5pm. *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 BOH is responsible for the enforcement of State Sanitary Codes, State Environmental Codes and BOH Regulations. Areas of responsibility include: septic systems, housing and dwelling units, food service establishments, private wells and recreational camps for children.

Board members are elected for a three-year term: Gerald Donnellan (2021); Dr. Andrew Ting, (2022); Regina Baker (2023)

- Call to order - *With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the meeting to order at 5pm.*

Board members present: Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair; Regina Baker; Gerald Donnellan (A-5:15pm)

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

Officials present, not participating; Selectman Cheeseman

- Covid-19 Update from Public Health Nurse

Ms. Ting gave an update to the Board regarding the positive Covid-19 cases in Wenham, which have increased exponentially the past few weeks. The current (accumulative) case count is 64.

Ms. Ting identified that only some of the positive Covid-19 cases were connected with Gordon College; the college is not doing in person classes at this time and many students have left campus. Ms. Ting continues to work closely with Gordon College and their nursing staff.

Ms. Ting reiterated the importance for residents to limit gatherings to household members only, wear a face covering when out, and frequent handwashing as preventive practices. Families expecting college students from out of state need to adhere to these practices and be exceedingly careful. Ms. Ting observed that people tend to discount minor symptoms but are testing positive and reminded residents to get tested if they are experiencing minor symptoms, and to isolate.

Ms. Ting thanked the Board for the appointment of the Public Health Nurses that are invaluable during the pandemic especially with the increase in cases and the need to do contact tracing.

- Appoint Tracey L. Watson, RN as a temporary, part-time Public Health Nurse

This part time health nurse position will help with the contact tracing in Wenham with the positive case count increasing.

Vote: The Board members voted unanimously by roll call to appoint Tracey L. Watson, RN as a temporary, part-time Public Health Nurse for the duration of the state of emergency declared by the Governor of Massachusetts.

Gerry Donnellan joined meeting.

- Updates from staff

Mr. Bernard reported that applications into his office are slowing down, including the work at Spring Hill subdivision. Only two lots at Spring Hill remain to be tested; this will be done in the spring.

The work continues at Wenham Pines. As the individual units are constructed, the units are connected to the main system.

Ms. Bresnahan reported that Assistant Health Agent Bobbie Cody continues to respond to complaints related to possible covid violations. Ms. Cody is also working with Gordon College on their 2021 camp permit.

Ms. Bresnahan mentioned that Penguin Hall Academy is considering a summer camp in 2021 and is in discussions with the town.

The annual permitting for installers, haulers, and food service has started. The permits are valid starting January 1.

- Wreaths Across America event discussion

Bill Wilson, Veterans Committee, was present and spoke on the annual event to lay 500 wreaths on veteran's graves in Wenham on the same day as Wreaths Across America at the Arlington cemetery.

Wreaths Across America is December 19 and Veterans Committee is seeking advice from the BOH on holding the public event in accordance with safe Covid practices. The past few years, the event has averaged about 100 attendees.

Approved 12.2.2020

The Board recommended smaller groups place the wreaths spread out over the day. All will be required to wear face covering and distance. The boxes of wreaths will be spread out throughout the cemetery to avoid congregating participants.

Ms. Ting noted as of this date (11.29.2020) the town of Wenham was considered a lower risk community but this could change considering the recent increase in cases, and should be monitored for the protocol for outdoor gatherings.

Ms. Ting noted that a list of names and contact number needs to be maintained of those participants, in the event contact tracing is needed.

Amplification for the speakers was recommended to avoid droplets from the speaker projecting while talking.

- Discussion regarding Beverly Bootstraps Permit

Sue Gabriel was present to request the BOH permit their food truck, *Cheese Please*. The Wenham Museum would like to have the food truck at their opening for the holiday fair.

Ms. Gabriel confirmed they were aware of all the protocols for Covid safety and would take all precautions. This is a quick turnaround of food and does not encourage gathering.

Ms. Bresnahan is working with Ms. Cody on the permit for the food truck. This permit was for a specific event.

The BOH will be asked to review food trucks in Wenham and what a permitting structure would look like for an annual permit.

- Discussion on ongoing Covid-19 protocol issues

Ms. Bresnahan summarized that there have been numerous complaints for non-face covering at one establishment in town.

At one recent inspection, the violations were founded along with other food code violations; not all of these issues have been rectified. There have been several verbal warnings and no cooperation.

The lack of face covering is a violation the BOH has jurisdiction over and may fine the establishment.

The fine structure is \$100 per violation with a 7- day appeal period for the covid violations.

The other option is to not renew the annual license and prohibit operation for the code violations.

For those employees that cannot wear a face covering, a food establishment should have plexiglass barrier between employee and customers that are closer than 6 feet along with some effort to control the dispersal of saliva droplets e.g. lose scarf, shield, Resident complaint – nothing happening in this business and are very upset.

Vote: The Board members voted unanimously by roll call vote to authorize the Assistant Health Agent to issue a COVID-19 order violation letter and fine to the establishment and follow up in reasonable time that she sees fit.

- Updates on current guidance from Governor's Office, if needed

There have been changes to the quarantine time. Covid updates are on the town's web site

- Approval of outstanding minutes, if any - October 21, 2020

The minutes were held for review.

- Schedule next meeting- to be determined at a later date.
- Adjournment – *The Board members unanimously adjourned at 6:02 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By

Catherine Tinsley

12.1.2020