

TOWN OF WENHAM
Board of Health
Meeting of July 15, 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 meeting of the Wenham Board of Health (BOH) was held on Wednesday July 15, 2020 at 7:30pm.

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, and identified those in attendance.

The Board of Health 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.

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

Call to order: *With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.*

Board Members Present: Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair; Regina Baker; Gerald Donnellan

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

- Review and approval of minutes – July 1, 2020

The Board members voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the July 1, 2020 BOH meeting minutes.

- COVID-19 (Coronavirus Discussion)

Updates from the Public Health Nurse Maribeth Ting

Ms. Ting reported there was 1 additional confirmed COVID 19 positive case and 1 additional presumptive case new this week. Governor's plane is in Phase 3, Step 1. The Hamilton Wenham Schools have started an in person extended school year learning in anticipation of the schools reopening in the fall.

Ms. Ting commented on the July 11 Town Meeting held outside at Pingree Park. From a public health standpoint, town meeting was a success. With more than 500 in attendance it was Attendees wore masks, physical distanced, the fire department kept people moving and town hall staff did a great job.

- Updates on Fall Flu Clinics

Ms. Bresnahan reported that a drive through flu clinic has been scheduled for October 14, with a rain date of October 21; the vaccines have been ordered.

Ms. Bresnahan signed up for a course through the state to set up flu clinic during a pandemic and protocol for when a COVID-19 vaccine is available. Ms. Bresnahan is working with the PHN and the WFD to be prepared when the vaccine is ready to respond with little notice. Additional care act funds to request to purchase a larger vaccine refrigerator to have the capacity to vaccinate. This needs to be a pharmaceutical refrigerator. The current frig will be used as a back-up on a generator.

The Board of Health Members supported this request to submit a care act request

Public safety is interested in the Hepatitis vaccine; the larger capacity refrigerator would also accommodate this vaccine.

Having a refrigerator to hold a number of vaccines to provide vaccines "in house" is also a cost savings to the town.

Materials for the flu clinic are being purchased, e.g. PPE, gowns, face shields, hand sanitizer, extra hand soap, masks, gloves, plexiglass shields.

Recommendation for additional temporary part-time Public Health Nurses

Two of the public health nurses recently appointed are School Nurses and may not be available in the fall, therefore, Ms. Ting requested two new appointees. These candidates are known to Ms. Ting.

1. Michelle J. Braillard
2. Rebecca U. LeBlanc

Vote: The Board members voted unanimously by roll call vote to add two additional temporary part-time Public Health Nurses to assist the Town of Wenham through the end of the Municipal State of Emergency, and to authorize Jackie Bresnahan to sign the required paperwork.

• Review any updated guidance from State or local enforcement of guidance
Division of Labor Standards is available to assist local BOH with in the event assistance is needed for a problem with a business or employee. The Board of Health office received on anonymous complaint.

• Updates from staff, if needed

Greg Bernard reported that applications and permits are on -going. The usual slow down during the summer is not the case this year. Mr. Bernard mentioned that Title V Inspectors/Installers have been complimentary on the Permitting Office, specifically Jackie Bresnahan and Shelia Bouvier for their outstanding customer service.

Mr. Bernard attended a mosquito seminar. Mosquitos in Massachusetts are testing positive for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis; no positive Mosquitos have been reported in Essex County to date. The Mosquito District is testing in Wenham. No mosquito spraying will be done in town without the authority from the BOH.

There is a Bill at the Senate regarding how the state wants spray for mosquitos. The first draft went through but the Mosquito District was not pleased they were not involved in the decision process and a revision was made that is currently with the Senate.; this should be voted soon.

The Town is in contact with all Schools in town to update their Integrated Management Plan.

Ms. Bresnahan reported the following:

Bobbi Cody, Assistant Health Inspector is working with the Wenham Tea House closing protocol and potential new tenants. Town Hall is opening part time during the week with limited hours and with protocols in place.

The Board of Health's FY21 budget was approved.

The Town received the refund from the state for the 2019 flu clinic. These funds will be used for the 2020 flu clinic. The School Facilities Director is please to collaborate on flu clinic dates for Buker School.

The Dodges Row Subdivision, Spring Hill, is now 50% occupied.

Resident Veljko Popov 24 Eddel Ave, spoke in length on his request for the beach at Pleasant Pond be cleaned.

Mr. Popov was informed that from the Town of Wenham's perspective the beach was closed for the season due to the pandemic, therefore no sticker sales to fund the maintenance, lifeguards, or gate keepers.

The Veteran's Memorial Pool was also closed for the season due to the pandemic and how to maintain the guidelines, as well as the Salem Beverly Wenham Canal has been closed to the pubic indefinitely by the Salem Beverly Water Supply Board.

Because this is a town beach, there were a considerable number of financial factors that also were taken into consideration

The Pleasant Pond Beach historically operates at a significant deficit with without sticker sale revenue there was no way to fund all amenities.

The Chief of Police also had concerns that the typical gate keepers/ lifeguards were teenagers and this was not practical to put youth in charge of monitoring COVID guidelines along with their other responsibilities.

Weekly water testing of Pleasant Pond will continue.

The BOH will meet on July 22, 2020

A joint meeting with Hamilton is anticipated to be scheduled the last week of July.

Adjournment – *The Board members unanimously adjourned by roll call at 8:33pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By

Catherine Tinsley

8.22.2020