

TOWN OF WENHAM  
Wenham Board of Health  
Meeting of September 23, 2020  
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

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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 September 23, 2020 at 10 am. *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 10:03 am.*

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

- Covid-19 Update from Public Health Nurse

Ms. Ting reported an uptake in COVID-19 positive cases, not related to Gordon College; there are 5 new cases over the past 6 days and one (potential) probable case.

Ms. Ting is in contact with Gordon College regarding COVID-19 testing strategy. The college is conducting saliva testing in two sessions batched in groups of 50 a week apart, with follow up testing for symptomatic and others requesting to be tested. Dr. Ting suggested Gordon College separate the saliva testing pools by another week to have a week between testing so test results are within the two-week components if there are positive cases it would not count in the same week.

Ms. Ting spoke on the recent update from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) asking all school districts to report COVID positive cases, including students and faculty, and for local Boards of Health to work with school districts when there is more than one case if this is school base transmission and to Department of Public Health if this meets the criteria mobile rapid response testing at the school for those asymptomatic individuals.

Mr. Ting reviewed that the Board went from less restrictive to a more restrictive metric and set a 7 day aggregate in July before updated information was available. The state has now put together a more rapid response to changing situations and questioned if the Board would consider the 14 day and align itself with the state on that part of the metric. Dr. Ting noted that even through there is a 7-day average, it is suggested to use 3 weeks or more of aggregate data.

Arbovirus – The state is nearing the end of the season for mosquitos that carry EEE; historically in Massachusetts there are no significant transmission of EEE after September 15. This is not the case for mosquitos that carry West Nile Virus. These mosquitos continue to be active through the first frost, typically in October. Residents should continue protection i.e. long sleeves, repellent

- Update from Assistant Health Agent on outstanding food establishment complaints

Ms. Bresnahan spoke in the absence of the Assistant Health Agent, Bobbie Cody.

Ms. Cody has been following up on COVID-19 protocol violation complaints the past month against Grassy Roots and each time found them to compliant. These inspections are done at random and unannounced. Ms. Bresnahan informed the Board members that along with a person's name, contact information, complaint, date and time, Ms. Cody is now asking that all complaints be accompanied with a photo of the violation.

- Update from Health Agent - Greg Bernard

Mr. Bernard continues to be more active than typical for the end of September and does not see the inspections/testing slowing down until frost/snow.

Mr. Bernard told the Board that he will be working with the Town of Hamilton assisting with pool installation inspections, soil testing, and septic review starting October 1,2020.

Mr. Bernard is getting his required credits for his license via zoom seminars

*Approved 10.7.2020*

- Flu Clinics – October 14 from 4-7 pm Buker School

Ms. Ting continues to meet with the public health planners, and attend training on holding a drive through flu clinic i.e. on-line forms, billing, etc. Ms. Ting reiterated a drive through flu clinic was the best way to hold a flu clinic in pandemic and added that this would be a good practice for when a vaccine for COVID-19 is available. The recently appointed additional nurses will provide support during the clinic and the Medial Reserve Corporation will staff the clinic.

The Hamilton BOH has two scheduled flu clinics to date: October 20 at the Winthrop School for parents and students only and October 27 for seniors only.

- Approval of outstanding minutes: September 9, 2020 & Jt. HW September 14, 2020

*Vote: The Board members voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of September 9, 2020 and the Joint Hamilton Wenham BOH meeting on September 14, 2020.*

- Schedule next meeting:

October 7 @ 6pm

- Adjournment – *The Board unanimously adjourned by roll call at 10:39am*

*Respectfully Submitted By*

*Catherine Tinsley*

*9.23.2020*