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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 (BOH) with the Hamilton BOH, was held on Friday June 25, 2020 at 3pm via zoom.

*Wenham call to order - With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the Wenham BOH meeting to order at 3pm.*

Board members present: Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair; Gerald Donnellan. Not present: Regina Baker  
Also present: Maribeth Ting, Public Health Nurse; Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services

*Hamilton call to order - With a quorum present, Mr. Smith called the Hamilton BOH meeting to order at 3pm.*

Board members present: David Smith, Chair; Christopher Small; Dr. Giselle Perez (L-4pm)

Not present; Christine Lee, Public Nurse

*Due to the COVID19 Virus pandemic, and restrictions concerning in-person gatherings ordered by the Governor, this meeting took place virtually on Zoom. The Chairs identified that this was a virtual meeting, the meeting was being recorded, all could be heard, and votes would be taken by roll call.*

### **COVID-19 (Coronavirus Discussion)**

- Updates/review from Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Director on cleaning/opening of playgrounds and updates/ review from Director of Administrative Services on communication strategy for playgrounds and for staying vigilant on physical distancing

Sean Timmons, Joint Recreation Department Director, was present and updated the boards that a draft sign to be posted at the town's playgrounds was reviewed by the Town Administrator / Town Managers and forwarded to MIIA, the town's insurance company. The sign stated: "**Caution: This Playground is open but not sanitized; use cautiously, at your own risk.**"

Upon approval, the signs would be posted at the playgrounds; considering the printing time, the signs should be posted next week. Mr. Timmons suggested 2 signs be posted at each playground.

Regarding hand washing stations, Mr. Timmons said that because of the logistical challenges to access water, these have proven to not be an option and recommended hand sanitizing stations. The board members agreed a hand sanitizing station be positioned at each of the playgrounds, along with the two signs.

Ms. Ting questioned maintaining the hand sanitizing stations, and if Mr. Timmons was certain that hand sanitizer was available. Mr. Timmons said hand sanitizer was available to order and the Department of Public Works (DPW) staff would fill the sanitizing stations daily, Monday – Friday.

*Vote: The Hamilton BOH voted unanimously by roll call to reopen the (Hamilton) playgrounds subject to the insurance company accepting the signs for the playgrounds and hand sanitizer stations are installed at the playgrounds, and Mr. Timmons notifies the towns when the playgrounds are ready to be open.*

*Vote: The Wenham BOH voted unanimously by roll call to reopen the (Wenham) playgrounds subject to the insurance company accepting the signs for the playgrounds and hand sanitizer stations are installed at the playgrounds, and Mr. Timmons notifies the towns when the playgrounds are ready to be open.*

Mr. Timmons reported on the options to open public restrooms at the parks which included renting portable restrooms, or opening the permanent bathrooms at the park to be maintained by the DPW Monday – Friday and contracted services on the weekends. Permanent bathrooms are located at Pingree Park in Wenham and Patton Park in Hamilton. Mr. Timmons requested a quote for cleaning the bathrooms on the weekends from the cleaning companies already contracted with the towns

*Vote: The Hamilton BOH voted unanimously by roll call to reopen the public bathrooms at Patton Park in Hamilton, contingent on a daily sanitizing / cleaning plan by the Recreation Department in accordance with requirement with state Department of Public Health or such facility*

*Vote: The Wenham BOH voted unanimously by roll call to reopen the public bathrooms at Pingree Park in Wenham, contingent on a daily sanitizing / cleaning plan by the Recreation Department in accordance with requirement with state Department of Public Health or such facility*

Mr. Timmons requested that youth and adult sport programs including Softball, Little League, and Babe Ruth be allowed to start their programs having submitted their COVID-19 safety guidelines rules and practices. The athletic fields and parks have been reopened and groups of 12 or more are now permitted.

The Boards reviewed the plans of these organizations and Dr. Perez had comments and specific questions.

Ms. Ting reviewed the documents for the Wenham Board of Health. Ms. Ting appreciated the request for feedback from the boards of health. Ms. Ting observed that the state put the boards in the position to respond to complaints for non-compliance and questioned how the boards envision their enforcement and remediation.

With the primary enforcement with the boards of health, and limited resources the board noted their concern with enforcement.

Dr. Perez reviewed her comments on the plans submitted.

The board discussed face masks during the summer heat being taken on/off to drink water, use of gloves while handling equipment, physical distancing, proper use of disinfectant to kill the virus and not expose the skin to chemicals, etc.

One concern of Mr. Timmons was that there be one chaperone per child to avoid socializing and that when practice is over that people leave straight away.

Discussion that these groups use health self-screening forms and those with cold symptoms or in contact tracing not attend practice.

Mr. Timmons will convey to groups that the towns have no liability or responsibility to implement, or assist, these programs with their policies.

Dr. Perez left the meeting at 4 pm.

*Vote: The Hamilton BOH voted unanimously by roll call to endorse the plans submitted by the Softball League, Little League, Babe Ruth League subject to Mr. Timmons conveying to these organizations the comments made by the Boards of Health in response to the plans.*

*Vote: The Wenham BOH voted unanimously by roll call to endorse the plans submitted by the Softball League, Little League, Babe Ruth League subject to Mr. Timmons conveying to these organizations the comments made by the Boards of Health in response to the plans.*

Mr. Timmons left the meeting 4:10 pm

- Updates from the Hamilton and the Wenham Public Health Nurse
  - Mr. Smith reported in the absence of the Hamilton public nurse. The Hamilton BOH has received 36 confirmed cases of COVID 19 and recorded 7 deaths due to the virus. The public nurse is following 2 residents in quarantine; one is positive and one is a close contact. On a side note, Mr. Smith noted that Hamilton Wenham and Manchester have the lowest per capita of infection rates and Mr. Smith attributed this in education and response/cooperation of community members.

◦ Ms. Ting reported Wenham's last positive test was a full calendar month ago. Wenham has 19 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 6 probable cases; 2 deaths are attributed to COVID-19.

Ms. Ting noted that public nurses from the North Shore region met recently and talked about the upcoming flu clinics. Drive through regional clinic were discussed to avoid gathering and lines. The nurses will continue to discuss this matter to best serve all residents. Ms. Ting will keep the board updated on the flu clinics.

- Updates and Discussion: The Hamilton and the Wenham Board of Health Members - There were none.
- Updates from staff, if needed - There were none.
  - The meeting was open to the public for questions. There were none.
- Review and Approval of any outstanding minutes – Both boards will review/ approve minutes at their next meetings.
- New business, not reasonably anticipated by the Chair for discussion only.

The Hamilton BOH will meet July 2, 2020.

The Wenham BOH will meet July 1 at 10 am.

The boards will meet jointly as needed.

- Adjournment - *The boards adjourned their meetings at 4:20 pm by roll call vote.*

*Respectfully Submitted By*  
*Catherine Tinsley*  
6.27.2020