

TOWN OF WENHAM
Wenham Board of Health Joint with Hamilton Board of Health
Meeting of August 18, 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 joint meeting of the Wenham Board of Health (BOH) with the Hamilton BOH, was held on Tuesday August 18, 2020 at 4 pm. *Due to the COVID19 Virus pandemic, and restrictions concerning in-person gatherings ordered by the Governor, this meeting took place virtually on Zoom.*

Wenham call to order - *With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the Wenham BOH meeting to order at 4 pm.*

Board members present: Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair; Regina Baker; Gerald Donnellan

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

Hamilton call to order - *With a quorum present, Mr. Smith called the Hamilton BOH meeting to order at 4 pm.*

Board members present: David Smith, Chair; Christopher Small; Dr. Giselle Perez

Also present: Christine Lee, Director of Public Health Nurses

- Update from the Public Health Nurses
 - Update from Wenham Public Health Nurse Maribeth TingThe Town of Wenham has to date:
 - 20 accumulative COVID-19 positive cases
 - 9 probable cases
 - 2 deaths

All cases have completed quarantine and there are no cases being followed at this time.

Ms. Ting continues discussions with the schools in town regarding their reopening plans.

This includes the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District, Gordon College, and Penguin Academy.

The state is purchasing software to be made available to local Boards of Health holding flu clinics. This will allow for online registration for flu clinics and online submission of forms for billing and mass immunization service.

- Update from Hamilton Public Health Nurse Christina Lee
- The Town of Hamilton has to date:
- 44 accumulative COVID-19 positive cases
 - 8 probable cases
 - 7 deaths

Ms. Lee observed several individuals coming in from out of state causing the town's numbers to rise and questioned if these numbers should be separated out.

The Town of Hamilton is looking into holding several drive-thru flu clinics this fall.

- Arbovirus update – Ticks and Mosquito
- Tick born disease cases are being reported locally. Ms. Ting stressed the importance of checking for ticks after being outside and to take preventative measures.
- There is currently no mosquito born viruses (Eastern Equine Encephalitis or West Nile virus) reported in this area. Mosquito testing is done and regional reporting is provided by the state.

- Discussion on upcoming community events

The governor has reduced the number of people that may gather outdoors from 100 to 50.

- a. Wenham Museum Craft Fair – The Wenham Museum has cancelled the craft fair. The request was dismissed.
- b. Community House – The Community House typically holds a community block party and was planning a two-town parade but parades are not allowed at this time. The request was dismissed.

- COVID 19 continued discussion.

The Boards of Health and Public Nurses were asked by the Superintendent's task force team (School Committee, Superintendent, Nurse, Facilities Director, Representatives Educational Union) to create a metrics to be used as a guideline to determine when classes would be hybrid, in person, or remote, and make recommendations to shift operations by formalizing internal and external metrics.

Approved 9.9.2020

Mr. Smith reported this is still in draft form with comments for final consideration.
The Boards agreed the goal was to have draft documents to the Superintendent by Monday August 14.

Ms. Ting referenced that DESE has a color coding for level of instructional guidance including guidance for schools to move to be more restrictive, but not to less restrictive. The schools will be responsible at this time for their own model to become less restrictive.

Dr. Ting gave an overview of the COVID-19 Data Metrics' with information taken from the DPH. This included data for both Hamilton and Wenham and surrounding communities that participate in school choice and will be used to track incidents and cases.
DESE is updating their protocols for regional school districts.

The board members were not prepared to fully discuss the draft documents. The boards will meet jointly Thursday August 20 at 6 pm and discuss each document and other considerations.

Mr. Smith noted that the state chief epidemiologist acknowledged there was a discrepancy between DESE/ DPH guidance for when someone was determined to be a contact and when a test would be completed. The discrepancy will be addressed.

The public health forum date was changed from September 1 to August 31 to provide updates and address public questions.

The meeting was adjourned by roll call vote at 5:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By
Catherine Tinsley
8.20.2020