

TOWN OF WENHAM
Wenham Board of Health Joint with Hamilton Board of Health
Meeting of July 29, 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 Wednesday July 29, 2020 at 2 pm via zoom.

Wenham call to order - With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the Wenham BOH meeting to order at 2 pm.
Board members present: Dr. Andrew Ting, Chair; Regina Baker; Gerald Donnellan (A – 2:15pm);
Also present: Maribeth Ting, Public Health Nurse; Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services
Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary
Officials present: Wenham Selectman Cheeseman

Hamilton call to order - With a quorum present, Mr. Smith called the Hamilton BOH meeting to order at 2 pm.
Board members present: David Smith, Chair; Christopher Small; Dr. Giselle Perez
Also present: Christine Lee, Director of Public Health Nurses

Due to the COVID19 Virus pandemic, and restrictions concerning in person gatherings of 10 or more people ordered by the Governor, this meeting took place virtually on Zoom. The Chairs identified the meeting was being recorded and those present.

- Review of additional youth sports' safety plans and protocols – Sean Timmons, Recreation Director
Mr. Timmons began the discussion and explained the difference between spring sports and fall sports, particularly the increased contact in fall sports. One popular fall sport is football / flag football. Mr. Timmons observed that the state lists football as a high-risk activity; this includes flag football. Football/flag football is close contact and there can be multiple games on the field at the same time.
Mr. Timmons asked for feed-back regarding fall sports e.g. group sizes, number of teams playing allowed on the field at the same time, spectators allowed, etc.
Mr. Timmons observed fall sports begin about the same time school opens and this combination has the potential to increase opportunities for COVID-19 exposure.
The only difference between adult teams and youth sports, is that no spectators are allowed at adult sports.
The Boards of Health must adhere to the state guidelines at a minimum but may be stricter in their protocols.
This will be on the next joint meeting agenda for discussion.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Discussion)

- Update from Hamilton Public Health Nurse
The Town of Hamilton has to date:
 - 38 accumulative COVID-19 positive cases
 - 8 probable cases
 - Tracing one contact
 - 7 deaths
 - The Town of Hamilton has the cooling shelter open during the heat wave.
- Update from Wenham Public Health Nurse
The Town of Wenham has to date:
 - 20 accumulative COVID-19 positive cases
 - 8 probable cases
 - 2 deaths
 - The Governor has put a travel advisory in place starting August 1 for anyone if traveling from a high-risk state to file with the state and quarantine or 14 days or show negative COVID test within 72 hours. There is a \$500 per day fine associated with the order.
- Update from the Hamilton Board of Health
The Hamilton BOH participated in a zoom meeting with the new School Superintendent Mary Beth Banios and spoke on opening schools this fall.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has encouraged cooperation and coordination of school districts with their local BOH.

Mr. Small summarized the action items from the zoom meeting:

1. The Public Nurses to establish communication protocols with the district nurse leader regarding COVID-19 e.g. safety protocols for students presenting symptoms, being sent home, allowed back to school following illness, contact tracing, COVID-19 testing.
2. Have guidelines in place for the Boards of Health for what would trigger a response/ action from the local BOH to close the school district.
3. Putting in place protocols to keep the schools safe.

There was discussion if a child presents with cold like symptoms. An isolation area outside of the health office is required for students with symptoms. Ms. Ting said many entities are working toward the appropriate protocols and guidelines are being drafted. The later start time allows staff more time to prepare.

School choice students from local communities that test positive will be similar to contract tracing procedures.

There are local advisors that work with the school i.e. Family Practice Dr. Hugh Taylor.

Hamilton BOH is a working with Gordon College Theological Seminary and Pingree High School reopening this fall. The Pingree School Nurse will be included in the communications of the public school nurses.

- Update from the Wenham Board of Health

The BOH is working closely with Gordon College as students return to school.

Mr. Ansaldi suggested a joint BOH public forum with the start of school reopening.

Any unanticipated COVID-19 related discussion

New business, not reasonably anticipated by the Chairs for discussion only.

The boards will meet jointly in late August and prior to school opening.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm

Respectfully Submitted By
Catherine Tinsley
8.3.2020