

Wellfleet Seasonal Residents Association

Promoting community involvement and communication

COVID19 Update Number 6 - May 15, 2020

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The theme these last two weeks has been transition. In the BCV days (before Covid-19), Wellfleet would be gearing up now for the start of the summer season. Some of this has started with restaurants beginning to open on a take out basis. In these ACV days (after Covid-19), much is in a holding pattern awaiting Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker's decision, due on or about May 18, as to new requirements for the process of slowly reopening the state, including lifting the restrictions on short-term rentals. Town officials are also in contact with other Outer Cape towns, the Cape Cod National Seashore, our state legislators, and the business community on possible procedures for the reopening process that fit the specific needs of the Cape.

Wellfleet has had only five cases of the virus, and sadly one death, but town officials know thousands of people will be coming to the Cape from so-called "hot spots," and these numbers of illness and possible death are likely to go up. The town has already experienced an influx on weekends with visitors filling the beach parking lots, gathering in town, not social distancing nor quarantining. All of this causes residents and officials to worry about how to balance public health with a safe "new normal" for the summer months when seasonal residents, renters, and tourists descend.

While town officials wait for guidance and legal requirements from the state government, with the advice and help of the town's Emergency Management team, the Select Board has voted to implement the following policies:

Beaches

Beach stickers will be required and sold only to residents and non-resident taxpayers by May 20, a month earlier than usual. There will be staff at the entrances to the ocean beach parking lots by May 20, although lifeguards will not be on duty until the third Saturday in June. Short-term stickers will be sold after June 20 assuming Governor Baker lifts the ban on short-term rentals by then. Stickers are only available [on line](#).

Walkway

The Harbor walk will be made one way to facilitate social distancing.

Letter to Governor Baker re: Short-term rentals

The Select Board voted to send a letter to Governor Baker requesting that Wellfleet be allowed to prohibit short-term rentals at least until June 15. The purpose is to give the town more time to prepare public service announcements and develop procedures to keep everyone as safe as possible

in the summer months.

Town Meeting

The town is waiting for guidance on whether the Annual Town Meeting can legally be put off until October, rather than be held by June 30 as required by law. My suggestion that they might use the Wellfleet Drive-In for the meeting is being considered. Or it is possible multiple sites might be used at the same time, connected on some kind of Zoom-like platform. Stay tuned on this one.

Other information of note:

- A Medical Reserve Corps has established a “buddy line” to help people in need of assistance. There is one in Provincetown and another operating out of the Barnstable County Health Department. If any WSRA members with medical or nursing experience wish to be involved, they are urged to contact Police Chief Michael Hurley (508) 349-3702 for more details.
- Anti-body tests, as well as tests for the virus for those with symptoms, are available at Outer Cape Health Services. Call ([508\) 349-3131](tel:5083493131) for details. Outer Cape just received a grant of \$356,000 from the federal government for testing.
- The [Wellfleet Public Library](#) has a variety of online resources available, including an art show called “Isolation: Inspiration.”
- The Transfer Station has just announced that it will reopen areas for leaves and brush, construction material, metal, furniture, marine debris, propane tanks, refrigerators/ac's/dehumidifiers and reusable compost as of May 18. They are already accepting regular trash and single stream recycling. Purple PAYT bags are not required until further notice

We should know more after May 18 when Governor Charlie Baker hopefully makes his plans for phased reopening clearer.

Susan M. Reverby, WSRA President

WSRA Membership Dues

WSRA counts on its members to pay dues without receiving an annual invoice. Dues and individual donations are WSRA's only sources of funding-- \$25 for a single membership or \$35 for a family/household membership per calendar year.

To join, renew or pay by credit card or paypal, use the appropriate link below:

- * [For Individual Memberships \(\\$25 dues\)](#)
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