

# Wellfleet Non-resident Taxpayers' Association

*Promoting community involvement and communication*

COVID-19 Update 8 June 12, 2020

Things are opening up in Wellfleet as the season begins, and we enter Phase 2 in the Massachusetts COVID response. This has meant the following here:

- The Select Board voted on June 9 *not* to add any restrictions to short term rentals that are now allowed by the Governor's regulations. "Trust rather than fear," should be the way we operate Select Board Chair Janet Reinhardt declared. There was great worry among homeowners who rent, many rumors, and more than 130 letters came into the Board over this issue. The Board *could* have instituted minimal stay limits, but *did not*. They are encouraging everyone to consider more time between rentals to allow homes/rooms to air out and to be deeply cleaned, but did not require this. They are asking that those renting to put up signs about masks and social distancing procedures for their guests.

Much of the discussion focused on balancing livelihood and lives. Homeowners who rent were really asked to do their part to keep everyone as safe as possible. Concern was also focused on the workers who do the cleaning, especially in the Air BnB's where the turnover is often short.

- The Outer Cape Health Services is still offering COVID testing on Monday through Friday, 1:30-3pm, after pre-screening by phone, for those with symptoms or contact with someone who is positive. They reported they have done 502 tests with the last positive on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Recreation activities are still mainly virtual, but Bakers' Field and the playgrounds should be opening soon.
- The library is providing curbside delivery of books they have on their shelves, but there is still no providing books from other libraries. They do not expect to open any time soon.
- A number of the Wellfleet restaurants will open with out-door seating in addition to the take out some are doing. The Select Board approved use of parking spaces, especially for two restaurants that use town property, for this. There will be jersey barriers, blocks, or rocks to make sure diners are kept safe from vehicular traffic.

- Beach stickers for visitors will be available, by mail, after June 13<sup>th</sup>. The prohibition against beach fires will be discussed at a future meeting.
- The Board had voted months ago to restrict all use of town property. They will now consider this again on a case-by-case basis, but only for small groups.
- Maria Broadbent, currently the town manager in Berwyn Heights, Maryland, was selected as the new town administrator to replace Dan Hoort, who retires at the end of this month.
- Everyone was reminded to do the masks, social distancing, and quarantines (if needed). We all have to do this to make sure Wellfleet does not become a “hot spot” for the virus.

Susan M. Reverby, WSRA President

### **Dues and donations, please**

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:

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WSRA  
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