

Weekly Video Update, November 15, 2021

Karen Connolly, Select Board Chair

Ms. Connolly acknowledged that this year's Veteran's Day event was a wonderful event hosted by the American Legion at the new Senior Center. So many organizations contributed to this event. Thank you to The Voyage in Humarock for donating 90+ dinners for the Veteran's and to the Food pantry for donating dessert and a special gift bag.

Ms. Connolly noted there's many upcoming meetings this week and can be found on the Town of Scituate homepage www.scituatema.gov. There is a Select Board Meeting on Tuesday and noted that the agenda will include the topic of Transfer Station rates among other things.

There is also a meeting of the Scituate Harbor Re-development Advisory Committee which is tasked with determining use of the Scituate Harbor Community Building. All are welcome to watch and/or attend to give their input.

Update from Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau

Mr. Boudreau thanked all those who helped with the Veteran's Day event – The Voyage, Linda Hayes, and the hockey team who volunteered their time.

1. Water Main construction has ceased for the season. The contractor will continue to install services on Brook, Tilden, Rainbow Court and Foam Road. Testing and training of employees on the green sand filter on well 17A is on-going. The Pilot study at the water treatment plant is done for now. The water department is planning on doing some flushing of the system starting the week after thanksgiving, weather dependent.
2. The total number of Covid cases for this past week was 39, more than 35 of the previous week. We have a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 2.86%, up from the 2.375 of two week ago of last week. Plymouth County is at 3.2%, up from my last report 3.25%. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 2.32% trending up from two weeks ago 1.92%. Numbers are increasing across the board as colder weather arrives and people spend more time indoors. While we are seeing the number of cases increase, ICU hospitalizations are remaining fairly level, most of whom are people who are unvaccinated. The vaccination has proven very effective in preventing hospitalizations and severe symptoms from COVID.

Guidance is out from the CDC and federal government on the booster shots for Pfizer recipients. Go to Mass.gov and there is a link to determine if you are eligible for a booster shot. The CDC has also approved Moderna's and J&J booster shots. Moderna's recommendation is similar to the one for Pfizer, for people over 65 and those with other health conditions or people in professions with a high risk of coming into contact with COVID 6 months after your second dose. It is recommended that anyone who received the single dose J&J vaccine receive a booster as soon as two months after the initial dose. Guidance has also been provided that you can now "mix and match" vaccines, so you are not limited to a booster from the same source as your original shot(s). it is recommended that you get the same shot, but no longer required.

The Pfizer vaccine for children 5-11 has been approved and is available in Massachusetts. Go to mass.gov, click on COVID-19 on the home page and you will be able to find information on where to get a shot for children.

3. Paving and striping are finished on First Parish Road from Country Way to the area around the common. Speed radar patrols will be monitoring in the area to keep speeds down. Peggotty Beach parking lot was paved last week also. We will now schedule the contractor for final striping. This may take place before the cold weather comes or in the spring, depending on availability of materials.

DPW crews are still on the roads picking up debris from the recent storm. This will continue until we get it all or weather prevents it. On a sad note, the crews have begun preparations for winter weather and are installing the sanders on the trucks and getting the plows ready for winter storms.

4. Renovations/expansion to the Widow's Walk clubhouse continue. The \$2.5 million project is expected to be completed in the fall. The contractor has made great strides this week on finishing the exterior of the building and starting landscaping. Pouring of the walkway and stairs has been done. A railing will be installed along the handicapped ramp. The contractor is also finishing the exterior siding of the building. We will be looking to get a temporary Certificate of Occupancy this week for that we can start using the pro-shop and return the rented trailer that we have been using over the summer.
5. The Scituate Food Pantry will re-schedule their "OPEN HOUSE" (due to the storm) at the former Gates School at 327 First Parish Rd. to see its transformation from Cafeteria to a "State of the Art" Food Pantry.

Update from Superintendent Bill Burkhead

Happy Veteran's Day to all the Veterans who sacrificed for our country. Shout out to Charlie Adams and his mom Susannah and a team of student volunteers who supported Scituate Community Christmas. The flag display at the Susan Phippen House honors 1,000 veterans living in our community and is open until November 18th.

Covid Update: We saw an increase from 13 cases last week to 20 cases this week, and 3 the week before. Hopefully we see this flatten out. Nurse leaders reached out to request the availability of a vaccination van for the 5 – 11 age group. Stay tuned for updates on that in the future.

School Committee Meeting is tonight at 6 PM, hope you can join us. Highlights include; Student learning, leadership reports, curriculum reports, Metco program, and first reading of the new face covering policy.

Athletic Play-offs: Boys soccer made it to the second round, cheer leaders were in regionals and had a zero-deduction routine – congrats to them. Cross Country girls headed to states, and football team is in the state semi finals playing Grafton this Saturday in Brockton. Coach Herb Devine received his 100th win. The Patriots have reached out and have chosen him as their New England Patriots coach of the week. They will visit Scituate tomorrow and present the football program with a \$1,000 donation on behalf of the Kraft family and will be featured on Patriots all access television show. We are proud of all our teams.

Student voice shout out to Gates Esch, 3rd grader who wrote to him about doing away with Styrofoam plates. Working with Supt. Burkhead and the food service director, he was able to get that done. Mr. Burkhead read the thank you letter from student, Gates Esch.