

Weekly Video Update, February 28, 2022

Karen Connolly, Select Board Chair, and Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator and Bill Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools

Karen Connolly, Select Board Chair

Ms. Connolly said there is a Select Board meeting on Tuesday, March 1st at 6:00 PM in person at the Senior Center. The meeting will also be streamed live on facebook.

Scituate school budget is on the agenda with presentations available on facebook and school website. Also, there will be a coastal and foreshore protection project overview from our DPW Director and Planning Director.

In addition, there will be a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) project update that will include all projects to go before the voters at Annual Town Meeting.

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week (not including yesterday) according to our MAVEN data was 3, down from 16 of last week. Numbers continue to drop from week to week. The total number of cases reported to the BOH, including home tests over the last two weeks was 37, down from 55 reported last week. We have a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 3.97%, down from 5.24% of last week. Plymouth County is at 4.43%, down from 6.66% of last week. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 2.13% down from the previous week of 2.74. So, numbers are trending down across the board.

At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense then not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not been vaccinated, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to mass.gov for details. The Marshfield Fairgrounds site was taking appointments and drive-ups for boosters as well as pharmacies.

New mask guidance states that you do not need to wear a mask inside unless you or someone that you live with has a condition that would be made worse by Covid.

Test kits are now available for seniors at the COA with a limit of 2 per family. We will distribute several thousand to residents and we will get an announcement out this week on the specifics.

2. Widow's Walk clubhouse: The floors are done and we are onto punch list items. Tomorrow, March 1st is a big day with responses to the concessions RFP due. We've had one local restaurant express an interest and several others tour the new space. We are very hopeful that we will get someone in there for the start of the season.

3. The Green sand filter installed on well 17A is complete and has been inspected and approved by the DEP for use. The water department will be bringing the well back on line starting tomorrow. This may cause some temporary brown water in that area as the introduction of water from the well will change the direction of water flow in the west end, potential stirring up sediment in the pipes. The green sand filter removes iron and manganese from the water, both of which are cause of many of the brown water issues in the system.
4. It is an earlier pot hole season this year with the large amount of snow followed by warm days and cold nights. That's perfect pot hole weather! Crews will be out all week filling potholes and making temporary repairs. Reports of potholes should go to either the highway department (545-8734) or DPW office (545- 8732)
5. Finally, on March 20th we will resume the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade at 1:00 PM after two years without it due to Covid.

Bill Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Burkhead hopes everyone had a nice school vacation. They didn't report any Covid cases due to vacation, however, the last report from 2/18 was trending low with only 15 cases in the district.

All students and faculty now have access to a home testing program. They can take home tests on Friday and can test prior to return on Monday. This is yet another strategy to stop the spread of Covid.

For the first time in 2 years, all pre-k-12 schools are mask flexible. Families have the option to wear masks if they so desire. He said it was so nice to see all the smiling faces this morning. DESE reported yesterday that the transportation mandate is still in effect, however they should be sending out correspondence that transportation will be mask flexible as well.

School Committee meeting is tonight (Feb. 28) at 6:00 PM and highlights include:

World Language Department celebrates student learning, Vote FY23 Budget, Statement of interest for the MSBA program regarding SHS roof, and leadership discussions by Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent.

Reminder that he and Dr. Dutch will be presenting the school budget at tomorrow's Select Board Meeting. All presentations will be on the school website: <https://scituate.k12.ma.us/> Please reach out to him directly with any questions.