

Weekly Video Update, July 25, 2022

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week according to our MAVEN data was 25. We had a positivity rating over the last 14 days of 6.88%. Plymouth County is at 7.96 %. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 8.17%. Statewide there are 52 individuals in ICU. 20 patients are intubated. With the exception of Scituate's positivity rating, which is down slightly, all the numbers are up from two weeks ago. The new BA.5 is now the most prevalent strain and is more adept at avoiding the antibodies in our bodies from the vaccines or that we get after having the virus.

We are not done with COVID yet. Although it is only one week, the numbers are trending up. There is a new Omicron variant, BA-2 that is now the dominant strain in the US. At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense then not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet gotten vaccinated and can receive the vaccine, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to mass.gov for details.

2. Water update. Reservoir is at -27.75" and Tack Factory Pond was at -13.5" this week down from last week's measurement of -6.5". Average daily demand was at 1.869 MGC up from 1.623 MGD up from of two week's ago. We are currently rated as having significant drought conditions buy the Commonwealth. As the drought worsens, the water tables supplying our wells also drop, lowering the output from those wells, making us more dependent on the water treatment plant. The more we have to use the plant, the more Manganese we are putting into the system and the more discolored water we get. Manganese measured at the WTP is still high and is causing discolored water to go through the plant and into the system. As the temperatures rise, so will the Manganese levels in the water. If you have brown water, please call the water department or email brownwater@scituatema.gov. Rainfall over the last 7 days was .07" measured at the Plant.

The Town still has a water ban in place in Scituate. Handheld hoses only and must be before 9:00 am and after 5:00 pm. The water department has sent out warnings to residents violating the watering ban and will start fining violators this week. Fines can be as high as \$300 a day. We all need to do our best to conserve water during these drought conditions.

Celco will be working on Pinebrook and Westgate this week.

3. The current statute allowing for remote or hybrid public meetings has been extended to March 31, 2023. It had been scheduled to expire on Friday, 7/15. So, we will be able to continue to hold remote and or hybrid meetings if desirable.
4. With the rise in inflation, the cost of gas groceries and everyday items has soared. If you are in need or no someone in need, both Scituate Community Christmas and the Scituate

Food Pantry are available to help those in need. SCC is a year-round organization dedicated to helping those in need, not just at the holiday. SCC can be reached at 781-545-7198 and the Food Pantry, which operates out of the old Gates school can be reached at 782-545-5827. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful organizations available to help those in need in Scituate.

5. The Sanctuary at Herring Brook will be holding a lottery for the affordable housing units on August 8, 2022. A public information session was held via Zoom on June 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Completed applications must be received at SEB Housing by 2:00 pm on July 25, 2022. This information will be posted on the town web site or you can go to sebhousing.com and click "Affordable Housing Opportunities" at the top of the page for more details.
6. I have been informed by Mark Novack, the designer of the Scituate High School Athletic complex, that the Scituate Athletic Fields project was recognized by the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA) with a Distinguished Facility Award in the Multi-Field category. The project is now considered a finalist for Facility of Year honors. We'll find out if the project is selected for FOY at the annual ASBA meeting in December. Congrats to everyone involved on this project for this recognition.
7. Paving work is scheduled to commence next week-weather dependent. Old Oaken Bucket and Brook St. are on the list.

Meetings this week:

Conservation meets tonight, 7/25/22 at 6 PM

Select Board meets tomorrow, 7/26/22 at 6:30 PM

Recreation Commision meets Wednesday, 7/27/22 at 6 PM

Planning Board meets Thursday, 7/28/22 at 6:30 PM