

Weekly Update, December 20, 2021

Karen E. Connolly, Chair, Select Board

Ms. Connolly gave an update on the next Select Board meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. It will be an in-person meeting at Town Hall in the Select Board Hearing Room. There will be budget presentations including: Scituate Library, Widow's Walk, Council on Aging, and the Commission on Disabilities. There will also be a presentation from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

Mr. Boudreau wished everyone a happy winter. The winter Solstice is tomorrow – our day's going forward will be getting longer.

1. Water Main construction has ceased for the season. The contractor will continue installation work on Rainbow Court. Testing and training by employees on the green sand filter on well 17A is on-going. The Pilot study at the water treatment plant is done for now. Our consultant is reviewing the data and will have a report for us mid-December. They will also be back this winter to pilot treatment of the water when the water is cold. We are expecting a report soon based on the testing that was done in the spring and the fall.
2. The total number of Covid cases for this past week was 67, way up from 42 of the previous week. We have a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 4.93%, up from the 4.90% of last week. Plymouth County is at 8.19%, more than double the 7.7% I reported 2 weeks ago. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 5.77% and continuing to trend up. Last week the state was at 5.17%. These percentage increases are consistent with the increase in case numbers that we are seeing. Numbers are increasing across the board as colder weather arrives and people spend more time indoors. If you are vaccinated the symptoms are generally milder. We expect numbers to go even higher after people got together for Thanksgiving.

The Omicron variant is here and in the area. Early data is that Omicron is significantly more transmissible than the Delta Variant, but that vaccinated individuals experience mild to no symptoms with the Omicron variant and do not usually require hospitalization. We urge you to get vaccinated. Moderna announced this morning that the Moderna vaccine booster is effective against the Omicron variant. At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense than 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 more details.

Scituate's is having an additional booster shot clinic scheduled for today and tomorrow. The Moderna clinic is scheduled for Monday 12/20 and Tuesday 12/21, 9-11:30 and 1-3:30. The clinic will take place at the Senior Center. The link to register is on the Town web site under the news feed and Board of Health page. Pre-registration is required. Slots are still available for today and tomorrow. Individuals 18 and over are eligible for a Moderna Booster (available at our clinic) and 16 and over eligible for a Pfizer booster. You can mix and match, but it is recommended that you stick with your original vaccine type. The City of Boston is expected to make an announcement today about new measures to fight the Omicron variant and it is expected that the President may also take some action this week. We continue to follow the

state guidance and currently the state does not have a plan to reinstitute a mask mandate but we will update you if we receive any further information.

3. Our 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. Please notify the DPW if you have not had your storm materials picked up yet.
4. Renovations/expansion to the Widow's Walk clubhouse continues. The \$2.5 million project is expected to be completed shortly. Ian Kelley, our Director and his staff will begin operating out of the new space shortly. Kitchen equipment installation is ongoing and will continue over the next week or so. We reviewed the draft RFP for operation of the clubhouse and food service and that has gone out and is available on the Town of Scituate website https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3781/f/pages/2021_widows_walk_restaurant_lease_rfp_final_0.pdf Friday, the contractor put down the top coat on the parking lot. The flooring installation in the club house portion of the building should commence shortly. That is the last big item towards completion. The new building is coming along and will be ready for the start of the golf season.
5. Humarock Fire Station has a temporary CO and is occupied by the Fire Department. Ribbon cutting took place Friday and was well attended.

Mr. Boudreau wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ms. Connolly asked Mr. Boudreau a few questions:

1. When will the Transfer Station be closed this weekend? Mr. Boudreau indicated that the Transfer station will be closed on the holidays – Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
2. When Will Widow's Walk be open for walkers? The course should be open for walkers and there will be a notice posted on the Town website and Facebook page. Closed for the season for Golfer.

Bill Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent gave a Health and wellness update: Numbers for the past week were a total of 44 cases: 12 at Cushing, 5 at Gates; 9 at Scituate High School; 3 at Hatherly; 10 at Wampatuck and 5 Jenkins.

Sailor shout outs and congratulations to some of our wonderful staff members. Heather Allen our new STEM PreK to grade 5 curriculum coordinator was selected by the Department of Education to work on the grade 4 MCAS Assessment Development Committee and serve as an advisory group. Congratulations to Principal of Jenkins Rebecca Long, who earned her Doctorate at Northeastern welcome Dr. Long. Heidi Driscoll was appointed to a second term on the MA Education School District Accountability and Assistance advisory council and was promoted to co-chair of the committee. This is a 15-member council that advises our MA Board of Education. There is a school committee meeting this evening and will include the Superintendents report, Dr. Dutch will report on funding, our current FY22 budget and how we are doing this year. There will be a sub committee report on the South Shore Educational Collaborative. An acceptance of a gift for our Town Library. If you cannot make the

meeting tonight it will be recorded and available on the Scituate Public Schools website to view at a later time. Superintendent Burkhead wishes everyone a great week and Happy Holidays!

Ms. Connolly wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

The total # of COVID cases for the town includes all the numbers from the school.