

November 30, 2020

Selectman Karen Canfield reminded everyone the Board of Selectmen is having its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday (Dec. 1). Citizens can participate via Zoom; the link is on the town website: scituatema.gov. They can also watch on Facebook live via the Scituate Community TV page.

The board will receive an update on sewer capacity and the sewer system from the Superintendent of Sewers. The board will also be asked to approve a permit for Santa to do a drive-by on December 13, similar to the Easter Bunny drive-by last spring.

Ms. Canfield reminded residents to shop locally. She noted there is a wreath contest going on in the harbor. Details can be found on the Scituate Harbor Business Association Facebook page and website.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said Scituate saw 23 new Covid cases over the past week down from 25 the previous week. More than half of the cases were at new addresses. The rest were at addresses where someone had previously tested positive for the virus. The town is still yellow on the state Covid map. The town's positivity

rate is 2.77 percent over the past 14 days, up from 2.72 percent.

Mr. Boudreau reminded citizens who are planning to ski in New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine this winter that the state quarantine and testing requirements will apply when they return. There is a link to the state guidelines on the Town of Scituate website scituatema.gov.

He said the town expects to see a spike in Covid cases next week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. He said whether the town has to re-impose business opening rollbacks lies in the hands of the citizens. He urged everyone to follow the safety guidelines, including washing hands, limiting the size of gatherings, wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

Despite the rain, the town is still in a moderate drought. The reservoir is at 44 percent up from 38.84 percent last week. Usage is at 446,000 gallons per day down from 478,000 the previous week.

The Maritime project at Cole Parkway has commenced. There are barriers, fences and paintings on the pavement to direct traffic. Use caution when traveling through Cole Parkway.

Cedar Point sewer project is underway. Citizens should pay attention to traffic routing and walking access. Traffic closures and delays will be very disruptive when the contractor brings in a large excavator to dig trenches for the main sewer line. The town will let the residents know when the digging starts.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead reported that Scituate High School is back to the hybrid model. He said he is proud of the way the schools have been able to mitigate the spread of the virus. He noted that the schools need the community's help as much as possible in this regard.

He reminded parents that the state requires all students receive a flu vaccination by Dec. 31 to remain in school. Forward documentation to building school nurse.

The School Committee meeting at 6 p.m. tonight (Nov. 30) has a heavy agenda including goals, health and safety, Covid dates and winter sports. Principals will present results of recent surveys from staff and families on the hybrid models. The Zoom link is on the agenda at scituate.k12.ma.us.

He said Scituate third and fourth graders will be joining 100 million students for an hour of code next week.