

Weekly Town Update, July 5, 2023

Susan Harrison, Select Board Clerk

There are no meetings the rest of this week but there are several events around Town. The Scituate Town Library summer concert series starts today, July 5th. We also have the first annual Cape Verde Independence Day celebration on Friday, July 7th at the Scituate Harbor Community Building from 6-10 PM. There will be music, food, raffles and suggested donation is \$10. This is hosted by the Scituate Cape Verde Sister City Committee.

Saturday is a beach clean up at Egypt beach from 9 – 12 PM and is presented by the Beach Commission, Coastal Advisory, and Scituate Trashed.

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

Mr. Boudreau welcomed everyone back from the Holiday weekend.

1. As many is Scituate are aware, the Town of Cohasset adopted a by-law in December of 2022 that would, in effect, have given the Town of Cohasset authority over waters that are within the Town Boundaries of the Town of Scituate. Their stated purpose was to ensure “safe navigation” but the intent was clearly to prohibit the Town of Scituate from licensing shell fishing in those waters. I am pleased to inform the residents of Scituate that the Municipal Law Unit of the Attorney General’s Office, in an opinion released July 3, 2023, that the Cohasset by-law is invalid and that Scituate controls waters within our borders. Thanks to the Board and Special Counsel Robert Galvin for their advocacy on behalf of the Town of Scituate.
2. Water update. We are at +1”, last week we were +.50”. Tack Factory Pond is at +2” the same as last week. Average daily demand was at 1.461 MGD down from last week’s 1.78 MGD.

Rainfall over the last 7 days was .76” measured at the Plant.

The Town is currently under our annual water conservation measures. These started May 1. Between May 1-September 30 all outdoor watering must occur before 9 AM and after 5 PM. Automatic irrigation systems may be used one day per week based on voting precincts. This is a ban imposed by the state based on water usage in the aquifer region that Scituate belongs to. Go to the water department web page for information on when your precinct may use irrigation systems.

3. Starting July 1, Scituate residents who purchase a new, qualifying, energy efficient washing machine or dish washer or a qualifying SmartSense toilet will be eligible for a rebate from the Town of Scituate of up to \$250 for a washing machine or dish washer and \$150 for a toilet. Applications and links to eligible projects are available on the water department page of the Town web site. <https://www.scituatema.gov/water-division>

4. The Scituate Beach Commission, Scituate Coastal Advisory Committee and Scituate Trashed will be hosting a beach clean-up this Saturday morning, July 8, at Egypt Beach from 9 am – noon. Additional clean-ups August 12 at Sands Hill, Sept 9 at Museum Beach, Oct 14 at Humarock and Nov 4 at Peggotty.
5. The contractor for the Route 3A water main work has completed installing erosion control along corridor. Actual construction on the pipes will begin next week on Monday, July 10. This is the beginning of the project to install a new raw water line from the OOB reservoir to the site of the new treatment plant at Steans Meadows. When the plant is completed, water from the pond will be pumped to the plant for treatment before entering the distribution system. The contractor will also be replacing the service main on 3A that serves the homes and neighborhoods adjacent to that portion of 3A.
6. The 4th of July Holiday has now passed. I would like to thank the residents of Town, their guests and visitors for a safe and happy holiday. The Scituate police reported no major incidents over the weekend and no injuries caused by fireworks. The weather wasn't the best, but people still celebrated happily and safely. Thanks to our public safety personnel for all of their work and a special shout out to the Scituate DPW for their clean-up efforts. Peggotty beach was especially problematic with trash strewn all over the parking lot and dunes. Please, if the barrels are full (and they are emptied daily) do not leave your trash next to them or in the parking lot. It makes a mess.
7. The contractor for the Oceanside I&I project has begun work on the repair phase of the project. They have taken videos of the lines and will be starting the installation of liners in the pipes to stop the inflow of ground water and sea water into the pipes. Removing this water from the sewer pipes reduces the amount of flow going through our water treatment plant, reducing wear and tear on the plant and expanding capacity that could be used for effluent as opposed to water. They will be working on Dayton Rd, Second Ave, Wampatuck Ave, Norwell Ave, Turner Rd, Brockton Ave, Otis Rd and Williams Ave this week.
8. Work on the actual light house tower continues. The concrete slab at the top of the tower has been removed, and work will now begin on the brick work. We will be taking down approximately 4-4.5' of brick work on the exterior of the tower. Once the brick work is removed, the contractor will pour a new "concrete dome" that the lantern room actually sits on, then rebuild the brick work. We are preparing a posting that we will place at the lighthouse that will detail the work being done. The lighthouse restoration is being paid through the Town's Community Preservation fund and various grants.
9. Finally, we have a request from the Scituate Food Pantry for donations. They are running low on their supply and would appreciate any assistance that people can give. Please keep them in mind with other donations also. The need does not go away with the arrival of the nice weather.