

Weekly Video Update, August 9, 2022

Tony Vegnani, Select Board Chair

There is a Select Board meeting tonight, August 9th beginning at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing Special Town Meeting articles. Special Town Meeting is September 19th and we will be discussing Planning Board and Capital articles, as well as a contract to repair sea wall stair cases at Minot beach. Agenda can be found on the town website

https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3781/f/agendas/20220809_ssb_agenda_revised.pdf

Thank you to all for a successful Heritage Days event. It was a great turnout despite the hot weather. Mr. Vegnani thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their hard work in putting this event together.

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week according to our MAVEN data was 9, down from 14 last week. We had a positivity rating over the last 14 days of 10.41% up from 8.94%. Plymouth County is at 8.68, up from last week of 8.54 %. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 7.97%, down very slightly from last week's 8.08%. Statewide there are 57 individuals in ICU, up from 48. 15 patients are intubated down from 19. So, local numbers have increased while state wide the numbers are down for the second straight week.

We are not done with COVID yet. 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 -39", last week we were at -35". Tack factory Pond is still at -8". Average daily demand was at 1.592 MGD down from 1.623 MGD last week. We are currently rated as having severe drought conditions buy the Commonwealth. As the drought worsens, the water tables supplying our wells continue to 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. We are working with our consultants and DEP to try and come up with a short - term fix while we wait for the construction of a new water treatment plant. Hopefully we will get some meaningful rainfall tonight and that will help with the manganese.

If you have brown water, please call the water department or email brownwater@scituatema.gov

Rainfall over the last 7 days was 1.17" measured at the Plant.

With the worsening of drought conditions and the strains being placed on our wells, we have implemented a Tier 4 water ban. This is a total ban on all non-essential outside water use. This includes vehicles and boats at marinas. The water department will be fining violators. We have fined over 75 violators since putting the ban in place. Fines can be as high as \$300 a day. Details of the ban can be found on the town web site. We all need to do our best to conserve water during these drought conditions.

3. The Sanctuary at Herring Brook was scheduled to hold a lottery for the affordable housing units on August 8, 2022. Those chosen in the lottery will be notified by SEB.
4. The paving contractor for the Town is working on Old Oaken Bucket, Maple Street and Woodland. There will also be paving today on Hatherly in the vicinity of Toll Brothers. This is an overlay project. The Town currently has \$1.076 in Chapter 90 road projects approved by the state to move forward. We have approximately another \$1.2 million in state and local dollars that we will be committing to road and sidewalk work.
5. The Town will be hosting a Home Elevation seminar in conjunction with MEMA on August 30 from 5:00 – 6:00 in the Scituate Library Community Room. This free seminar will answer questions about home elevation projects, why a home owner should consider it, how much it might cost and opportunities for funding among other topics. Interested residents should email our Coastal Resource Officer Corey Miles at cmiles@scituatema.gov so we can get a handle on how many people might attend.
6. Two weather related updates. We are expecting a break in the hot weather with a cold front moving through the area starting later today and this evening. Isolated severe thunder storms with heavy winds and rain are possible. Be aware of your surroundings should one of these storms break out. Also, starting tonight we will be experiencing astronomically high tides. Low lying areas prone to flooding, particularly Cole Parkway and Mill Wharf parking lot could see minor flooding during the evening tides.
7. Although it may seem early with temperatures forecast to reach close to 100 today, the Town is looking for plow drivers for the winter and for positions in the DPW. Interested parties should contact the DPW at 781-545-8732.