

Weekly Video Update, April 11, 2022

Andrew Goodrich, Select Board Clerk

Mr. Goodrich reminded everyone to come to Special and Annual Town Meeting tonight at 7:00 PM. Topics include general budget, building a new water treatment plant, curtailment of wind turbine, and discussion around marijuana retail shops and whether to lift the ban.

The Beach Commission is meeting Wednesday at the Library at 6:00 PM

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week (not including yesterday) according to our MAVEN data was 20, up from 17 of last week. The total number of cases reported to the BOH is not available yet but will update later. We had a positivity rating over the last 14 days of 2.76% up from 2.11% of last week. Plymouth County is at 2.21%, up from last weeks' 2.02%. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 2.93% up from the previous week of 2.47%. Statewide there are 36 individuals in ICU up from 33 of last week and 22 intubated, up from 12 last week. We will continue to monitor numbers, but the hope is that even is the number of people with COVID rises, the hospitalization numbers will remain manageable do to the high vaccination in Massachusetts.

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. The FDA has now approved a second booster shot as further protection against Covid. Individuals 50 years of age and older may get a second booster of Pfizer or Moderna 4 months after their first booster. A second booster of Pfizer vaccine may be administered to individuals over 12 with certain kinds on immunocompromise. A second Moderna booster may be administered to individuals 18 and over with the same conditions. Data shows that there is some waning of protection over time against serious outcomes from COVID 19 for older and immunocompromised individuals.

2. The auction for the Old Council on Aging parcel was held two weeks ago. There were 12 bidders and 18 bids in the course of the auction. The high bid was \$465,000. When coupled with the proceeds from the sale of the Minot Fire Station (553,240) and the auctioning of contents from the Old COA (953), \$1,019,193 was brought in and will be used to reduce the debt and the tax burden from the construction of the new Senior Center. This is 8% of the total authorized cost of \$12,232,450. If you add in the \$255,681.46 of private donations (2.1%). We reduced the tax burden of the project by \$1,274,874.46 or 10.4% of the project cost. That is a savings of \$155 on the average tax bill.

3. The Town also held another on line auction of surplus vehicles and equipment. This auction netted the Town \$79,103 the highest bid being \$23,800 for a 2007 Isuzu sweeper/vac truck.
4. With great pleasure The South Shore Irish Heritage Trail announces that See Plymouth ,The Official Tourist Site of Plymouth County, was awarded a \$90,000 Grant (April 5,2022). This grant will finance an advertising campaign to lure tourists from the Northeastern United States, Eastern Canada, and Ireland to the newly established South Shore Irish Heritage Trail. Also included in the grant will be printing, and signage. The Trail committee is most grateful to See Plymouth for their work and for their in-kind donation of administrative and graphic work exceeding \$30,000. The committee also acknowledges with great pride the support of the Town of Scituate from the very beginning stages of the Trail planning.

The launch ceremony for the South Shore Irish Heritage Trail will take place on May 22 at one o'clock at the band stand in Cole Parkway

5. The Salvage company charged with bringing up the “Bing Bing” the fishing boat that sank off Humarock is still waiting to raise the fishing boat. They tried once but the wind picked up and they suspended operations before they got the boat refloated. They will be at it when the weather is right. If they are able to get the boat to the surface, the plan from the CG and DEP will be to bring the boat to Scituate Harbor, inspect it and make it safe and ensure a period of good weather and then take it on a 2-3-day voyage to Fall River.
6. Widows Walk golf course is OPEN for the season. The new pro-shop is ready for business and we kicked off the golf season on Friday. We are working on finishing the last punch items on the widows walk clubhouse project. The Hibernian Restaurant on Front Street in the Harbor has been awarded the concession for the new facility at the club. Furniture for the new club house has arrived and is being assembled. We are looking forward to the start of concessions as soon as possible.
7. The Scituate Water Division has completed necessary maintenance work on the Granular Activated Carbon Filter at the Old Oaken Bucket Water Treatment Plant. The plant is now back on line. The full water ban issued by the Scituate Water has been lifted.
8. Annual transfer station stickers expired on 3/31 and you will need a new sticker to access the transfer station. Tickets can be purchased on line or in person at the Treasurer’s office here at the Town Hall. Stickers are \$90 for consumers and \$55 for people over 70. The scale has been repaired for those depositing of waste that require weighing.
9. Town Meeting is tonight at the High School and starts at 7:00 pm. The Advisory Booklet and Town Meeting Warrant are available on the Town web site.

Bill Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools

Covid numbers: total number was 31 up from 12. We had a spike in one school and the breakdown is as follows:

District Staff	0
Cushing	18
Hatherley	1
Jenkins	6
Gates	5
High School	1
Wampanatuck	0

As mentioned earlier, tonight is Annual Town Meeting and the School Meeting will meet prior to that with one agenda item with public comment via zoom. The next SC Committee is April 25th.

Scituate Public Schools created the first District Response Team that consists of central office administrators, building administrators, educators, teachers, clinical support, nurses, emergency response personnel, and town. We will have a clear and articulated response for any emergency.

Per state law and DESE, we submitted our Student Opportunity Act Amendment which re-enforces our commitment to inclusion, co-teaching for student with learning disabilities. We received an increase of \$83,761 and next year will be \$16,154.

Sailor shout out to dedicated parents of SHORE. He attended their annual spring grant meeting last week and he thanked them for their fundraising efforts.

Mr. Goodrich thanked Mr. Burkhead for his transparency in the school budget and there's been such great information put out to help people understand the process.

See everyone at Town Meeting tonight!