

Weekly Video Update, August 7, 2023

Maura Curran, Select Board Chair

Ms. Curran thanked the Chamber of Commerce for hosting a wonderful Heritage Days Weekend. In addition, she thanked DPW, Police, and Fire for their efforts. It's a community effort to pull this off and everyone had a great time.

We have several meetings this week:

Monday: Conservation

Tuesday: Select Board

Thursday: Planning Board

Please check the website for all agendas <https://www.scituatema.gov/>

Finally, there's a special community event at the Harbor Community Building this Friday, August 11th at 6 PM. STRIDE, along with other community organizations, are hosting a Luminaria event in response to recent events to promote love, inclusion and trust within our community. They will walk with candlelight to Museum beach.

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. Water update. Reservoir is even last week was at +2". Tack Factory Pond is at +1.5". At this same time last year, the reservoir was -39" and Tack Factory pond was at -9"

Rainfall over the last 7 days was 1.3" measured at the Plant.

Demand for the last week was at the highest it has been in weeks at 1.742mgd.

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.

2. Residents will begin receiving their new water bills shortly. Please be advised that the base rate and usage rates were increased by 2% for fiscal year 2024. The differential between Tier 2 and Tier 3 was increased from 60.6% to 100% and the differential between Tier 3 and Tier 4 was increased from 40.0% to 100%. Households that have consumption over 3,000 CF will see a material increase in their bill. To help offset that increase, the Appliance Rebate program is now available to reimburse residents \$150 or \$250 for changing out their toilets, washer or dishwasher to water efficient models, as detailed in the program flyer. The more efficient appliance will also lower consumption and the overall water bill for the household. Practicing water conservation measures such as using rain barrels, restricting outdoor watering and not leaving faucets running during

washing will also reduce consumption. 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.

3. Lighthouse renovations: Demolition/Existing Conditions – The Town’s consultants on the lighthouse project will be presenting to the Board at their meeting tomorrow night. To recap we have removed the first four feet of brick work in the hope of getting to a point where we found suitable material between the exterior and interior bricks to affix the concrete dome that will hold up the restored lantern room. We had given the go ahead to remove the next four feet of brick in hopes of getting to that point. While our team worked with the contractor to price out the magnitude of those changes, the design team was able to come up with a solution that negates the need for removing additional brick work, but instead will consist of changes to the proposed concrete dome. Our design engineers and team will present that change to the Board tomorrow night.

Lantern Room – The lantern room structural frame fabrication is complete, and the contractor will be erecting the frame in his shop for test fitting and verification before the frame is deconstructed and sent out for galvanization.

Schedule – The schedule has been impacted by the discovery of the unforeseen conditions of the internal/core masonry. We are attempting to move forward as efficiently as possible with the additional demolition and investigations and as soon as the team has a better handle on the solution the overall schedule will be updated.

4. Recreation updates this week, First, hard to believe but we are getting to that point where are lifeguards start departing for school and so we wind down our lifeguard presence on the beaches. The following is the last day that lifeguards will be staffed at the town beaches:

Egypt Beach-August 11
Humarock-August 18
Minot-August 25
Peggotty-Sept 4 (Labor Day)

Also, the Recreation Fall Brochure is posted on the recreation page of the town web site. https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3781/f/uploads/fall_brochure_2023_.pdf
Registration will open on August 31st at 9:00 am.

5. DPW paving this week.
Paving crews will also be working on Highland Crossing, Country Way at First Parish.
Gas company work continues on Jericho Rd.

6. The contractor doing the sewer department I&I work will be working this week as follows: Monday-Seamore and Maple, Tuesday- Harbor View and Allen Place and Wednesday-Otis Place.
7. National Grid will be in Town doing tree work to clear primary lines. They will be in various locations around town so please be aware as you drive through town.
8. The contractor for the Route 3A water main work has completed installing erosion control along corridor. Actual construction on the pipes has begun. 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.
9. Scituate Library Donation: The Library Foundation has received a generous donation of over \$150,000 from the estate of Gloria Negri. This is the largest donation in the history of the library foundation.

Gloria a Scituate resident, was a pioneer for women in journalism, reporting for The Boston Globe for 53 years. Over five decades, her byline was a staple of The Boston Globe where she covered the Apollo moon shots, political conventions, the civil rights tumult of the 1960s, and spent a year covering South Africa then still in the grip of apartheid. Gloria Negri's gift to the Scituate Library Foundation will assist in funding future capital projects and improvements to the Scituate Town Library. We thank the family and the Library Foundation for this generous donation. They will be coming into the Select Board meeting tomorrow night.

10. Congratulations to our Finance Team – Nancy Holt and Pam Avitabile and the financial team. They have filed a Schedule A with the State which is a statement of revenues, expenditures and other financial sources that is required to be provided to the Commonwealth on an annual basis. We received notice that 350 communities have not filed as of yet and only one community, Scituate, has an approved Schedule A. Great job by all!

Ms. Curran, Select Board Chair

We have a number of openings on our Boards and Committees so if you are interested in participating, we would love for you to get involved. Please check our website: <https://www.scituatema.gov/home/news/announcement-of-current-board-committee-openings>

Have a great week!