

## **Weekly Update, October 25, 2021**

**Scituate Select Board, Vice Chair, Karen Canfield** made a few announcements:

- Minot Fire Station auction has been postponed to Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM due to weather.
- Tuesday night is Special Town Meeting at 7:00 PM at SHS Gymnasium and all registered voters are encouraged to attend.
- October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Scituate Food Pantry will be holding an open house in their new space in the old Gates school, behind the new Senior Center, from 3:00 - 6:00 PM.
- Halloween is Sunday and there's a Howl-oween fundraiser on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Scituate Dog Park from 2:00 - 5:00 PM. Bring your dogs in costume and there will be prizes.
- Trick or treating will be once again held in Scituate Harbor on Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 – 5:30 PM. Thank you to the Scituate Harbor Business Association for coordinating this wonderful event.

## **Town Administrator Update:**

1. Water Main construction is finished on Old Oaken Bucket Rd. and paving will be in the spring. Water Main construction on Brook Street continues. Brook is closed from Tilden to Front Street. Local traffic will be allowed. A new water main on Foam Road began installation last week and that work is now in testing phase for the main with laterals to be installed this week. Residents in this area will see a huge improvement in their water quality.
2. Total average demand for the past week was 1.162mgpd, down slightly from last week. We seem to be in the 1.1 – 1.3 mgpd range lately. Manganese levels in the reservoir continue to drop, but are still high enough to cause discolored water. We will continue to monitor usage and, when we feel it necessary, move to the next phase of our water ban, which is a prohibition on outside water use.

The reservoir was -7.55" yesterday and at +4.55" at Tack Factory. Rainfall over the last 5 days was at .00" inches (does not include last night and today).

The equipment to conduct the pilot studies for the new treatment plant to determine the most effective treatment methods for the new plant has arrived and been installed at the water treatment plant property. The pilot program will continue this week.

3. The total number of Covid cases for this past week was 16, up from 14 of the previous week and equal to 16 of two weeks ago. We with a positivity rating over the last 14 days

at 1.69%, down very slightly from the 1.88% of last week. Plymouth County is at 3.11%, almost identical to last week's 3.19%. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 1.78%, which is down .27 from the 2.07% of last week. Numbers seem to be holding fairly steady the last couple of weeks, with slight increases and decreases week to week.

New guidance is out from the CDC and federal government on the booster shots for Pfizer recipients. Go to Mass.gov and there is a link to determine if you are eligible for a booster shot. The CDC has also approved Moderna's and J&J booster shots. Moderna's recommendation is similar to the one for Pfizer, for people over 65 and those with other health conditions or people in professions with a high risk of coming into contact with COVID 6 months after your second dose. It is recommended that anyone who received the single dose J&J vaccine receive a booster as soon as two months after the initial dose. Guidance has also been provided that you can now "mix and match" vaccines, so you are not limited to a booster from the same source as your original shot(s). It is recommended that you get the same shot, but no longer required.

For children 5 – 11, they are hoping to get final approval next week. It is 1/3 the dose of adults.

4. Paving was scheduled to commence on First Parish Road this week, but the schedule has been pushed off due to the weather. As of now we expect the contractor to be back Thursday and Friday to raise the castings with paving on Monday and Tuesday.
5. Renovations/expansion to the Widow's Walk clubhouse continue. The \$2.5 million project is expected to be completed in the fall. The contractor is expecting to make great strides this week on finishing the exterior of the building and starting landscaping around the club house. Interior work is continuing with painters scheduled for next week. Pouring of the walkway and stairs was scheduled for this week but will be postponed due to the weather. This will also delay landscaping.
6. Humarock Fire station the living quarters are completely framed in and most of the windows have been installed with rough electric and plumbing finishing this week. The apparatus bay is all framed with the roof up, with window and door installation this week. We are on track for occupancy around December 1<sup>st</sup>.
7. Cedar Point. Paving is complete at Cedar point. We were scheduled to stripe the parking lot at the lighthouse starting today, but that will now be postponed due to weather. The contractor is pretty much finished without only striping and punch list items left. A great job was done by the contractor Albanese, our consulting engineer Environmental Partners, the Town DPW and the residents of Cedar Point. What was a very complicated job, ran smoothly with a minimum of problems.
8. Since I have mentioned that many of our DPW projects are being impacted by the weather, we should talk about the weather. We are anticipating a Nor'easter impacting Scituate starting tonight and lasting through Wednesday afternoon. Residents should be

prepared for heavy rains with winds steady at 30-40 mph and gusts up to 60 mph. with the trees still holding on to most of their leaves, power outages are expected. Fortunately, we will be experiencing lower than normal tides over this period so we should expect only minor coastal flooding and splash over. Please make sure that loose furniture and other things in your yards or outside are brought in and secured. Please also check any storm drains near you to make sure that they are clear. DPW employees will be out today checking storm drains but may not get to all of them. The crews will also begin installing the tide gates at the beaches starting today in anticipation of the storm

9. This coming Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> the Fire Department will be hosting an open house from 11:00 am -3:00 pm at the Public Safety Complex on Route 3A. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and there will be pizza, refreshments and plenty of activities for children. Always a great event.
10. Tomorrow, 10/26, the Town will be named a “Cyber Aware Community” by the Commonwealth for our participation in Cybersecurity Awareness Training. All employees who use a computer where required to participate in the training which includes online training and periodic tests by the state. Congrats to Mike Minchello, our IT director, for all his work on setting this up and getting it done.
11. I am pleased to announce that the antique fire truck that was purchased by residents of Scituate and has had funds approved by CPC and Town Meeting for its restoration will be restored by the SS Vo-Tech. The students will work on repairing/replacing body parts and equipment. They do an outstanding job and we look forward to seeing the completed truck.
12. The November Council on Aging lunch menu will be posted later today.

### **Update from Superintendent Bill Burkhead**

With the impending weather, Superintendent Burkhead said that they are looking at bus routes and areas that may flood, and we will adjust as necessary. In the Health and Wellness update, there were 6 Covid cases in the district this week up from zero last week. We have a testing program which allows us to stay in school even if identified as a close contact. Thank you to our nurses and families for cooperating.

Special Town Meeting is coming up and we're excited about planning for a new school. The process is lengthy and will take many years to accomplish. We are in the early phases of this project with the MSBA which will provide reimbursement for the project. We are in the eligibility phase and the next step is to complete a feasibility study with a preliminary schematic design. We need your input at Special Town Meeting to move forward with the funding of the feasibility study. The funds are specific to hiring an architect and an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) to oversee the architect design and construction. This is required by MSBA for reimbursement. If appropriation is not approved, then any improvements will need to be funded

exclusively by the town. We look forward to seeing everyone come to Special Town Meeting tomorrow.

There is a post occupancy evaluation project and Gates was chosen as a school to check in as to how we are maintaining the physical structure, and to help others going through the process of building a new school. Supt. Burkhead thanked Bob Dillon, Principal Beattie, Dr. Dutch, Asst. Principal Lesniak and everyone at Gates.

Sailor shout out to Joe Humphrey, Steve Holly and Jackie Frangelo, for bringing our first Credit for Life Fair for Juniors and Seniors which provides real life learning. Turn out was great for this event and the students learned how to manage money in a realistic way. Thank you to Ms. Galvin for her help with the community connections.

Shout out to Mr. Stewarts Phys Ed class where students learned how to safely climb during an adventure climb lesson and it was very impressive. Finally, thank you to the elementary students for their positive outlook as he visited schools last week.

Ms. Canfield reminded people to attend Special Town Meeting and reach out to the TA office if you have any questions about the topics on Special Town Meeting or to pick up an Advisory Booklet.