

## **Weekly Video Update, November 1, 2021**

### **Update from Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau**

1. Water Main construction on Brook Street continues. Brook is closed from Tilden to Front Street. Local traffic will be allowed. The water department will be replacing a critical gate valve on Front Street near Lucky Finn tonight. Crews will start digging on Front Street late this afternoon, with a shutdown of the main, if necessary, after 11:30 this evening when all the area restaurants will have closed. Impacted residents have been notified.
2. Total average demand for the past week was 1.12 mgpd, 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 +8' today up from -7.55" yesterday and at +9.75" at tack Factory. Rainfall over the last 5 days was at 4.13" 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 17, up one from 16 of the previous week. We with a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 1.92%, up very slightly from the 1.69% of last week. Plymouth County is at 3.12%, almost identical to last week's 3.11%. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 1.73% almost identical to last weeks' 1.78%. 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. Modera's recommendation is similar to the one for Pfizer, for people over 65 and those with other heath 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.

4. Paving is scheduled to commence on First Parish Road this week, the contractor should start raising castings tomorrow with final paving later in the week.

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 has taken place and landscaping should start this week.
6. Last week Scituate was slammed by a nor'easter that was significantly stronger than forecast. Instead of wind gusts to 70mph officially we hit 87 mph but unofficially we measured a gust as high as 97mph on 4<sup>th</sup> cliff. Damage was widespread throughout the town and Scituate was 100% without power at the height of the storm. Power crews, with Scituate public safety personnel, worked tirelessly to get us back up and running. The majority of the town was back up by Saturday evening, although some residents in the West end lost power again overnight Saturday with the heavy rain we experienced. I want to thank our partners at NGrid and Eversource for all their assistance, especially Peter Duggan our NGrid liaison. Pete is here and meets continuously with town officials to track outages and prioritize getting people back up and running. Thanks to Scituate Police and Fire who handled an incredible volume of calls during and after the storm and to the Scituate DPW who worked throughout the weekend to try and get roads and sidewalks clear and safe for Halloween and for the opening of school this morning. We were fortunate in that the storm occurred during a period of low tides, generally less than 9'. If we had astronomically high tides flooding would have been widespread and destructive. Having said that, we are monitoring a potential storm for this coming weekend which will coincide with high tides. We will keep an eye on it and provide updates as needed.
7. Related to the storm, in an effort to speed restorations, the town is waiving the requirement for electrical permits and inspections in cases where National Grid personnel are reconnecting services and/or performing other necessary work needed to energize customers who sustained damage from the storm last week. The waiver is based on the condition that any reconnection or other work must be deemed safe and performed in a proper and workmanlike manner. The waiver expires midnight on November 5. This is to speed up restoration work and not delay crews waiting for wiring inspectors to arrive and conduct inspections.
8. After a weather- related delay, the auction of the Minot Fire Station to place last Thursday 10/28 at 11:00 am. Despite the storm, a large crowd was on hand to bid on the station. The high bid was \$585,000 which is outstanding. These funds will be used to offset the cost of the Senior Center project, as Town Meeting voted when the building was declared surplus and made available for sale.
9. Town Meeting was on Tuesday, October 26 at 7:00 pm in the High School gymnasium. Although many questioned why we went forward with Town Meeting in the face of the approaching storm, it was imperative that Town Meeting take place so residents could vote on whether to support the purchase of the Border Street fields prior to the Town's right of first refusal expiring. Despite the weather, 702 residents showed up and practiced

democracy at its finest. The Border Street funding passed and the Board will take it up at their meeting tomorrow night.

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

Mr. Burkhead started with the Health and Wellness update. The School had 3 Covid cases, down from 6 last week.

Sailor Shout out to all the members of the Emergency Management Team that met during the storm – Town Administrator Jim Boudreau, Police Chief Mark Thompson, Fire Chief John Murphy, Kevin Cafferty, DPW Director, Kevin Kelly, Facilities, and Peter Duggan from National Grid. He thinks the communication that went out to the community was outstanding. He also thanked Bob Dillon, Asst Facilities, Mike Breen, and all of the DPW for their round the clock efforts.

Shout out to the SHS Football team who notched another championship this year and defeated Plymouth South on Friday.

School Committee meeting is tonight at 6 pm, highlights include celebrating student learning with the Fine Arts Dept., Medical advisory update, Superintendent Report on academic excellence, and Asst. Superintendent and Business/Finance Director updates.

Mr. Burkhead recently visited Jenkins Elementary School, Mrs. Gracia's second grade class, and they had to "sell" their haunted house to him. Sailor Shout out to all of them for a great job.

### **Update from Select Board Member, Tony Vegnani**

Mr. Vegnani gave huge kudos to our team getting us through this storm. It was professionally handled by all on the Emergency Management Team and National Grid. He thanked everyone for attending Special Town Meeting and it was a great turn out. The Select Board will vote on Border St. at their meeting tomorrow night but it's clear how the town feels about this property. It will be a busy week of clean up for all of us.