

Weekly Video Update, January 23, 2023

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. Water update. We are at +8", last week we were at +5". Tack factory Pond is also at +7 up from +5". Average daily demand was at 1.038 MGD down from last week's 1.040 MGD.
Rainfall over the last 7 days was 2.29" measured at the Plant.
2. Speaking of water, there is a coastal flood advisory in affect from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm today. We expect splash over to minor flooding along our immediate cost with the potential for pockets of moderate flooding in our lowest lying areas. Travel will likely be hindered due to flooding in the following locations: Intersection of Lighthouse & Rebecca Rd, Mill Wharf & Cole Parkway parking areas, in front of St. Mary's Church, Front St. near CVS, Edward Foster Rd., Bailey's Causeway, & northern Central Ave in Humarock. The astronomical tides continue through Wednesday with the potential for localized early afternoon flooding in the areas we identified. Our biggest concern is today's tide at noon which is projected at 11.7'.
3. The Town of Scituate is launching Scituate Community Choice Electricity in March 2023, an electricity supply bulk-purchasing program that leverages the buying power of Scituate's residents and businesses to provide competitively priced electricity options, longer term price stability, and 10% more renewable electricity than required by the Commonwealth.

Resident letters have been mailed and residents will be automatically enrolled, however participation is voluntary and you may opt out or choose to switch to a different option with more or less renewable energy content. To opt out, you must act by **February 21, 2023**.

Your service does not change with National Grid (or Eversource).

The Town will provide extensive information on our website as well as through our broker, Good Energy. Website is electricity.scituatema.gov or call 833-828-3222

Information sessions will be held on February 2 at 2:00 pm at the Senior Center and 6:00 pm at the Library in the Community Room. There is a video interview with Lisa Bertola, the Chair of the Committee, on the Town web site.

4. GATRA will be establishing new transit services starting Feb 1, 2023. The new service will be GATRA on Demand SeaCoast. Rather than the current service of a bus route with set times, On Demand SeaCoast will function more like Uber or Lyft, where residents in the service area will be able to make an appointment to get picked up at the residence and taken to their destination in the service area. So, you will no longer have to get yourself

to the bus stop and wait for the bus nor will you have to get dropped off at a stop and walk to your designation. You can download the app, search GATRA GO on your mobile device. You can then use the app or call 800-698-7676 to arrange for your ride. Rides will be free for the month of February, then will be \$2.00 after that. Children under 6 are free.

5. The DPW has re-established the salt-sand pile for residents in the small parking lot across from the Egypt Beach General Store. Residents can fill buckets to bring home for their use. This is not for contractors.
6. We reviewed the consultant's report on the lighthouse. The team is moving ahead with replacing the current 1930's lantern room with a new lantern room of the same design. After review, the top four feet of brick work will also be removed and replaced. The consultant will now prepare bid documents in preparation for getting the project out to bid by the end of this month and the repairs underway. I hope to have a more detailed update for the Board at the meeting tomorrow night.
7. The Scituate Food Pantry is helping more residents than ever before. They need donations of food products that they cannot get from the Greater Boston Food Bank. They are seeking the following: Beef stew, canned hams, Spam, hash, canned fish of all types, cookies, hot and cold healthy cereals, condiments and salsa. Donations can be dropped off at the food pantry Tuesdays 9am-1pm, Wednesdays 2:30pm-5pm and Thursdays 2:30pm-5:15 pm. Additional drop off locations are the Scituate Public Library, Village Market and Shaw's on 3A. Also, all Scituate Houses of worship accept donations for the food pantry.
8. The Scituate Sister City Film festival continues this week, tomorrow, January 24 at the Senior Center at 6:00. Suggested donation is \$10. The event is free for students. Refreshments will be served.
9. Widows Walk is now open to walkers. While you enjoy walking the course, we ask that you stay off the greens and keep your pets off the greens also. Greens are expensive and easily damaged so please help us and keep off the greens. We also ask that you pick up after your dogs and do not leave the waste on the course. Barrels will be available for disposal. The Drift In remains open, so after your walk or sledding, stop in for lunch or dinner.
10. If you are down in Cole Parkway you will see a Conex trailer parked in the spaces for the harbormaster. This is the beginning of the new dock project that will be on-going this winter. The contractor will be removing the electrical boxes from the docks in preparation for removing the old docks. Starting next week, the contractor will be fencing off a portion of the Parkway near the bandstand to stage equipment and materials for the project, similar to what was done when we did the piling project. A plan showing the areas of work will be posted on the town web site later today. All work is scheduled to be completed by the start of the boating season.

11. The Superintendent and I have received several calls and emails relative to the condition of the large flag on the pole at the stadium field at the High school. The mechanism for raising and lowering the flag is not working so we have not been able to remove or lower the flag. We have tried using the town's fire department ladder truck but it does not have the reach. Various crane companies have also either failed or not attempted the job. Our facilities department believes that a solution may be imminent and we will be able to repair the pole and remove the flag. We have a crane company lined up to do the work, however given the spate of warm wet weather, we cannot deploy the crane without doing significant damage to the landscaping and risk getting the crane stuck in the mud. We are waiting at this point for a good cold spell to get the ground hard enough to deploy the crane, fix the mechanism and remove the flag. In speaking with the Superintendent of Schools, our plan is to take the current flag down and replace it in the spring at the start of the spring sport season. This will save wear and tear on the flag during a period of time when the facility is not in use.
12. Just a heads up that Beach Stickers will go on sale on 2/13 at 8:30 am. Non-resident and Humarock only stickers will be for sale on-line only! The sale goes live at 8:30 AM. You will not get an email that the stickers are on sale. If you are looking for a non-resident sticker remember that they sold out in 7 minutes last year so be ready!
 - a. Non-Resident sticker is \$300
 - b. Non-Resident Humarock only is \$100
 - c. Resident stickers are \$35

Bill Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools

This Week's Big 3

- SHS Roof Accelerated Repair Project (ARP) Update
- The Hatherly New School Building Project
- Community Connections

Why it Matters:

- **SHS ROOF ARP Update**
SPS continues its commitment to maintaining and improving our schools in collaboration with town administration and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) taking steps to replace the SHS roof.
- **The Hatherly New School Building Project:**
During the January 18th School Building Committee meeting there was a project update by the OPM Vertex and Designer Work Plan Update by Architect Dore & Whittier. The next meeting will be February 8, 2023 focusing on communication and transparency with the community - stay tuned!
- **Community Connections:**

SPS students were treated to fresh fish tacos for lunch through partnerships with local businesses. Kevin Norton caught and donated the fresh catch, which was processed and delivered by Mullaney's Fish Market's owner Joby Norton. Jon Belber from Holly Hill Farm was also actively involved as was SHS senior Lauren Esker, who interns at Holly Hill Farm through SHS's "school to career" program. Kevin, Joby and Jon also are dedicated parents of SPS students. Thank you all for bringing healthy local fresh food to the plates of our students, who found the meal "delicious!"

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🔍 SHS ROOF REPAIR

In keeping with the program requirements of the MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program ("ARP"), the MSBA has assigned both an Owner's Project Manager ("OPM") and Designer to each project invited to participate in the ARP. *The Town of Scituate is assigned the following consultants for the Schematic Design Study at the Scituate High School for a potential partial roof replacement project:*

OPM: Project Planning Professionals (P-Three, Inc.)

Designer: BWA Architecture

Next Steps: Within four weeks SPS must send the MSBA the following:

- ARP Contract for Project Management Services
- ARP Contract for Designer Services
- ARP Existing Building Information Checklist
- OPM System Access Request form

Karen Canfield, Select Board Member

We have several meetings this week:

- a. Monday: Conservation meets at 6 PM and Economic Development at 6:30 PM
- b. Tuesday-Select Board at 6:30 PM, Assessors at 1 PM, Design Review Committee at 6:30 PM and Water Resources at 7 PM.
- c. Thursday- Planning Board at 6:30 PM and Advisory Committee at 7 PM
All agendas can be found on the town website <https://www.scituatema.gov/>

On Sunday, January 29th, the Historical Society is hosting a talk at the Mossing Museum on "Living in History" from the caretakers of the Lighthouse and the Bates House.

Also, on Sunday at 4:30 PM, the Scituate Friends of Music will have an open mic fundraiser at ORO Restaurant.

Shout out to employees with 35 years, Firefighter Dan Mendes and DPW Highway Kevin Michalkiewicz. They will be recognized at the Select Board meeting on January 24th.

Finally, the Board have received a number of calls from residents in regards to high electric bill increases. If you have a problem, you can work with the utility company to get on a payment schedule or you can go so the Scituate Community Christmas website for assistance.

Please be careful with the slick weather out there today.

Have a great week!