

Weekly Video Update, January 8, 2023

Susan Harrison, Select Board Clerk

Good Morning Scituate! Meetings this week:

Monday, January 8th EDC at 5 PM (remote only), Conservation at 6 PM, Library Trustees at 6:30 PM and CPC at 6:30 PM.

Tuesday, January 9th, there is a Select Board meeting which will include discussion on Assessor proposed exemption of personal property exemptions with a value of \$5,000 or less, a SAIL update (Supported Access to Independent Living) which will be an update on the home at 809 Country Way which will serve as a home for individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition, there are several DPW Contracts which includes an engineering contract for seawall design at Turner and Lighthouse Rd.

Thursday, January 11th, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed zoning amendments for the 2024 Annual Town meeting which includes MBTA Community and wireless communications. The Planning Board has worked very hard to create proposed zoning amendments to meet state requirements and that will work for Scituate regarding density and location. Ms. Harrison thanked them for their hard work on this. There is also a public hearing on an accessory dwelling at 95 Elm St.

Also, on January 11th Advisory meets at 7 PM. All agendas can be found on the town website <https://www.scituatema.gov/calendar/month/2024-01>

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. Well we made it through the weekend storm pretty much unscathed. It went as we expected with rain and minimal snow fall. The closer you were to the coast, the less snow you got. However, we are watching a storm that is forecast to start impacting us tomorrow night (Tuesday) into Wednesday. This storm is currently forecast to be bringing heavy rains (more than 2"), high winds with gusts 50-60mph and minor to moderate coastal flooding. The moderate flooding is forecast for the South Coast of MA and RI. We are anticipating minor flooding with splash over in the usual spots as the wind will not be from the east or northeast. With that amount of wind and rain we are expecting power outages to impact Scituate. We will provide updates as the forecast becomes clearer. Gas up your generators and get ready.
2. Scituate Police Departments goal is keeping everyone safe - we would encourage everyone during winter to:

Slow down. Leave plenty of distance with other vehicles. Allow for ample stopping time. Clear off your windshield, roof, lights, license plate, etc.

Police can use a couple of statutes to enforce snow-clearing. ...officers can issue a \$40 fine for impeded operation if a driver has obstructed windshield/ windows and a \$200 fine for driving with an unsecured load, which can include heavy sheets of snow or ice on a car's roof. Additional charges and liability can also be attached in the event of a crash or injury

3. Next Monday is Martin Luther King Day. The following Town offices will be closed in observation of Martin Luther King Day: Town Hall, Senior Center, Library, and the Transfer Station. Also, on MLK Day The Scituate Public Schools will be hosting their 3rd Annual MLK Memorial Day Celebration. It will take place on January 15, 2024 at 1pm at The Scituate Performing Arts Center
4. The Planning Board will be having a public hearing on January 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Select Board Hearing Room or by ZOOM on zoning bylaw amendments and changes proposed for the annual town meeting on April 8, 2024.

Proposed changes include minor modifications to the Zoning Bylaw for Section 3A Compliance for MBTA Communities and clarification in the language in Section 730.4 of the Zoning Bylaw that a special permit is required.

Full text of the changes can be found on the town website, in the Planning Board Office or with the Town Clerk.

5. There will be a public information session about the beach nourishment that is planned to begin in February on North Scituate Beach. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 18th at 6:00 pm. You can join this meeting in person at the library or remotely on zoom. You can find the link to join remotely on our website. If you would like to submit written questions ahead of time, please email them to Corey Miles at cmiles@scituatema.gov.

A recording of the presentation will be posted on the SCTV YouTube page following the meeting.

6. Burning Season opens 1/15/2024

Burning Permit Regulations

Open burning is prohibited in the following areas: Minot, Humarock and any location EAST of Hatherly Rd.

The Scituate Fire Department will strictly enforce the following State regulations. All permit holders must agree to abide by these rules, with the understanding that the Scituate Fire Department reserves the right to refuse or revoke any permit that does not conform to these rules.

- a. The open burning season for residential properties will be from January 15, 2024, through May 1, 2024

- b. Permit burning is only allowed between the daylight hours of 10:00am to 4:00pm and all fires must be started before noon and all fires must be completely extinguished by 4:00 pm
 - c. Burning sites will be spot checked and permits for areas not meeting these requirements will be refused or revoked
 - d. All fires must be at least 75 ft from any structure and you must have an available water supply, such as, a pressurized water pump, can, or hose and shovels or rakes for controlling the fire.
 - e. ONLY BRUSH MAY BE BURNED: LEAVES AND GRASS MAY NOT. All fires must be tended to at all times. Piles of brush must be kept small and manageable. If fire extends beyond the initial area the permit may be revoked.
 - f. If we receive a complaint that the fire is causing a smoke nuisance, the fire will have to be extinguished.
 - g. You must check online each day to verify and request burning. Permission will be granted only on those days when winds, dryness of woods and atmospheric conditions warrant the issue of same.
 - h. Increases in wind velocity, or change in other conditions, will be cause for the immediate extinguishments of fires by all permit holders.
 - i. A fine of \$500.00 is applicable by Mass. Law for any illegal burning
 - j. The Scituate Fire Department will immediately revoke the permit if the above rules and regulations are not strictly adhered to. There will be no refund of fees if the permit is revoked for cause.
7. The 2024 Annual Town Census has been mailed out to residents. Please read both sides carefully, sign and return it as soon as possible. Returning the census assures voters will remain on the active voter list.

You may not use the census form to add voters to your household or make any changes to existing voters. To make a change to your voter registration (address, name, party, etc.), you may do so in person at the Town Clerk's office or online at registertovotema.com. If a voter has moved within Massachusetts they can register in their new community or online and will be taken out of Scituate. If the voter has moved out of state this office will need a signed note from the voter to be removed from the voter list.

Please call Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions. 781-545-8743

8. Scituate Sister Cities will be hosting their annual 2024 Sister City Film Festival at the Reel Harbor Theater on January 11, 24, February 1 and March 5. Sucy-en-Brie will be presenting *Cyrano de Bergerac* on January 11 at 7pm and *Chocolat* on January 24 at 1 pm. Cape Verde Santa Catarina do Fogo will present *The Volcano's Last Wish* will now be on February 13, at 7:00 pm. This is a change from the original date of February 1. Ireland West Cork will present *My Left Foot* on March 5 at 7pm.

Suggested donation is \$10.

9. The Recreation Department's Summer 2024 job applications are now available on the Recreation Department webpage on the Town website for volunteers, counselors, directors and lifeguards. <https://www.scituatema.gov/scituate-recreation-department>
Applications are on the left side of the page.

10. Lighthouse renovations:

We had anticipated starting the grouting of the brick work today. However, with the storm over the weekend and more impact weather forecast for later this week, we have postponed the grouting work. We will be having discussions with the contractor and our design time as to whether we should delay the grouting entirely until storm season passes and we have warmer weather. The grout must be kept above freezing for 10-14 days from completion of the work. We are not sure if Mother Nature will cooperate. If a decision is made to put off the grout work, it will be completed in the spring when we do the painting.

11. The Town has added a link to the Town web site for information on the proposed Cushing and Hatherly MSBA project. Residents seeking information about the proposal for a new elementary school here in Scituate can go to scituatema.gov and you will see the red banner with the link. Click and it will take you the link for the school page with information about the project.

12. The Scituate Food Pantry continues to see an increase in clients seeking assistance. The Food Pantry is deeply indebted and extremely grateful for the generosity of its donors. The pantry has a new list of most needed items as they are unable to get these items from the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Canned White beans	Mixed Vegetables (Canned)
Beef Soups	Sloppy Joe
Baked Beans	White Tuna
Jell-O and Pudding	Green and Herbal Tea
Hot Chocolate	

Items can be dropped off at the Pantry during operating hours or in the bins behind the Old Gates School. The Scituate Library, Village Market and Shaw's also collect items for the Pantry.

13. Meetings

Monday-Economic Development Commission, ConCom, Library Trustees and CPC

Tuesday-Select Board

Thursday=Planning Board, Advisory Committee

Bill Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools

SPS Superintendent Spotlight: 1.8.24

Time Take (TT)

181 WORDS	2 MINUTES TO READ
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This Week's Top 2:

- School Committee Meeting
- NASA Student Opportunity

School Committee Meeting: 1.8.24 at 6pm SHS Library

Agenda Highlights:

- Student Report: David Murphy and Louisa Kinsley
- Celebrate Student Learning: Fine Arts and Music
- Superintendent's Report – Cushing/Hatherly Building Update
- Assistant Superintendent's Report – Professional Development Update
- School Committee Policy Update: School Improvement Plans

NASA Power to Explore Student Challenge

NASA wants to hear where and how students would explore space with the Power to Explore Student Challenge. Scituate will participate for the first time! Entries will be judged in three grade-level categories: K-4, 5-8, and 9-12. Every student who submits an entry will receive a digital certificate and an invitation to a virtual event with NASA experts, where students will learn about what powers the NASA workforce to dream big and explore. Fifteen national semifinalists in each grade category will receive a NASA Prize pack, three national finalists in each grade category will receive a virtual session with a NASA expert, and one grand prize winner from each grade category will receive a trip for two to NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Stay tuned for more information!