

## **Weekly Video Update, February 12, 2024**

### **Susan Harrison, Select Board Clerk**

Good morning Scituate! The shellfish flats are open after a closure of a few weeks. They are open as of Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

We have several meetings this week:

Monday, February 12th:

- Conservation at 6 PM, virtual only, zoom link on website
- Water Resources Commission at 6:30 PM
- Library Trustees at 6:30 PM at the library
- CPC at 6:30 PM at the library
- By Law Review at 7 PM, virtual only
- Beach Commission at 6 PM, virtual only

Tuesday February 13th:

- Coastal Advisory at 6 PM, virtual only, and
- Select Board at 6 PM. Topics include zoning inspection fees, North Scituate beach nourishment, updating the water abatement policy, CPC projects and an update on the Cushing Hatherly school.

Wednesday, February 14th: Board of Assessors at 1 PM

Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>:

- Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- Advisory Committee at 7 PM (remote only)
- Historical at 7 PM
- Sister City Cape Verde at 6:30 PM.

### **Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator**

1. Starting my update with another winter storm approaching. This is shaping up to be a classic nor'easter with wind, waves, tide and snow. We are under both a Winter Storm Warning and a Coastal Flood Warning. The storm is expected to begin overnight tonight and last into Wednesday. Current projections look like starting as rain and then turning to heavy wet snow. Snow fall totals vary, but range from 4" to as much as 8" as of now. Snow fall will be dependent on the final track of the storm. Impacts will be felt in both the morning and evening commutes. Winds are forecast to gust into the 50-mph range on Tuesday during the day. High winds and heavy snows can lead to potential power outages so please have your generators ready to go.

The tides this week are astronomically high. Coupled with strong Northeast winds we expect minor to moderate flooding in the low-lying areas of town Cole Parkway/Front Street/Edward Foster Road, Cedar Point, and Central Ave in Humarock. Splash over is also expected on coastal roads. The high tide on Tuesday afternoon (approximately 1:45pm) and overnight Wednesday have the highest potential for flooding.

Please avoid flooded areas. Driving your vehicle through flood waters can cause damage to your vehicle from the salt water or from debris hidden under the water. In addition, wakes caused by your vehicle can send waves into neighboring properties, increasing their potential damages. Expect temporary road closures throughout the storm.

The Town will have a limited number of sand bags available for residents and business today from 10:00 am – noon in the parking lot of St. Mary's Church. Once they are gone, they are gone.

Make sure you subscribe to Town News updates as we will be updating residents on the storm as the day progresses.

2. The water treatment plant is in the second week of a two-week closure starting today, in order to improve water quality for local residents. New carbon will be installed, which is essential for maintaining water quality. Carbon filter media replacement is typically conducted every 3-4 years as routine maintenance. While the water treatment plant is offline, it is essential for residents to conserve water.

Throughout these two weeks, residents may notice fluctuations in water flow and occasional discoloration. It's important to note that these temporary changes will NOT compromise the safety or quality of drinking and bathing water.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Water Department at (781) 545-8735.

View additional details and information on the Water Treatment Plant Update on Scituate Community Television YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NB8TursefxI>

3. Geotechnical investigations have begun in Cole Parkway to help design upgrades to reduce flooding and improve the parking lot. Soil borings will be located on the perimeter of the Parkway to limit disturbance to traffic flow and pavement, with potential additional locations within the parking lot area. Work hours are anticipated to be between 7-8 AM and 4-5 PM, subject to weather and traffic conditions. While Cole Parkway will remain open to traffic and pedestrians, please note that certain sections may be temporarily blocked off.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to contact Corey Lynn Miles, CFM, Coastal Management Officer, at [cmiles@scituatema.gov](mailto:cmiles@scituatema.gov).

4. Residents in the Turner Road/Lighthouse Road area should start seeing survey crews on the seawall in that area starting the week, dependent on the weather. The survey is expected to take 2-3 weeks. The Town has contracted with Foth Engineers to begin the design and permitting of the replacement seawall from Scituate Avenue to Rebecca Road. They will also be designing necessary repairs to the structure to ensure that it does not deteriorate further while the new wall is being designed and permitted.
5. The Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at the SHS gym from 7AM- 8PM. All voters should have received a 2024 Vote By Mail Form from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office. If not, the form is available on the Town Web Site under the Town Clerk's page. Only return the vote by mail form if in fact you would like your ballot mailed.

In person "Early Voting" will take place at the Town Hall, 600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway, beginning on Saturday, February 24 from 8am-2pm, and during normal Town Hall business hours from Monday 2/26-March 1. If a voter is going away prior to February 24<sup>th</sup> and will be absent during the early voting period and the Presidential Primary on March 5<sup>th</sup>, voters may vote absentee in the Town Clerk's Office until Noon the day prior to the election (March 4<sup>th</sup>).

6. Shell fish flats in the North/South river have been re-opened for those with shell fishing licenses.
7. 2024 Transfer Station and Beach Stickers information is live on the website. Please visit the Treasurer's page and click on 2024 Transfer Station & Beach Stickers on the left-hand side.

Humarock only stickers are SOLD OUT.

Resident beach and transfer station stickers went on sale on **February 12, 2024, at 8:30 am** (online, at the counter, and mail-in). Resident Beach Stickers never sell out. 2024 stickers are valid from date of purchase to March 31, 2025. The Town of Scituate Select Board has unanimously approved a resolution for 2024 beach stickers, making them mandatory from Memorial Day (5/27/24) to Labor Day (9/2/24).

2024 Non-Resident Beach Stickers. New rates and days of use have been implemented for the 2024 season. Non-resident All Beach and Humarock only stickers will go on sale **online only** on February 12 promptly at 8:30 am.

Non-Resident All Access Beach stickers are valid only Monday-Friday, no weekends or holidays, for \$350.00.

Non-Resident Humarock Only Beach stickers can only be purchased online, are valid Sunday-Saturday, and can be used at Humarock Beach only for \$100.00  
Transfer and beach stickers are non-refundable and non-transferable.

8. 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.
    - a. 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.
9. Scituate Sister Cities will be hosting their annual 2024 Sister City Film Festival at the Reel Harbor Theater on February 13 and March 5.  
Cape Verde Santa Catarina do Fogo will present *The Volcano's Last Wish* will now be on February 20, at 7:00 pm. This is a change from tomorrow night due to the impending storm.  
Ireland West Cork will present *My Left Foot* on March 5 at 7pm.
- Suggested donation is \$10 and attendees can enter a raffle valued from \$50-\$100.
10. 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. Go to [scituatema.gov](http://scituatema.gov), go to the Recreation page

(scituatema.gov/scituate-recreation-department) and the applications are on the left side of the page.

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.

De-Caf Coffee (canned and Instant)	
Hamburger Helper	Beef Soups
Cranberry Juice	KNorr's Rice and Pasta sides
Canned Mixed Vegetables	Canned White Beans
Baked Beans	White Tuna
Jell-O and Pudding	

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. Scituate Town Hall, the Senior Center, the Library, and the Transfer Station will observe Presidents' Day on Monday, February 19, 2024, and will be closed.
14. Meetings
  - Monday-ConCom, CPC, Library Trustees, Water Resources, By-Law Review
  - Tuesday-Select Board and Coastal Advisory
  - Wednesday-Board of Assessors
  - Thursday-Historical Commission, Advisory Committee, ZBA
15. Make sure to check out the Scituate Community TV YouTube Channel for Town of Scituate updates on news, school events & sports, and community programs. Also, make sure you register for Town of Scituate emails by going to the web-site and clicking on "Subscribe to News". Follow the Town on Facebook.