

Weekly Video Update, February 20, 2024

Karen Connolly, Select Board Member

Good Morning Scituate! Meetings this week include:

Tuesday: Traffic Rules and Regulations at 4:30 PM

Tuesday: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at 6:30 PM, remote only

Thursday: Planning Board at 6:30 PM

Please note that meetings are in various formats; in person, hybrid, or remote only. Please check the town calendar for all meeting information <https://www.scituatema.gov/calendar/month/2024-02>

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. The work replacing the carbon at the water treatment plant has been completed. The plant is currently running and sending the water to waste to make sure that everything is operating correctly. Carbon filter media replacement is typically conducted every few years as routine maintenance. While the water treatment plant is offline, it is essential for residents to conserve water.

Residents may notice fluctuations in water flow and occasional discoloration until the plant is brought back on line. 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>

2. 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.
3. 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 this Saturday, February 24 from 8am-2pm, and during normal Town Hall business hours from Monday February 26 - March 1. If a voter is going away prior to February 24th and will be absent during the early voting period and the Presidential Primary on March 5th, voters may vote absentee in the Town Clerk’s Office until Noon the day prior to the election (March 4th).

4. Shell fish flats in the North/South river have been re-opened for those with shell fishing licenses.
5. 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.

Resident beach and transfer station stickers went 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).

6. The Commission on Disabilities will be hosting an Accessibility Awareness Event to promote accessible services and resources for Scituate residents, caregivers, families and friends on Saturday, March 9th from 10:00am-1.00pm at the Scituate High School Gymnasium.
7. The Water Resources Committee is hosting their annual rain barrel sale for people wanting a rain barrel. Orders must be placed by midnight on Sunday, March 24th. Barrels can be ordered on-line from the Great American Rain Barrel web site, <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/>. Select Massachusetts, then Scituate from the drop-down menus on the left- hand side. The barrels are normally \$119 or more, but are discounted for this program. You can choose Painted (gray, green or brown) for \$89, Unpainted (black) for \$84 and Terra Cotta for \$80. Barrels will be available for pick-up at the Transfer Station on Saturday, April 6 from 11:00am-3:00 pm. Note: If you are planning on connecting your barrel to a downspout, you will need to purchase a flexible downspout elbow or a rain diverter.
8. The Public Safety Complex has received numerous inquiries over the weekend concerning the lack of an American Flag being flown on the flag pole. They asked me to let people know that the internal hoist mechanism has failed and is in the process of being repaired. They are also purchasing a lighter weight flag to better protect the mechanism. They expect to have the flag flying again very shortly.
9. 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.
10. Scituate Sister Cities will be hosting their annual 2024 Sister City Film Festival at the Reel Harbor Theater on February 20 and March 5.
Cape Verde Santa Catarina do Fogo will present *The Volcano's Last Wish* tonight, February 20, at 7:00 pm.
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.

11. 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, go to the Recreation page (scituatema.gov/scituate-recreation-department) and the applications are on the left side of the page.

12. 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.
13. 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.

14. Finally, there will be a fundraiser for the Scituate Saint Patrick's Day Parade this Saturday, February 24th from 7:00-11:00 pm at the Drift In, 250 Driftway (Widows Walk Golf Course). Tickets are \$20 per person. There will be DJ, door prizes, raffles and a silent auction. For more information go to www.weloveaparade.com
15. Meetings
 Tuesday-Traffic Rules
 Wednesday-Affordable Housing Trust
 Thursday-Planning Board
16. 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.