

Weekly Video Update, July 5, 2022

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week according to our MAVEN data was 21, up from last week's 19. We had a positivity rating over the last 14 days of 7.05% down from 7.70% of last week. Plymouth County is at 4.86%, down from last week's 5.13%. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 6.22% up from the previous week of 5.78%. Statewide there are 43 individuals in ICU up from 38 of last week. 10 patients are intubated, up from 9 of last week. So mixed numbers across the board this week. According to the Boston Globe this morning two new variants of the Omicron strain, BA.4 and BA.5 are more adept at avoiding the antibodies in our bodies from the vaccines or that we get after having the virus. These two variants make up 35% of the cases in the US. Experts still expect numbers to decline, but not as quickly as hoped. This is borne out by the numbers we are seeing this week.

We are not done with COVID yet. Although it is only one week, the numbers are trending up. There is a new Omicron variant, BA-2 that is now the dominant strain in the US. At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense then not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet gotten vaccinated and can receive the vaccine, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to mass.gov for details.

2. Water update. Tack Factory Pond was at -6.5" this week down from last week's measurement of even. Average daily demand was at 1.563 MGD up from the 1.481 MGD from last week's usage. Manganese measured at the WTP is still high and is causing discolored water to go through the plant and into the system. As the temperatures rise, so will the Manganese levels in the water. If you have brown water, please call the water department or email brownwater@scituatema.gov. Rainfall over the last 7 days was .84" measured at the Plant.

The Trac Vac System in the bottom of sedimentation basin 2 is working again. We have made a temporary fix while we wait for new solenoids to be delivered. We are now draining the basin so the contractor can go in and see what is going on. We are still in a full outdoor water ban. This ban will stay in effect until the plant is back on line. This is not related to our water supply but to issues at the treatment plant related to our making water. In addition, there have been disruptions in our supply chain for delivery of chemicals. This could impact our well production. We think we have this solved for now but it has been an on-going issue.

Celco will be in this week to continue installing water services. Next week we will be installing a new water main on Old Driftway. That road will be paved as part of the Drew project at the MBTA parking lot and the water main is being replaced prior to the paving.

3. A reminder as we get into the summer from our sewer department-Flushable wipes are NOT flushable. They get caught in pumps and machinery and cause blockages in the system.
4. Fourth of July weekend was a busy weekend for police and fire. Friday night we had a tree down on the Driftway that caused a power outage to almost 3,000 homes and businesses. That outage was thankfully restored in about an hour. The FD then had lightning strike a barn on Branch Street. SPD saw 105 calls for service on July 3rd. They also had 4 incidents that led to arrests, 2 boating under the influence, a minor MVA leading to an arrest for Operating under the influence and an arrest of an intoxicated person for being disorderly and resisting arrest. The DPW also was out all weekend and did a great job emptying barrels at the beaches and picking up trash around town. Thanks to all who worked over the weekend keeping Scituate safe.
5. Cohasset has started utility work on Route 3A between Stop and Shop and Pond Street and continuing until August 1st. Between the hours of 8am and 3pm southbound traffic will be detoured off of Route 3A to Upper King Street. Northbound traffic will be shifted into the southbound lanes but will not be detoured off of Route 3A. If you take Route 3A in the morning, be prepared for delays.
6. The Sanctuary at Herring Brook will be holding a lottery for the affordable housing units on August 8, 2022. A public information session was held via Zoom on June 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Completed applications must be received at SEB Housing by 2:00 pm on July 25, 2022. This information will be posted on the town web site or you can go to sebhousing.com and click "Affordable Housing Opportunities" at the top of the page for more details.
7. Our office has received many calls relative to Minot Light not flashing. Although the lighthouse is private, the light is maintained by the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard is aware of the issue but due to work being down on the lighthouse they have not been able to access the light to repair it. They hope to have this work completed as quickly as possible.

Meetings this week:

This week Waterways Commission meets Wednesday night at 7 PM.

Sunday, July 10th 3- 5 PM there will be a Beach Clean- up at Minot Beach.