

Weekly Video Update, September 11, 2023

Maura Curran, Select Board

We remember and honor those lost on 9/11 twenty- two years ago today.

Meetings this week:

Monday: Conservation, Library Trustees, Board of Health

Tuesday: Select Board: we will be reviewing Special Town Meeting articles

Thursday: Advisory, Planning Board – the Board will be reviewing the Water Treatment Plant

Tomorrow, we are excited to welcome the Mayor of Santa Catarina do Fogo, Alberto Nunes, to sign our Friendship Pact for our third sister city. We are excited to form this new friendship with Cape Verde.

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. Water update. Reservoir is +-.25” last update was at +2.5”.

Rainfall over the last 7 days was .48” measured at the Plant.

Demand for the last week was at 1.395 mgd up slightly from last week of 1.365 mgd.

The Town is currently under our annual water conservation measures. These started May 1. Between May 1-September 30 all outdoor watering must occur before 9 AM and after 5 PM. Automatic irrigation systems may be used one day per week based on voting precincts. This is a ban imposed by the state based on water usage in the aquifer region that Scituate belongs to. Go to the water department web page for information on when your precinct may use irrigation systems.

2. The Water Resource Commission is hosting its annual Public Information Session via Zoom on September 19th @ 6:30 PM. This event will give a brief overview of our water system, review some major challenges, present conservation options, answer frequent online questions and provide an open Q&A session for participants. We will have Town representation available to help answer questions. The Zoom link for this session is available on the Town site.
https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3781/f/agendas/wrc_agenda_9.19.23_0.pdf

We encourage anyone interested in our water system to attend this meeting.

3. Lighthouse renovations: Demolition/Existing Conditions –The forms have been installed for the first concrete pour at the light house. This is scheduled for tomorrow, weather permitting. The first pour will be the walls of the concrete dome that will be inside the outside layer of brick. This will require at least seven (7) days to cure. The second pour will be the dome portion itself, with the final pour being the platform that the actual lantern room sits on. Again, there is a minimum of seven (7) days between pours.

Lantern Room – The lantern room structural frame fabrication is complete. The steel has been returned to the contractor after being galvanized and is in process of being put back together.

Schedule – The schedule has been impacted by the discovery of the unforeseen conditions of the internal/core masonry. We are attempting to move forward as efficiently as possible with the additional demolition and investigations and as soon as the team has a better handle on the solution the overall schedule will be updated.

4. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded Scituate the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for our annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This is the 9th year in a row that Scituate has been awarded this certificate. Big Congratulations to Finance Director Nancy Holt, Treasurer/Collector Pam Avitable and Assessor Joe DiVito and their staffs on this award. If you would like to read the report and previous reports, go to the town web site, scituatema.gov/accountingfinance and click “Financial Documents” and you will find our Comprehensive Financial reports going back to FY14.

5. Eversource has informed the Town that they are putting off the gas line replacement on Ann Vinal Road. The Town has, therefore, informed the sidewalk contractor to remobilize and put the top coat on the sidewalk. We expect that to take place two weeks from now. The Highway department is also planning to resurface parts of Front Street in the month of October as we close out the paving season. This work has been put off until the end of the summer season in the Harbor to lessen impacts on the businesses in the Harbor.
6. National Grid will still be in Town doing tree work to clear primary lines. They will be in various locations around town so please be aware as you drive through town.
7. The contractor for the Route 3A water main work has completed installing erosion control along corridor. Actual construction on the pipes has begun. This is the beginning of the project to install a new raw water line from the OOB reservoir to the site of the new treatment plant at Stearns Meadows. When the plant is completed, water from the pond will be pumped to the plant for treatment before entering the distribution system. The contractor will also be replacing the service main on 3A that serves the homes and neighborhoods adjacent to that portion of 3A.
8. The Planning Board will be holding a public hearing for site plan review and stormwater for the water treatment plant this Thursday, 9/14 at 6:30 pm in the Select Board hearing room. This will be the first major public hearing on the proposed design. The Town will also need to present to the Conservation Commission most likely in October.

9. Dana Farber Mammography Van: the Scituate Board of Health is pleased to once again host the Dana Farber Mammography Van tomorrow, September 12th from 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church across from Town Hall. If you are a woman age 40 or older and would like to schedule an appointment, please contact the Mammography Van office at 617-632-1974.

10. 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.

11. We are keeping a close eye on the projected track of Hurricane Lee, currently churning up in the Atlantic south of Bermuda. The track right now is uncertain, but we do expect at the very least to have potentially dangerous surf and rip tide conditions at the end of the week and into the weekend. Right now, we do not see any astronomically high tides at the end of this week. But we will bring you updates as the storm track becomes more certain and potential impacts become clearer. Again, don’t wait for a storm to get ready. Go to <https://www.scituatema.gov/emergency-management>, “Emergency Preparedness”, and you will get all kinds of information on how to prepare for various emergency situations, including hurricanes. Don’t wait to get ready! I know no one wants to hear it, but both the Old Farmer’s Almanac and the Farmers Almanac have predicted a snowier than normal winter for the Northeast this year

12. We have a request from the Scituate Food Pantry for donations. The Scituate Food Pantry is deeply indebted and extremely grateful for the generosity of its donors. The Pantry’s numbers have been increasing each and every week. The Pantry is asking, if you are able, to please consider picking up one or more of the following “Most Needed Items” when you do your own grocery shopping.

The following is a list of the “Pantry’s Most Needed Items”:

Clam Chowder	All canned fish (except tuna)
Canned Ham	Sloppy Joe
Baked Beans	White Beans
Mac & Cheese	De-Caf Coffee
Rice Pilaf	Cold Healthy Cereal

Donations can be dropped off at the Pantry during Client Hours on Tuesday Mornings 10:00 - 12:15 and Thursday afternoons from 3:00 - 5:15. Donations can also be left in the two white covered wooden containers outside the Pantry as well as at the Library, the Village Market and Shaw’s.