

Weekly Video Update, September 12, 2022

Tony Vegnani, Select Board Chair

Special Town Meeting is next Monday, September 19th at 7 PM and topics include the siting of the Water Treatment Plant, CPC articles and Capital.

Tomorrow at 3 PM we have a Moderator's meeting at Town Hall to go over the Special Town Meeting articles.

Lastly, Mr. Vegnani thanked Chief Murphy and the Fire Dept for the 9/11 remembrance ceremony held yesterday.

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. As discussed last week, the Town will no longer be providing Covid updates. People looking for information can go to mass.gov and click "Covid-19" for updates.
2. The state DPH has informed the Town that we have had a positive mosquito pool in Scituate. The state has mosquito traps that capture 100-200 mosquitos and then those are ground together and tested. Our latest test showed the presence of west nile. This is not new as it has the potential to occur every year. Take precautions-make sure, particularly after this rain that we are experiencing, that you drain or remove any standing water, keep screen doors and windows closed and if you are out between dusk and dawn, make sure you put on mosquito repellent and, if possible, wear long sleeve shirts and long pants.
3. Water update. These numbers are before the rain from the yesterday and last night. Reservoir is at -46", last week we were at -45". Tack factory Pond is still at -14.5". Average daily demand was at 1.212 MGD down slightly from last week's 1.268 MGD. We are currently rated as having a significant drought by the Commonwealth, a slight upgrade from last week's critical rating. Due to the drought worsens, the water tables supplying our wells has dropped, lowering the output from those wells, making us more dependent on the water treatment plant. The more we have to use the plant, the more Manganese we are putting into the system and the more discolored water we get. Manganese measured at the WTP is still high and is causing discolored water to go through the plant and into the system. Good news is with the cooler night temperatures we are seeing a slight reduction in the manganese numbers. We are working with our consultants and DEP to try and come up with a short-term fix while we wait for the construction of a new water treatment plant. Our recent in-house manganese samples all came back at less than .2mg/l. .3mg/l is the level requiring notification to the community, so we are well below that at this point, with the majority of the samples significantly lower than the .3mg/l

If you have brown water, please call the water department or email brownwater@scituatema.gov The Town also has water available for residents at the WTP during regular business hours.

Rainfall over the last 7 days was .9” measured at the Plant. Again, this does not include rain starting yesterday and last night.

With the worsening of drought conditions and the strains being placed on our wells, we have implemented a Tier 4 water ban. This is a total ban on all non-essential outside water use. This includes vehicles and boats at marinas.

Celco will be working in North Scituate on Gannet and Country Way this week, hopefully completing the project by mid-week.

4. The Utility Road neighborhood behind town hall received a base coat of paving last week. The contractor will return and raise castings before final paving. The contractor is scheduled to be on Brook Road and Tilden this week. Portions of Country Way in North Scituate are scheduled for an overlay also starting tomorrow. After Country Way paving is complete, the contractor will be milling and paving sections of Glades Road and Bailey’s causeway. Paving will be dependent on the weather.
5. The Board awarded a contract to repair the stairs at Minot Beach several weeks ago. The contractor is scheduling the start of work for Tuesday after Labor Day, 9/6. Construction is expected to take approximately 4 weeks depending on weather and tide conditions. During this time, we will continue the one-way traffic on Glades Road from Gannet to Bailey’s Causeway. We have spoken to the School Department and this is not expected to interfere with bus routes as they follow the current direction of the one way.
6. With students returning to school I want to remind motorists to be extra careful on the roads. Students will be walking to school or waiting for buses, so be on the look out while you are on the roads. Remember passing a school bus with flashing lights is not only dangerous but is a crime and you can get a ticket from SPD. Take it slow. Superintendent Burkhead will be returning to our updates starting next week.
7. Hollywood will be back in Scituate next week. An “Untitled Novelist Project” will be filming starting this week in the area of the Sand Hills General store and beach. Filming will last a week. SPD has a traffic plan for any road closures and detail officers. We are still waiting for a filming schedule as to the time of filming as that will be dependent on lighting and tides. A portion of Egypt Beach Parking lot and a small portion of the Central Park parking lots will be used for base camp and crew parking during the shoot.
8. Moderators meeting for Special Town meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday at 3:00 pm in the Select Board meeting room.
9. Several weeks ago the Board listed to a presentation by Michael Johnson, a Scituate resident working on an eagle scout project. Michael has completed his project and has installed two water safety stations, one at Minot and one at Egypt Beaches. These stations contain water safety equipment to be used when life guards are not on duty, such as a safety ring, life jacket, a boogie board and first aid kit. They will remain deployed for

several more weeks until the weather turns. They will be replaced in the spring. Thanks to Michael for bringing the project to fruition and congratulations on moving one step closer to eagle scout!

10. The DPW removed the mobi mats from the beaches due to the hurricane off the coast. The boardwalk at Egypt beach is still in place.

11. The Town is looking for plow drivers for the winter and for positions in the DPW. If interested, please contact DPW.

Mr. Vegnani noted that Superintendent will join us next week for an update from the schools. Have a great week!