

## **Weekly Covid Update, September 26, 2022**

### **Karen Connolly, Select Board Member**

Ms. Connolly thanked everyone for coming to Special Town Meeting last week and for voting in the new Water Treatment Plant site.

Meetings this week:

Conservation is tonight (9/26) via Zoom

Economic Development Commission meets tomorrow in person at the Library at 6:30 PM.

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

1. As discussed previously, the Town will no longer be providing Covid updates. People looking for information can go to mass.gov and click "Covid-19" for updates. Scroll down and click "Interactive Data Dashboard" and that will take you to a site where we get the majority of our information from. If the numbers start to spike, we will report them again.
2. Water update. These numbers are before the rain last night. Reservoir is at -49.75", last week we were at -50". Tack Factory Pond is at -11", last week we were at -15.75". First time in a long time that we have moved in a positive direction. Average daily demand was at 1.187 MGD down from last week's 1.250 MGD. We are currently rated as having a significant drought by the Commonwealth, a slight upgrade from last week's critical rating. 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. Manganese samples have been below action levels set by DEP for both August and September. Distribution samples for September ranged from 0.007 to 0.054 mg/l. 0.3 mg/l is the action level set by the state so we are well under those levels. 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.

If you have brown water, please call the water department or email [brownwater@scituatema.gov](mailto:brownwater@scituatema.gov). The Town also has water available for residents who are experiencing brown water at the WTP during regular business hours.

Rainfall over the last 7 days was 2.32" measured at the Plant. Again, this does not include rain starting yesterday and last night.

Celco will be working finishing up on Ridge Hill this week. They will be loaming and seeding various areas and possibly making repairs to the trenches. Generally, as a rule these trenches will be allowed to settle over the winter with permanent patches/paving done next year.

3. No paving on the schedule for this week due to last week's rain. The contractor will be milling and paving sections of Glades Road and Bailey's Causeway starting sometime during the week next week. Paving will be dependent on the weather.
4. The Board awarded a contract to repair the 4 sets of stairs at Minot Beach several weeks ago. The contractor has started work on this project. 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.
5. Consultant on the light house project made a determination that the lantern room needs to be removed as soon as possible. We are working on securing a contractor to do that work, and estimate that we will be looking for the removal of the lantern room now sometime next week (originally hoped for this week).
6. As Mr. Vegnani announced last week, the Town has been awarded two more grants.
  - a. **Department of Homeland Security Port Security Grant** - \$437,251 for purchase of boat for Police Department; Town's share of purchase is in Article 5 capital plan from fall Special Town Meeting.
  - b. **Commonwealth of Massachusetts Seawall and Dam Removal Fund Construction Grant** - \$5,932,500 to fund two of the four phases of the Oceanside area seawall replacement project. Segment 1 is 355 LF +/- and Segment 2 is 347 LF +/- for a total of 702 LF +/- of the 1,428 LF +/- total project. The program allocates \$3,600,000 in FY23 and \$2,332,500 in FY24 and there are no matching funds required from the town. A third phase was authorized at the April 2022 Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$4M.
7. The Scituate Police Department will be hosting a blood drive to remember and honor those fighting cancer on Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 8:00am-2:30pm. The blood drive will take place at the Public Safety Complex, 800 Chief Justice Cushing Highway in the side parking lot. The Dana Farber Cancer Institute/Brigham and Women's Hospital Blood Mobile will be on site. Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins will be taken as time allows. Information on registering for an appointment will be available on the town web site.
8. The Town is looking for plow drivers for the winter and for positions in the DPW, interested parties should contact the DPW.

## **Bill Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools**

### **New Hatherly/Cushing building project update:**

- We are excited to begin the 2nd phase (Schematic Design & Feasibility Study) of the MA School Building Authority (MSBA) Hatherly/Cushing new building project. Our new Owners Project Manager, Vertex, is now on Board to guide and support our work. Vertex is no stranger to Scituate, as they were involved in the Scituate Safety Community Building and new Senior Center projects.
- On Monday, September 26, 5:30 pm, the Building Committee will meet for the first time for an overview and timeline of the project.
- Next step is to choose an architect for the project. More detailed information will be available soon.

### **Facilities Improvement Tour:**

Last week we invited the School Committee and Select Board to take a tour across our schools to share progress on current capital projects and how we were using our newly created (2 years) school maintenance budget to be responsible stewards of taxpayer monies and support. We'd like to thank school committee members Nicole Brandolini, Carey Borkoski and Peter Gates, as well as Select Board member Andrew Goodrich for attending.

This year our Thursday Thoughts will move to a monthly "Spotlight" edition where we will have a very specific focus to increase awareness and highlight happenings in the district. This will be pushed out through our new app as well as through social media to reach more people. The first Spotlight edition will include this tour in words and pictures. We want to make crystal clear to our community that we are being good stewards of the taxpayers hard earned money and investment in our schools

### **Special Education:**

We recently received the following correspondence from The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). DESE and districts across the Commonwealth have made it their priority to increase educational access and equity for our most marginalized students, especially students with disabilities. This priority necessitates that we identify inequities in special education and respond to them. As part of this work, MA DESE implements multiple initiatives that evaluate school programs, specifically Special Education. We are happy to report that the SPS are in 100% compliance with the department which translates to our strong special education programming.

## **New website!**

Scit.org - please download the Scituate Mobile app at bottom right of each school website page. Download the Scituate Public Schools mobile app for parents, caregivers and students. From events to news it has all the information your family needs in one place. With up-to-date notifications and information directly from your school, you'll stay connected no matter where you are.

## **Sailor shout outs**

- Thank you, parents/caregivers, for attending SPS expectations night. The attendance was amazing and our teachers and administrators did a terrific job connecting with our families and students.
- Special Town Meeting - thank you to the community for supporting school funding found in articles 3, 4 and 5 we appreciate your support.

Karen Connolly thanked Mr. Boudreau and Mr. Burkhead and remarked that the schools have a maintenance budget which is very important. Our hope is that our buildings will be well taken care of. Have a great week!