

Weekly Video Update, September 6, 2022

Karen Canfield, Select Board Member and Jim Boudreau Town Administrator

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week according to our MAVEN data was 20, up from 12 last week. This has gone up after going down for two straight weeks. We had a positivity rating over the last 14 days of 7.73% down from 19.55%. Plymouth County is at 8.39%, up very slightly from last week of 8.34 %. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 7.61%, down slightly from last week's 7.84%. Statewide there are 56 individuals in ICU, down from 67. 21 patients are intubated down from last week's 29. With the new Covid regulations, I will be discussing with the Board the need for continued Covid reporting going forward. School department will not be testing or doing weekly numbers and with fewer people getting tested, the positivity rates can swing from week-to-week. Unless numbers start to spike, we might discontinue this.

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. 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 repellant 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 -45", last week we were at -42.5". Tack Factory Pond is still at -14.5", last week was -12.5". Average daily demand was at 1.268 MGD up slightly from last week's 1.228 MGD. Most of this increase we think is related to the holiday weekend. We are currently rated as having a critical drought by the Commonwealth. As the drought worsens, the water tables supplying our wells continue to drop, 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.

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 .18” measured at the Plant. Again, this does not include rain starting yesterday and last night.

Celco will be working in North Scituate on Gannet and Country Way this week.

4. Today is election day. The primary election is being held from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the high school gymnasium. Anyone returning ballots today must do so at the Town Clerk’s Office at Town Hall, not at the polling place by 8:00 pm. Also, the Clerk’s Office will be closed tomorrow until 1:00 pm as they finish processing the primary results.
5. 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 schedule to be on Brook St. and Tilden starting tomorrow grinding the surface in preparation for paving. Portions of Country Way in North Scituate are scheduled for an overlay also starting tomorrow. Paving will be dependent on the weather.
6. 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.
7. Tomorrow is the first day of school for Scituate Public Schools. I want to wish Superintendent Burkhead, his staff, faculty and students’ good luck for a great school year! I know the superintendent and everyone at the schools are excited and ready to welcome students back and get going on a new school year. You can go to Scit.org the new school web site for details.

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. Thank you to the Highway Dept. who worked hard on the contract to get the flashing pedestrian cross light replaced that was damaged by a car accident.

8. Hollywood will be back in Scituate next week. An “Untitled Novelist Project” will be filming starting next 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.

9. The Town is looking for plow drivers for the winter and for positions in the DPW, interested parties should contact the DPW.

Karen Canfield, Select Board Member

Ms. Canfield noted that the following meetings will take place this week:

Traffic Rules and Regulations tonight (Sept 6) at 4:30 PM at Town Hall.

Select Board Meeting is also tonight (Sept 6) at 6:30 PM at Town Hall. We will be discussing plow rates , voting the old Pier 44 park design contract, and a significant donation from Toll Brothers for a ball field. There will also be an Executive Session regarding pending Shellfish litigation.

JV Baseball field meeting will be held on September 13, at the Library at 7 PM.

Tomorrow, September 7th, Conservation meets at 7 PM via Zoom, Commission on Disabilities at 7 PM via Zoom, and Waterways at the Scituate Maritime Center at 7 PM

Thursday, September 8th, Planning Board meets at 6:30 PM.

Today is Election day and we thank Kathy Gardner, Town Clerk and her staff for all their work today. Please vote, polls are open until 8 PM tonight.