

Weekly Video Update, October 18, 2021

Select Board Clerk, Andrew Goodrich noted there is a Moderator's Meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, October 19th in anticipation of the upcoming Special Town Meeting. The Select Board also has their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 19th beginning at 6:30 PM.

"Fall for Scituate" takes place on October 24th from 12 – 4 PM in North Scituate. There will be food, hayrides, and games, and it's always a great event.

Special Town Meeting is Tuesday, October 26th at 7 PM. We encourage everyone to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status for the safety of others.

Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau, Updates:

Water Main Construction on Old Oaken Bucket Rd. from Maple Street to the Rotary is finished and the contractor has finished making repairs to the trench. At this point it is most likely the road will sit for the winter and will be completely repaved in the spring. The contractor has moved to Brook Street and commenced replacement of the main on Brook Street. Brook is closed from Tilden to Front Street. Local traffic will be allowed. A new water main on Foam Road began installation last week and that work is continuing. This will make a huge difference for residents in that area.

Total average demand for the past week was 1.238 mgpd, up slightly from last week. We seem to be in the 1.1 – 1.3 mgpd range lately. Manganese levels in the reservoir continue to drop, but are still high enough to cause discolored water. The reservoir was -3.5" yesterday and at +5" at Tack Factory. Rainfall over the last 5 days was at .26" inches. We have plenty of water and we will start a flushing program before the cold weather arrives.

The total number of Covid cases for this past week was 14, down from the 16 of the previous week. We with a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 1.88%, up very slightly from the 1.62% of last week. Plymouth County is at 3.19%, almost identical to last week's 3.18%. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 2.05%, which is up from the 1.80% of last week. Numbers seem to be holding fairly steady the last couple of weeks, with slight increases and decreases week to week.

New guidance is out from the CDC and federal government on the booster shots for Pfizer recipients. Go to Mass.gov and there is a link to determine if you are eligible for a booster shot. The FDA has approved Moderna's booster shot for people over 65 and those with other health conditions and it will now go the CDC for final approval. The FDA panel has also recommended a Johnson & Johnson booster shot for adults who have already received one dose of J&J. They will be before the CDC this week also. Final approval is expected by the end of the month.

Paving projects have been delayed by rain. Work is continuing on paving on First Parish Road and surrounding the common. The road has been milled, and the contractor has put down the base and the sidewalk is complete. There will be final paving behind Town Hall.

Renovations on the Steverman rink at Scituate High School are done and it looks fantastic.

Renovations/expansion to the Widow's Walk clubhouse continue. The \$2.5 million project is expected to be completed in the fall. The contractor is expecting to make great strides this week on finishing the exterior of the building and starting landscaping around the club house. Interior work is continuing with painters scheduled for next week. We expect huge strides within the next two weeks. We hope to have someone in there to operate concessions in the spring.

Humarock Fire station the living quarters are completely framed in and most of the windows have been installed with rough electric and plumbing finishing this week. The apparatus bay is all framed with the roof up, with window and door installation this week. We are on track for occupancy around Thanksgiving.

Cedar Point- The contractor continues to install some needed drainage at Cedar Point and to begin raising the structures in the road in preparation paving. We are hoping that paving will start by the end of this week or the beginning of next week, depending on the availability of the paving contractor. In addition, we are rehabbing the island at the entrance to Cedar Point. The island took a beating during the construction and needs repairs. The curbing has been installed and landscaping of the island is ongoing.

Town Meeting is on Tuesday, October 26th at 7:00 pm in the High School gymnasium. There are several items on the agenda for people to consider. We encourage everyone to attend and to wear masks at Town Meeting for their safety and the safety of others.

Update from Superintendent Burkhead

The schools had zero cases last week for the entire school district, down from 4 last week and 7 the week before. We thank everyone for their diligence.

There was a new tradition of Homecoming at Scituate High School and included sporting events and a Saturday homecoming dance that had a record 450 students attend. He thanked the organizers and all the kids for bringing this tradition back.

He thanked Ms. Driscoll, Asst. Superintendent who was appointed to a second term on the Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education District Accountability Advisory Counsel. Supt. Burkhead read a letter that was received by the Commissioner of Education. Congratulations to Ms. Driscoll.

Seaside chats have started as an effort to meet people and communicate within the district. The first one was held last week at the beautiful senior center and we had a great turnout. Shout out to Jim Boudreau and Mr. Goodrich for the weekly video chats. Supt. Burkhead was told the updates are very informative.

School committee meeting is tonight (October 18) at 6 PM and will highlight celebrated student learning with our math dept., leadership updates, business and finance updates, update from DEI director, and a health and safety update. It will be recorded and available on the website.

Hatherly MSBA project: A tour of the Hatherly Elementary School was held on Friday with School Committee, Town Administrator, Select Board and we received good questions and feedback. Shout out to Bob Dillon and Julie Ward, Principal for leading the tour.

Mr. Burkhead gave a shout out to teachers and students and most recently he attended Mr. Scavotto's high school mythology class. He was impressed with the collaboration amongst students.

Mr. Goodrich thanked all those who watch the video updates and encourages people to reach out if they are looking for any additional information to be included in the updates going forward.