

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

## JUNE 6, 2023

### 1. SEEKING COMMUNITY INPUT! WEIR CREEK SALT MARSH RESTORATION

A meeting about the timeline and scope of restoring tidal flow to Weir Creek marsh in South Dennis. Public input on proposed restoration and plans for redesign is encouraged and appreciated.

**Thursday, June 15, 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

**Police Community Meeting Room, Dennis Police Station 90 Bob Crowell Rd, South Dennis 02660 (next to Town Hall)**

[Registration](#) Requested

Optional join the meeting virtually via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4639056446> Dial in: 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 4639056446



Please join the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, the town of Dennis, Tighe & Bond, and Woods Hole Group to learn about the proposed restoration of Weir Creek. There will be a discussion about the status of the marsh, and the plans for study and redesign of two culverts under Lower County Road. Learn about the potential impacts of this restoration, share your knowledge about the history of the site, and discuss your concerns about Weir Creek and existing flooding in the area.

**Please direct questions to April Wobst, APCC Restoration Ecologist ([awobst@apcc.org](mailto:awobst@apcc.org)), or Tom Andrade ([tandrade@town.dennis.ma.us](mailto:tandrade@town.dennis.ma.us)), Town Engineer with the Town of Dennis.**

Funding for this project has been provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation National Coastal Resilience Fund, and the EPA Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Implementation Grants through collaboration with Restore America's Estuaries.

## **2. DENNIS CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING RECEIVES GRANT TO ADDRESS FAMILY CAREGIVERS' SUPPORT AND RESPITE NEEDS**

Dennis, MA – The Dennis Center for Active Living has been awarded a two-year grant of \$352,000.00 by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Grant funds will cover costs for implementation of a new social care collaborative and mobile program and service model for respite support. Destination Respite (DR) is designed to provide coordinated, mobile, respite services using existing transportation resources in Barnstable County COAs. The Dennis Center for Active Living, in partnership with the Cape Cod Alzheimer's Family Support Center (AFSC), Elder Services of Cape Cod and Islands (ESCCI), Independence House, Cape International Language Academy, will offer a minimum of 4 destinations for respite care monthly. Memory Cafes, family respite events for both caregivers and loved ones, will be established, and recur monthly, in Dennis and Hyannis. All Barnstable County COAs will be welcome to participate through intermunicipal agreement to transport their residents to mobile respite sites. COAs will be invited to be host sites as their capacity allows.

### **Social Isolation**

The grant will expand a community-based behavioral health treatment program that provides evidence-based mental health support for socially isolated family caregivers and older persons. PEARLS is a community-based intervention for individuals with depression, social isolation, or dysthymia that helps reduce symptoms and suicidal ideation. The Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives (PEARLS) will be available through referrals from participating agencies, for grandparents raising grandchildren in the DY School District, caregivers of GAP day program and respite club participants, AFSC and ESCCI referrals. PEARLS was recently funded for a six-month start-up demonstration by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA) and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA). Bilingual and monolingual grandparents and caregivers will be able to benefit from evidence based behavioral health support through participation in the mobile respite program. Portuguese and Spanish speaking coaches will be trained through this grant to support caregivers and older persons with Low English Proficiency (LEP).

Gerontologist and DCAL Director, Brenda Vazquez, has been an advocate and practitioner for evidence-based health promotion for older adults since 2004. "I'm so pleased to be awarded this innovation grant to help us build capacity and offer behavioral health support to Dennis' older residents, so affected by isolation, and the effects of the pandemic." The grant will cover the costs to train up to 10 individuals as PEARLS Coaches, hire a licensed mental health professional to be a PEARLS master trainer and to execute the pilot.

For more information, please call the DCAL Outreach Office at (508) 694-2004

## **3. CAPE COD COMMISSION SEEKING RESPONSES TO HOUSING PREFERENCE SURVEY**

Welcome to the Cape Cod Regional Housing Survey!

To inform development of the Cape Cod Regional Housing Strategy, the Cape Cod Commission is surveying Cape Codders about their preferences for housing development and redevelopment. This survey asks a series of questions that touch on the design of housing, various housing types, appropriate locations for new housing development and redevelopment, and other housing development considerations.

Affordable and attainable housing for people with various income levels and needs is key to a vibrant, healthy, and resilient region. The Regional Housing Strategy will address the housing supply, affordability, and availability issues facing the region by identifying appropriate areas for housing development and redevelopment

as well as policies and strategies to further its goals. Your input, and that of your friends and neighbors, will be crucial as we develop the strategy and its recommendations.

The survey will take most respondents between 10 and 15 minutes to complete. Once you're done, visit the [Regional Housing Strategy](#) website for more information and [sign up](#) for our email list to stay up-to-date.

#### **4. SUMMER BEACH INFORMATION**

- The beaches will be opening back to the regular schedule.
- Please monitor website for any restrictions (plover closures expected)
- We will open 7 days a week through Labor Day Monday starting Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The gates will be locked according to our summer schedule by the police as well
- The permanent bathrooms will be cleaned twice a day (locked at dusk)
- Temporary rest facilities will be cleaned and pumped daily as well
- Concessions will be open Starting the Saturday of Memorial Day as well and following the same schedule above.

#### **5. NATURAL RESOURCES – BEACH ACCESS UPDATES**

Crowes Pasture has 6 pairs of birds. Currently there are 4 nests with eggs. The Recreational ORV access closed on June 1. No vehicle access plan was implemented for shellfish growers since plover chicks are using the access.

The east Shellfish Access closed June 4. A vehicle escort plan for the commercial shellfish grant will be implemented starting June 8th.

Two more nests are scheduled to hatch in the upcoming weeks.

South Village Landing - the pair appears to have moved to private property. Audubon was notified for monitoring purposes.

Chapin Beach has 2 pairs. One active nest on the west end at this time.

The West Dennis Beach Main Parking Lot will remain closed until Sunday, June 11 due to piping plover chicks. The Resident Parking Lot is open.

We also have active plover nests with protective fencing located on the main beach and expect to have more plover chicks in the next few weeks. Please do not alter the fencing and/or harass the birds or their chicks. We realize this may reduce the area available for beach use, however Piping plovers, their nests and chicks are protected by the Endangered Species Act and we are required by the State and Federal Government to take steps to protect them.

Keep in mind that closures remain in effect until chicks fledge (fly) at approximately 35 days of age. Given the number and location of nests at West Dennis, the west parking area closure could be quite long since it gets extended each time a nearby nest hatches.

We ask for your patience during the parking lot closure and recommend you take advantage of one of the Town's other beaches during this time.

#### **6. TOWN OF DENNIS REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (RFEI) PROCESS**

On April 3, 2023 the Town of Dennis (the Town) is issued a request for expressions of interest (RFEI) to solicit Responses from parties who may have an interest in acquiring the Wixon School site from the Town. The Town plans to use information from the Responses to develop one or more requests for proposals (RFPs) and other formal procurement documents meeting the requirements of General Laws c. 30B, §16, to dispose of the Wixon School site.

Specifications were made available:

Interested individuals and organizations should submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of the Response, clearly marked “Response to RFEI for Wixon School Disposition”, on or before 12:00 Noon, Friday, June 2, 2023, at which time all Responses will be opened and recorded in public. If the Town Hall is closed at the time of the delivery deadline due to unforeseen events such as fire, wind, Covid-19 restrictions, or building evacuation, the Response opening will be postponed until 4:00 p.m. on the next normal business day. Responses must be addressed to:

ATTN: Elizabeth Sullivan  
Town Administrator  
Dennis Town Hall  
685 Route 134, Dennis, MA 02660.

Specifications available:

Copies of the Request for Expressions of interest Proposals (RFEI) document with instructions and requirements were made be available on the Town’s website at [www.town.dennis.ma.us](http://www.town.dennis.ma.us) quick link can be found at Procurement (Bids/RFPs) on April 3, 2023.

To date the Town has received multiple proposals in this RFEI process. The Select Board will be reviewing and considering all expressions of interest submitted and any next steps at a future meeting of the Select Board.

## **7. WASTEWATER PHASE 1 DESIGN UPDATES**

Wastewater Collection System:

- Locations of seven proposed Phase 1 pumping stations have been identified
- Initial review of pumping station parcels completed by Natural Resources Director and Town Counsel
- Phase 1 system configuration and layout finalized and confirmed by Town staff and Town Peer Reviewer -GHD
- Flow allocation/pipe sizing completed for gravity and pressure sewers
- Working toward 30% preliminary design submittal in August ‘23

Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF):

- Recently reached 30% design milestone including Town staff and GHD reviews with 60% design expected in August ‘23
- Design work is on schedule and on budget
- Field investigations (borings, wetland flagging and intensive archaeological survey) have been completed
- Most regulatory permits have been obtained except for groundwater discharge permit and final MEPA approval

A Wastewater presentation will be held at a Select Board meeting jointly with the Wastewater Implementation Committee in July.

Have a great week everyone!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan  
Town Administrator

