

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

DECEMBER 13, 2022

1. MASSDEP EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 5 REGULATIONS - 310 CMR 15.000 AND NEW REGULATIONS AT 314 CMR 21.00 WATERSHED PERMIT REGULATIONS

Good Afternoon

This email is to inform you that, in response to requests made during the public hearings, the public comment period for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) draft amendments to the Title 5 regulations, 310 CMR 15.000, and the new, related Watershed Permit regulations at 314 CMR 21.00, has been extended until **January 30, 2023** and MassDEP will be hosting two additional **Public Hearings**:

Remote Only, January 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Register at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_veLVS545RCqGZhI6tuN2rQ

Remote Only, January 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Register at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Is2pAS_cR_uXvNhhs5r3oQ

Oral comments will be received at the above public hearings in January 2023 and written comments can be submitted via email to dep.talks@mass.gov. Please put "Title 5 and Watershed Permitting" in the subject line. Written comments may also be submitted by mail and should be sent to MassDEP, Bureau of Water Resources – Division of Watershed Management, 100 Cambridge Street, suite 900, Boston, MA 02114, Attention: Title 5 & Watershed Permit.

MassDEP also intends to hold two additional **information sessions** on: January 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (remote) and January 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (hybrid). More information about how to participate in these sessions will be provided on MassDEP's website.

MassDEP has proposed these amendments and regulations to enhance protection of embayments and estuaries—particularly on Cape Cod, the Islands, the southern portion of the South Shore and the South Coast in Southeastern Massachusetts—from nitrogen pollution originating primarily from wastewater. The proposed amendments will allow MassDEP to designate new Natural Resource Area Nitrogen Sensitive Areas (NSA) and add nitrogen reduction provisions within these areas for Title 5 systems. The new Watershed Permit regulations at 314 CMR 21.00 provide a voluntary watershed permitting approach for communities to control nitrogen and other pollutants from entering the embayments and estuaries.

The draft regulations are published on the MassDEP website at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities> and at: [310 CMR 15.000: Septic Systems \("Title 5"\) | Mass.gov](#) and [314 CMR 21.00: Watershed Permit Regulations | Mass.gov](#)

Recordings of previously held information sessions and public hearings can also be found here: [310 CMR 15.000: Septic Systems \("Title 5"\) | Mass.gov](#)

Please refer your constituents to these web page locations for up-to-date information pertaining to these amendments and draft regulations.

Sincerely,
Jen Viveiros

Jennifer Viveiros
Deputy Regional Director- Administrative Services
MassDEP Southeast Regional Office
20 Riverside Drive
Lakeville, MA 02347
857-268-2294

2. DENNIS CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING PROJECT UPDATE

- Paving on the Setucket side of the property is complete
- Patio by the COA “friends” is complete
- Exterior trim is ongoing
- Steel stud interior framing ongoing
- All MEP rough in’s ongoing
- Roof shingles will be starting this week/ next
- Security contract complete
- Operable partitions were installed on the New side and operable
- No issues with material testing
- Project is on budget
- Substantial completion is planned for 9/4/23

3. FISCAL YEAR 2024 CAPITAL OUTLAY REQUESTS

The Select Board is scheduled to discuss the FY24 recommendations of the Capital Outlay Committee at a meeting in January with the Capital Committee as well as the Finance Committee. The Capital Committee is nearing completion on their review of Capital requests and we look forward to their presentation.

4. TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CYBERCRIMINALS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Scammers love celebrating busy holidays by defrauding people of money or personal information. Regardless of the reason for the season, avoid getting scammed by staying alert for these common threats:

1. **Phishing Attacks:** Holiday seasons are one of the busiest times for shipping services like FedEx and UPS. Cybercriminals take advantage of this situation by impersonating those services and delivering phishing attacks with malicious tracking links. Always hover over links to reveal their true URL. If you’re unsure, visit the shipper’s website and manually enter the tracking number.
2. **Fraudulent Websites:** Ideally, it’s best to only buy products from reputable websites that you know and trust. If you end up venturing out to find a good deal, be sure to research the seller and read as many reviews as you can. Scammers can set up fake websites that sell imposter products or steal information and money.

3. **Fake Offers:** If something sounds too good to be true, it's likely a scam. Take extreme caution when handling any offers that land in your inbox. Avoid clicking on pop-up advertisements, especially when they list a product or service for a price that's unreasonably lower than normal.
4. **Package Theft:** Thieves in the real world have been known to follow delivery trucks and wait for the right time to steal packages. You can avoid this concern by arranging to have packages delivered when you're home or having them sent to storage lockers that some delivery services offer. For expensive items, ask the sender to require a signature upon delivery.
5. **Card Skimmers:** Card skimmers can steal banking information by compromising cash dispensing machines and point-of-sale terminals. If you need cash, use a machine that's located inside a reputable bank or business. Inspect it for any signs of physical tampering. When paying for items, consider using wireless payment options such as your phone or a chip card, rather than swiping a card.

5. DECEMBER EVENTS AT THE DENNIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Winter is coming, and so are terrific programs at Dennis Public Library.

Throughout the month of December, Yarmouth Art Guild artists are displaying their art in our meeting room. Guild members selected a wide array of artwork to help celebrate the holidays and the onset of changing seasons. Come view this exhibition, and see scenes of local places you may recognize as well as some surprising subjects you may enjoy.

On Saturday, December 17th at 10:30 a.m. join Jesse Coen of Happy Hoops as she leads children and adults in creating winter themed décor using embroidery hoops. Each participant will take home their own creation to enjoy or for gift giving. Please call the library to register at 508-760-6219; space is limited.

Throughout the month of December, children can come in on Tuesdays during regular hours to make their own holiday craft, which will change weekly. Available while supplies last. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Dennis Public Library is located at 5 Hall Street in Dennis Port. See our website for more news: dennispubliclibrary.org

6. APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THIRD SESSION OF CAPE COD CLIMATE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Seeking students to work together to combat the impacts of climate change

The Cape Cod Commission is pleased to invite Cape and Islands students in grades 9-12 to apply for the Climate Ambassador Program. The Program is an initiative to educate, engage and empower young people on Cape Cod to work together to combat the impacts of climate change.

Students who want to develop a better understanding of climate change, learn how to communicate effectively about climate issues, and are interested in discovering individual and collective ways to bring about change are encouraged to apply to participate in the five-month program.

The Climate Ambassador Program consists of eight meetings held from January to May 2023. Meetings will take place on Tuesday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. The first, last, and 4th meeting will be held in person in Barnstable, with the remainder held virtually.

Participating students will engage in conversations on global, regional, and local climate causes and impacts, carbon reduction strategies, resiliency planning, and equity considerations. They will learn from climate experts and advocates, building a baseline for informed engagement and advocacy.

Each student will have the opportunity to show off their knowledge and creativity with a small project demonstrating how young people can have a personal impact on climate change at home or within their community.

Since 2021, nearly 40 students representing twelve school districts across the region have participated in the program. Interested students may apply online at www.capecodcommission.org/climate-ambassadors. Applicants must detail why they are interested in climate change, their current knowledge of climate change, and what they hope to learn or accomplish by being a part of the Climate Ambassador Program. A reference from a teacher or guidance counselor is required. Applications are due by midnight on January 6, 2023.

For more information, visit www.capecodcommission.org/climate-ambassadors

7. TRANSPORTATION BY DCAL FOR SHOPPING AND LOCAL ERRANDS –

For older adults without transportation, the Dennis Center for Active Living (DCAL) provides curbside bus service. Weekly trips to local shopping centers including Patriot Square in South Dennis. Round trips to attend DCAL activities and events are also available.

Transportation Coordinator, Dan Kiley, is happy to take suggestions. For confirmed reservations, call DCAL no later than one day ahead of requested shopping trips at 508-385-5067. Masks are optional for entry onto the bus.

Bus Schedule (Subject to Change)

Tuesday/8AM/10AM/12PM/Stop & Shop and Shaws

Wednesday/8AM/10AM/12PM/Stop & Shop and Shaws

Thursday/8AM/10AM/12PM/Stop & Shop and Shaws

For more information, check the latest issue of the [Cranberry Scoop](#).

As this is the Select Board's last meeting of the year, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan
Town Administrator