

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

1. JANUARY BLIZZARD/STORM

Thank you to all the public safety and public works employees and all the personnel that worked throughout this weekend storm event to keep the Dennis Community safe during the storm event. Public safety worked tirelessly with our Eversource liaison to ensure power was restored as soon as possible.

Updates from Public Works - The Town is still in post storm response/clean-up mode including;

There will be some tree work and other types of clean up (beach fence, guard rails, etc) to tackle once all road work is complete.

- The Transfer Station is cleaned up and ready to open tomorrow.
- All buildings are in good shape and all power / heat is back on.
- Today we began to dig out the locked beaches and plan to have these complete by COB (hopefully).
- Bike and walking trails are being cleared.
- Yesterday afternoon Robert Childs, Inc. began removing snow from sidewalks on Rt. 134 and overnight began sidewalks on Rt 28. Once complete Childs will shift their nighttime crew to the Rt 6A corridor sidewalks.
- Dr. Bottero the crew reported there this morning to begin digging out and disposing of the storm debris which collected on the roadway.

Thank you to our residents for your patience as we complete clean-up efforts.

2. MASSTRAIL GRANT PROGRAM

The Town Engineer has filed an application for safety improvements at the crossing of the Cape Cod Rail Trail and Great Western Road. The improvements will include adding rectangular rapid flashing beacons and solar powered LED signs to alert drivers travelling along Great Western Road of bicyclists and pedestrians looking to cross the road. A detection system combining bike detection loops, infra-red bollards and push buttons will provide a dependable and accurate detection system for all users of the trail including hearing and vision-impaired users. The work will also include upgrading the signs and pavement markings at the crossing as well as minor realignment and widening of the trail at the intersection approach. \$144,000 is requested with a match of \$36,000 coming from in-kind services and staff time. We will update once we receive notice on potential award.

3. THE TOWN OF DENNIS RECEIVES MUNICIPAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS GRANT

We also received the 2022 Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant from Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) which allows us to continue our Cyber training for staff. In 2021 we were one of the top performers in the state and were identified as a Cyber Aware Community and recognized in October for that effort.

The 2022 training has begun and every employee with a town issued email address will need to complete 4 sessions over the year and demonstrate their knowledge after the training is complete.

4. THE TOWN OF DENNIS RECEIVES COMMUNITY COMPACT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GRANT

We received a Community Compact Information Technology Grant for \$19,731 to upgrade the phone system at the Fire Department which will bring them into the existing town system (as we did with DPW, COA, Library, etc). This will allow Fire staff to have individual voice mails, transfer calls between town buildings and prepares us to incorporate the new Fire Station 2 into the system when it comes online.

5. MASS MUNICIPAL UPDATE- SENATE PASSES \$75M COVID BILL WITH PANDEMIC-RELATED PROVISIONS

On Jan. 26, the Senate passed a \$75 million bill that would supplement certain fiscal 2022 appropriations in response to the current phase of the COVID-19 public health emergency and extend certain authorizations related to public meetings.

In many ways, the Senate bill (S.2622) mirrors a House version passed last week, though it adds \$20 million to the bottom line.

Similar to the House bill, the Senate would provide \$30 million to fund the expansion of COVID-19 testing and \$25 million for the procurement and distribution of high-quality face masks for students and faculty in elementary and secondary public-school districts. The Senate bill would expand the procurement and distribution of face masks to include early childhood centers, congregate care facilities and home health care workers, accounting for the additional cost.

The Senate adopted amendments to extend popular authorizations for expanded outdoor dining and to-go alcoholic beverages that are currently set to expire this spring. The Senate bill would extend these measures through Dec. 15, 2022.

Both the House and Senate bills include the following pandemic-related provisions and authorizations related to public board and town meetings, all of which are MMA priorities for early this year:

- **Remote option for public bodies:** The bills would extend through July 15 previous authorization for remote public meetings, first enacted at the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020 and currently set to expire on April 1.
- **Open town meeting quorums:** The bills would allow select boards, in consultation with their town moderator, to lower quorum requirements for open town meetings to not less than 10% of the existing quorum level. The quorum provision includes a seven-day notification requirement before any select board vote.
- **Remote representative town meetings:** The bills would allow representative town meetings to once again have the option to meet remotely, if approved by the select board and town moderator, as well as the town meeting when it meets.

The provisions related to open and representative town meetings would be available through July 15, 2022.

Both bills would also set the state primary date for Sept. 6, 2022.

A conference committee is expected to work out the differences between the House and Senate bills.

6. SELECT BOARD GOAL – WILLIAM CROWELL ROAD SURVEY

We received the registered professional survey plan from BSC Group, with the wetlands resources delineated, as planned. The next step is staff meeting(s) to develop a proposed pathway/access to the beach. Tom is coordinating a meeting with DPW, and Conservation. The project will require approval by the Conservation Commission for work within the resource areas and buffer zone of (coastal bank, coastal dune etc.).

I will continue to update the Board on this project.

1-16-21 Update

BSC has completed the survey and submitted a draft plan, Engineering is reviewing the plan with BSC and will provide a final plan in the next week or two.

11-12-21 Update

William Crowell Road Survey- the Select Board placed an article at the May 2021 Annual Town Meeting for funding to conduct a survey and complete an existing condition plan of the town area on William Crowell Road. The Town has contracted with BSC Group to complete this project, work has commenced on the monumentation reconnaissance and over next couple weeks will include a delineation and final survey work. In keeping with the Boards goal, town staff including Engineering, DPW, Natural Resources will coordinate once the survey work is complete to review what access may be available for a public overview area or pathway to the coastal beach in this location. We anticipate the survey work being completed this month and a final plan from BSC by September.

Update - The Town Engineer has informed me that the survey work has been performed on William Crowell Road and they are finalizing the delineation of resources areas to overlay on the plan. We anticipate the work being completed this month and per BSC Group, a final professional land survey plan in two weeks. More updates forthcoming as this is an active project.

Respectfully, Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator