

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

AUGUST 24, 2021

1. THANK YOU FOR PREPARING FOR HURRICANE HENRI -

Dennis residents and visitors were urged to prepare for Hurricane Henri this past weekend. The Town monitored the storm very closely with our county and state partners, had to put public safety first which included many precautions including the closures of our beaches during a summer day. Fortunately, the Cape missed the storm but it was not without great preparations in case of an emergency. I want to thank all the Emergency Management, public safety and all town staff that worked throughout the weekend to ensure we were prepared to assist in what could have been a storm emergency. I would also like to thank our Community and many visitors for your cooperation and patience while we took these precautions to ensure safety for all.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) reminds all residents to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for tropical storms and hurricanes. Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th each year. Although the Atlantic hurricane season is officially June 1 through November 30, the most active time for these storms in Massachusetts is late August through September. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/hurricane-safety-tips#introduction>

Do you know the difference between #hurricane watches & warnings, #TropicalStorm watches & warnings and #StormSurge watches & warnings? Learn the terms and how to prepare: www.mass.gov/mema/hurricanes

2. REMINDER - SPECIAL/ FALL TOWN MEETING DATE -

Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 7:00 pm in the Nathaniel H. Wixon Innovation School Auditorium.

We are underway with the Town Meeting article review process; the Select Board will be reviewing draft Town Meeting Articles for placement on the warrant at an upcoming meeting in September and the Town Meeting Warrant must be posted no later than October 12, 2021.

The deadline to submit Citizens Petitions is September 7, 2021, at 4:00 pm to the Town Clerk's Office. Information on how to submit a Petition can be found on the Town's website: <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/town-clerk/pages/town-meeting-information>

The deadline to register to vote is Friday, October 15, 2021. The Town Clerk's Office will be open from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm on this day.

For more information on the Special Town Meeting, contact the Town Clerk's Office at (508)760-6112 or Town Administration at (508)760-6148.

3. SELECT BOARD GOALS UPDATES –

Housing Production Plan or HPP –

The Planning Board recommended the Select Board take up the Housing Production Plan for consideration and forward the Plan to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for acceptance.

The Select Board held an extended public comment period.

On August 10th, the Dennis Select Board voted to endorse the 2021 Dennis Housing Production Plan Update, with minor edits as noted, and to send the Plan to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for acceptance.

The minor edits and census data are actively being updated and we anticipate filing with the State in the next week.

Dr. Bottero Road -

Pleased to report the Administration office in coordination with the Department of Natural Resources have coordinated a meeting of the ARC acquisition stakeholders for Thursday August 26, 2021 to update on the work completed to date through grant funding received and to determine stakeholders' interest of pursuing grant opportunities collaboratively as the ARC facility is still as vital to the regions shell fish industry and Dr. Bottero road provides the only means of access.

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Dr Bottero Road Update – as you know in 2015 the Town of Dennis along with project partners including; ARC, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA, the Town of Yarmouth, Barnstable County, Dennis Conservation Land Trust, Compact of Cape Cod and the Nature Conservancy, worked collaboratively to secure funding and acquire a portion of the property located at 99 Chapin Beach Road, in Dennis, MA; known locally as Chase Garden Creek or ARC (Aquaculture Research Corporation).

The County through action of the Assembly of Delegates and both Dennis and Yarmouth through their respective Town Meetings successfully approved of the land acquisition which placed a conservation restriction on the 39.7-acre property restricting development rights on 29 acres and only allow aquacultural production, research, and education on the remaining +/- 10 acres.

Over the last 5 years the Town of Dennis was awarded three grants Coastal Zone Management – to address mitigating the ongoing annual erosion and storm damage along Dr. Bottero Road in the vicinity of Chapin Beach. Dr. Bottero Road is the access to the ARC property. The grants enabled the Town to develop alternative designs, conduct pre-application meetings with the permitting agencies and commence Federal permitting.

We have had several meetings with the State and federal permitting agencies and are still in the Federal permitting process with the Dr. Bottero project. We also began the State permitting process under MESA. Additional measures being required by the agencies to prevent impacts to endangered species and insure the project is maintained after construction. These additional measures are increasing the project cost. The 2016 cost estimates for the life of the project was almost \$3.5 million. IN 2018 revised estimates for life of the project costs were \$5.1 million.

The Dennis Select Board and Dennis Beach Management Advisory Committee have requested a meeting be held with all the ARC acquisition stakeholders to update on the work completed to date through grant funding received, and 2) determine stakeholder(s) interest of pursuing grant opportunities collaboratively as the ARC facility is still as vital to the regions shell fish industry.

At this time, Administration has confirmed the ARC President has indicated his willingness to attend this meeting and we are coordinating the date with all parties for August. I anticipate having this confirmed by the end of this week and I believe Select Board Chairman Flanagan and Board member Sheryl McMahon have expressed an interest in attending the stakeholder meeting as liaisons for the Select Board.

4. DENNIS CHAMBER EVENTS –

As you may know, the Dennis Festival Days and Fireworks were postponed last weekend due to the predicted tropical storm/hurricane event. Please check the Dennis Facebook page and Dennis Chamber website for most up to date information on the rescheduled dates.

<https://www.dennischamber.com/>

Have a great week everyone!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator