

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

1. TORNADO TOUCHES DOWN IN DENNIS -

Dennis residents and visitors were under a Tornado Watch and Warning very early in the morning on Thursday September 2nd, emergency alert notifications were issued by the National Weather Service for Barnstable County.

On Thursday, September 2nd agencies from the Town of Dennis began post Storm Ida damage assessments and cleanup. The town did experience a minimal amount of road flooding as well as trees and utility wires having been damaged as a result of the storm last evening, but cleanup was quick by the Dennis Department of Public Works.

In addition, a representative of the National Weather Service was in north Dennis assessing an area of damage to trees and one residence for a determination on whether a tornado had actually touched down. The National Weather Service-Boston did confirm that an EF-0 tornado had touched down with maximum winds of 75 mph in the area of East Bay View Road and Wampanoag Trail, Dennis.

The Dennis Transfer Station will be accepting storm debris for no charge until September 12, 2021. Nothing over 12 inches in diameter will be accepted.

I want to thank all the Emergency Management, public safety and all town staff that worked in response to the weather event. There have been three tornadoes in the history of Cape Cod and two of which in the last two years have impacted the town of Dennis.

2. COVID-19 UPDATES FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR -

As of today, Dennis is following 11 confirmed COVID cases. The 14-day test positivity rate reported on September 2nd, was 4.41%, which is up from the previous 3.45% reported on August 26th. Barnstable County reports a positivity rate of 3.09% - higher than the previous 2.54% for data collected between August 15th and August 28th.

As of Friday September 3rd, 2021, the three-day average hospitalization rate at Cape Cod Hospital and Falmouth Hospital was 12.7%. A peak of 14.0 % was reported on August 23rd 2021. Hospitalizations remain relatively low and far below what was seen during prior case surges. There have been 16 fatalities reported in Barnstable County since the beginning of the Delta surge in late June early July. Preparation is under way for a COVID booster dose this fall to all fully vaccinated individuals. At this time a third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine is already authorized for those that are moderately to severely immunocompromised. It is highly likely that the rollout booster doses will resemble that of the first vaccinations last winter/early spring, with those that were vaccinated earliest in the rollout, including many health care workers, nursing home residents, then seniors and other high-risk patients, etc.

While a booster shot is anticipated for those that received the J&J vaccine, more data will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

In order to maximize protection of vulnerable individuals from the Delta variant, the Department of Public Health released updated guidance on July 30, 2021 that recommends that a fully vaccinated person wear a mask or face covering when indoors -and not in your own home- if you have a weakened immune system, or if you are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system.

Residents are encouraged to continue frequent handwashing, covering your coughs and sneezes, avoid touching your face with your hands, and to stay home if you are sick. If you think you have been in contact with someone that is COVID positive, please get tested.

3. COA BUILDING PROJECT-

- Punch list is coming along well, approximately 90%
- Final cleaning of the building will be this week and turned over to town for move in.
- Attic stock has been turned over
- Wood floor in ballroom has been removed to be reinstalled, Architect is covering this at no cost to the town.
- There are a few items like screens and appliances that we are waiting on. They have been ordered but due to supply chain delays they have not arrived.
- Turn over documentation has been given to the Architect for review.

4. TRANSFER STATION BUILDING PROJECT –

- Turn over documents are complete
- Punch list is 95% complete
- Final fencing which was delayed due to covid will be installed after the holiday
- A solution for the puddling in the garage bay has been developed and we are getting pricing

5. SEPTEMBER 11TH 20 YEAR - MEMORIAL CEREMONY –

The Town of Dennis will be having a “20th Year remembrance of 911”.

Chief Robert Brown announces, the ceremony will commence at 0900 at the Dennis Fire Department Headquarters, Located at 883 Main St. West Dennis. Light refreshments will be available. Please join us.

6. SPECIAL/ FALL TOWN MEETING DATE, LOCATION -

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 was today September 7, 2021, at 4:00 pm to the Town Clerk's Office.

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.

7. BUDGET/CAPITAL/ANNUAL TOWN MEETING CALENDAR –

Administration and Finance – it is hard to believe, however, as summer is winding down we are quickly moving towards budget preparation for fiscal year 2023. The Select Board is underway with their Boards Goals and I anticipate having a collective set of Board goals shortly, which becomes a part of the budget process as applicable. The Finance Director and I are actively working on the draft overall budget calendar including:

- STM Meeting Preparations
- Tax Classification Hearing
- Fee Hearing
- FY 2023 Budget Preparation, Reviews, Meetings with Departments, SB Review, Finance Committee Reviews.
- FY 2023 Proposed Capital Projects – Reviews, Meetings with Capital Program Committee
- 2022 Annual Town Meeting Preparation
- Approved roadway, building and infrastructure projects – Contracts prioritization and planning.

An overall calendar will be shared with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Departments and applicable Boards and Committees once completed.

8. LABOR DAY –

What a summer this has been! As I look back, I remain proud of everything that has gotten done, been achieved, and accomplished in the Town of Dennis and each of you should be too.

2021 has been another challenging and whirlwind year and especially the summer season for all; we have all been through a lot. I want to give my heartfelt thank you and recognition to all the Town of Dennis employees, seasonal and permanent for all their inspiring work during a challenging time balancing the summer season.

Let us recognize the resiliency of the Town of Dennis employees, and the workforce of all our local businesses' which keeps the Community running and thriving!

I hope everyone had a great Labor Day weekend!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator