

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

1. COVID-19 UPDATES

Update from Dennis Health Department –

The Health Director Kristen Keller reports Dennis continues to be designated as a high-risk community, however, active case counts continue to trend downward. We are currently following 36 active cases within the Town down from 70 two weeks ago.

Barnstable County Case numbers remain high following the post-Christmas and New Year's surge, but are also following a similar downward trend. This is positive news; however, we still must continue taking precautions to prevent community spread.

On Monday January 25th, the Stay at Home advisory was rescinded as was the mandatory early closure of businesses. Capacity restrictions and gathering limits remain in place until February 8, 2021.

The COVID vaccination rollout continues and all groups in Phase 1 are now eligible to be vaccinated.

Phase 2 of the vaccination distribution plan began yesterday for individuals 75 and older. This will be followed later in the month by individuals 65 and older and individuals with 2 or more comorbidities which is consistent with the CDC vaccine guidance. Timelines for the start of each group are largely dependent on the vaccine supply from the federal government.

New mass vaccination sites have been announced at the Eastfield Mall, The Danvers Double Tree Hilton Hotel, and beginning this week a location at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston will be operational. These sites are in addition to the sites previously announced at Gillette stadium and Fenway Park.

Barnstable County has announced two regional sites. The Barnstable county Fairgrounds and the Cape Cod Melody Tent. Currently the announced dates for these clinics are full.

The Commonwealth has partnered with retail pharmacies including but not limited to CVS, Walgreens and Stop and Shop to also schedule vaccinations for all eligible individuals.

Due to the overwhelming demand and still limited supply of vaccine appointments at these locations are limited. As vaccine supply becomes steadier, additional appointments will be added to these locations. There are discussions happening regarding additional locations on the Cape. I do want to stress that this is all dependent on the vaccine supply that we are receiving.

Information and links for Registration for these sites can be found at [Vaccine Registration : Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment \(barnstablecountyhealth.org\)](https://www.barnstablecountyhealth.org/vaccine-registration), www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap, www.maimmunizations.org, [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information and Updates | Dennis MA](https://www.mass.gov/coronavirus)

Cares Act -

February 26th – CARES ACT reconciliation period submission due – reminder was approved for \$22,680 reimbursement to The Family Pantry of Cape Cod. Thank you to ATA Greg Rounseville for all his tireless work on this.

Updated vaccination information will be posted on the Dennis Covid website, the Dennis Facebook page, and by media release.

2. COA BUILDING PROJECT -

I am pleased to report on the status of the COA addition construction;

- Still meeting regularly on project.
- As you know the schedule has been pushed a little due to covid and kitchen equipment delivery issues.
- No cost to town for schedule impacts, final completion looking at May 1, 2021
- Overall project is 90% complete.
- Landscaping will be in the spring
- Interior finishes are ongoing in all areas (flooring, painting, fixtures, etc.)
- Inspections have been ongoing without issue
- Testing of mechanical systems taking place
- No major issues

3. TRANSFER STATION PROJECT –

Here is the latest updates on the transfer station project;

- Still meeting regularly on project.
- About 95% complete.
- Punch list about 95% complete.
- Spring work will be for final paving
- On budget
- New scale gate house operational
- New Storage building and offices operational

4. VETERANS HOME –

Town Planner Dan Fortier shared the following updates on the Veterans Home with me. Excellent collaboration on this project by so many thank you to CIVOC and all the partners who have donated their time or resources.

- Driveway paved last week
- All painting is completed
- Cleaners on site 1-29 to prep for placement of furniture
- Some furniture already on-site in basement
- “Big” move in next week, Cardi’s, Bernie and Phyl’s, Barbo’s, furniture scheduled to arrive this week
- House should be move-in ready by Friday 2-5-21
- CIVOC looking at a staged ribbon cutting, one combination of some on-site and virtual, similar to what FORWARD did; but also thinking of small group (2 or 3) on-site tours for those who want to see the finished product
- Landscaping will be implemented come Spring when the weather will support the project.

5. FIRE STATION 2 BUILDING PROJECT –

January 25th – Contract for site Survey issued to Samiotes Consultants, Inc. – 350 Paddocks Path – Part of Design work for Proposed Fire Station 2 – Work to commence 1st or 2nd week in February.

January 27th – First official Dennis Fire Station 2 Building Committee Meeting. Officers selected; Paul Donlan, Chair, Ronald Polaske, Vice Chair, Leah LaCross, Secretary.

January 28th – Completion of draft contract for Design of Fire Station 2 – for Select Board consideration/approval.

6. FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETINGS –

The Finance Committee has set their budget review meeting dates as follows:

February 9, 2021

- General Government
- Debt
- Public Safety
- Planning & Community Development

February 16, 2021

Joint with Select Board/Finance Committee

- Veterans
- Retirement
- Seasonal Salaries
- Town Insurance (Property Liability Insurance)
- Group Insurance

February 23, 2021

- Public Works
- Health & Human Services
- Culture/Recreation

7. **GRANT UPDATES** – Mass Trails Grant Application submitted by Engineering - the project will make 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 Way 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 as well as minor realignment and widening of the trail and at the crossing. If awarded the grant would fund 80% or \$144,000 with the remaining 20% coming from in-kind services and Chapter 90 funds.

Cape Cod Conservation District Funding - Town Engineer, Tom Andrade, has informed me that the Town has received a \$35,000 Cape Cod Conservation District grant for Stormwater Improvements at the Follins Pond Landing. Limits of work will include the immediate contributing area of impervious area to the Follins Pond Landing. Hi Ms Sullivan,

I am writing to inform you that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) now has funding made available to our local partner, the Cape Cod Conservation District (CCCD) to reimburse the Town for 100% of the cost of the engineering design for the site.

I have attached a revised cost assessment developed after your 9/8/20 letter of interest which considerably reduced the cost of the project as a result of a reevaluation of the needs for the site. It not only affects the construction cost but also the design costs which is of benefit to all.

Once the design is complete, the next step will be permitting which as you know is the sole responsibility of the Town. GHD is able to assist if it is desired. After that, construction can begin as soon as NRCS and the Town have funding available for their respective portions of the cost. We recognize that these are uncertain and challenging times to fund projects. However with the design finished, we will be ready to move forward at the appropriate time.

We are especially pleased to be working with Dennis as this is the first CCWRRP project that we are doing with the Town. We look forward to eventually doing the other stormwater sites identified. In August I met with Julie Early of the Dennis Conservation Trust about their effort at Weir Creek in West Dennis which we have identified as a potential saltmarsh restoration project. So there is lots that we may be able to do.

Steve 

Steve Spear | Conservation Planner - **Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project**
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

8. SWAN POND WATERSHED WASTEWATER UPDATE -

As you know, at your November 17th meeting, the Select Board endorsed the request for an independent study with regards to the conceptually planned Wastewater treatment facility and any impacts to the Swan Pond Watershed.

I am pleased to report I have met with the subgroup as requested consisting of Paul McCormick and John Terrio and Finance Committee members Bob and Peter and we defined the scope for services for the requested wastewater peer review.

We have determined we are able to utilize the towns existing on-call engineering services bid with GHD, which helped tremendously with procurement as well as expediting this peer review.

The cost for services is \$9,000 and we anticipate this peer review to be completed in approximately 30-60 days. Additionally, I have confirmed with the Finance Committee Chair that they will support a reserve fund transfer request for this contract as stated at their meeting requesting this service.

We are hoping to schedule a project kickoff meeting next week.

2-2-21 TA Update

Next step is the peer review kick-off meeting with GHD, which will be held on Thursday this week vis the teams platform; kick-off meeting will cover:

- Introductions

- Project Goals
- Milestones/Schedule
- Discussion of past wastewater work to be reviewed as part of this
- Any other topics that attendees wish to discuss

9. DENNIS LIBRARIES PRESENT A STORY BOARD WALK -

Cindy Cullen Dennis Public Library Director updates the Dennis Libraries are joining together to present a Story Walk during February school vacation week. Starting Monday, February 15th head over to Johnny Kelley Park to take a stroll in the clear air and read "Snow" by author Cynthia Rylant, beautifully illustrated by Lauren Stringer. The Dennis Libraries would like to thank the Recreation Department and DPW for helping with this special event.

Thank you everyone, have a great rest of the week - please stay vigilant, wear a mask and be well!!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan
Town Administrator