

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

JULY 27, 2021

1. SELECT BOARD APPROVE NEW TRANSFER STATION HOURS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

The Dennis Select Board voted on July 20, 2021 to amend the hours of operation for the Town of Dennis Transfer Station. Due to unforeseen staff shortages the Dennis Transfer Station will be closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays until further notice effective Tuesday July 27, 2021.

The new schedule will be open Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please note the Transfer Station is also closed on all legal holidays

For more information, please contact the Transfer Station at (508) 760-6230.

2. SELECT BOARD SET SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DATE -

On July 13, 2021, the Dennis Select Board voted to hold this year's Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 7:00 pm in the Nathaniel H. Wixon Innovation School Auditorium.

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. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - SAVE THE DATE!!!

National Night Out will be on Tuesday, August 3rd from 4pm to 7pm. We are moving it back to Dennis Port this year in the Dennis Port Village Green. Come hang out with the members of our community and grab a bite to eat. It's all free! Invite the family and we hope to see you there.

4. THE DENNIS LIBRARIES PRESENT A SUMMER STORYWALK®

Beginning Monday, July 26th the Dennis Libraries present a summer StoryWalk®. Head on over to Johnny Kelley Park to read Cape Cod Critters: A Fun Look at Cape Cod Wildlife by Lorri Devlin. Each page features local "residents" that you might see during an evening walk or a day at the beach. There is nothing like getting to know your neighbors! Perfect for kids and grown-ups who want to learn more about the Cape environment.

The StoryWalk starts across from the playground and follows the Braille Trail. Come for the read, but stay to enjoy the park's amenities.

The Dennis Libraries wish to thank all our supporters who make events like this possible. Remember to visit each Dennis library in the villages of Dennis, Dennis Port, East Dennis, South Dennis, and West Dennis. The StoryWalk® concept was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed with the help of Rachel Senechal of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

5. CERTAIN PANDEMIC PROVISIONS EXTENDED BY LAW

- Allows a public body to have remote participation by all members in any meeting of a public body without a physical quorum of the body present at the meeting location, through April 1, 2022
- Allows select boards to prescribe the number of voters necessary to constitute a quorum at any town meeting, either representative or open, held through Dec. 15, 2021
- Allows absentee ballots for anyone taking precautions related to COVID-19, through Dec. 15, 2021
- Allows any eligible voter to vote early by mail for any regular or special municipal or state preliminary, primary or general election held on or before Dec. 15, 2021
- Allows for municipal opt-in early in- person voting for any regular or special municipal preliminary, primary or general election held on or before Dec. 15, 2021
- Allows certain licensed establishments to sell alcoholic beverages for off- premise consumption through March 1, 2022
- Allows a city or town to approve a request for expansion of outdoor table service, through April 1, 2022
- Allows a notary public to perform notarial acts using electronic video conferencing in real time, through Dec. 15, 2021

Through adoption of an amendment during debate, the law allows for an extension of a waiver of restrictions on hours worked by retired public employees, though Dec. 15, 2021

6. HYBRID MEETINGS

Updated guidance on holding meetings pursuant to the Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures was provided in a State Guidance Update on June 16, 2021. We have received questions so I am re-sharing this information here.

On June 16, 2021, Governor Baker signed into law An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency. This Act includes an extension, until April 1, 2022, of the remote meeting provisions of his March 12, 2020, Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. The new law has two major parts.

First, the new law allows public bodies to continue providing live “adequate, alternative means” of public access to the deliberations of the public body, instead of holding meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public. “Adequate, alternative means” may include, without

limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body in real time.

Second, the new law authorizes all members of a public body to continue participating in meetings remotely; the Open Meeting Law's requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location remains suspended.

The new law provides that a municipal public body that, for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts, is unable to provide alternative means of public access that will enable the public to follow the proceedings in real time, may instead post a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record on its website as soon as practicable after the meeting. In light of the various free and low-cost technologies that could be used to provide the public with real time access, the Division of Open Government strongly recommends that a municipal public body consult with our office before determining that it is unable to provide the public with real time access to a meeting. Furthermore, this provision is not available for meetings when another general or special law, regulation or a local ordinance or by-law requires allowance for active participation by members of the public, such as in the case of certain public hearings.

All other provisions of the Open Meeting Law and regulations, such as the requirements regarding posting notice of meetings and creating and maintaining accurate meeting minutes, remain in effect. Public bodies are reminded that notice of all meetings must be posted at least 48 hours in advance, not including weekends and holidays, and the meeting notice must clearly specify how the public may access the meeting, whether in-person, remote or both.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/updated-guidance-on-holding-meetings-pursuant-to-the-act-extending-certain-covid-19-measures>

7. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – CDBG GRANT FUNDS

On behalf of Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Karen Polito, I am pleased to award the Town of Dennis a supplemental FY 2019 CDBG-CV grant in the amount of up to \$133,400 from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. This award will amend your original FY2019 CDBG-CV award of \$200,042 from July 2020 by increasing your grant to \$333,442. These supplemental funds are awarded in recognition of the continued need for microenterprise assistance in Dennis, and your community's demonstrated capacity to implement its microenterprise assistance program. This amendment is funded through the CARES Act in order to prepare for, prevent and respond to COVID-19.

Jennifer Maddox
Undersecretary, DHCD

8. MVP GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Great news! I am pleased to share, we were successful with our MVP Grant to fund final design for the Pound Pond Improvements. As the Select Board is aware this is a board goal.

Thanks to Tom Andrade, David Johansen, Karen Johnson and Dan Fortier for all suggestions with application and support letters and to Tighe & Bond for their excellent grant submittal.

Congratulations! I am pleased to notify you that the Town of Dennis has been awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program Action Grant in the amount of \$120,010 to complete the project entitled “Pound Pond, Dennis- Flood Mitigation and Storm drainage Improvements.” We want to thank you for your commitment to implementing priority climate change adaptation actions identified through your MVP planning process, or similar climate change vulnerability assessment and action planning process. We want to commend the Town’s outstanding application to our grant program and look forward to partnering with you on this important project.

Governor Charles D. Baker Lt. Governor Karyn E. Polito

9. CHAPTER 90 UPDATE –

As I previously reported in February tentative Chapter 90 funding – our Chapter 90 funds have been formerly approved now by the Governor.

MassDOT and the Baker/Polito Administration are pleased to confirm \$200 million in new Chapter 90 apportionments for Fiscal Year 2022. Governor Charlie Baker has signed the legislation today.

MassDOT is committed to working with cities and towns to help fulfill your project requests and commitments as expeditiously as possible, so we can have a robust 2021 maintenance and construction season. The District is now able to accept projects requests and reimbursements for Fiscal Year 2022.

MassDOT sent a letter to each municipality at the end of February of this year listing Fiscal Year 2022 apportionments. Your Chapter 90 Fiscal Year 2022 apportionments will also be posted online at:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/chapter-90-apportionment>

Dennis will be receiving \$716,702

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DREDGE GRANT

Very pleased to share Dennis has received an Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development grant for \$75,000 to conduct maintenance dredging of the entrance channel to Sesuit Harbor. Thank you to Harbormaster Dawson Farber for his efforts to secure this important funding.

The proposed project consists of the maintenance dredging of the entrance channel to Sesuit Harbor in Dennis, MA. Sesuit Harbor is home to a municipal marina that accommodates approximately three hundred (300) vessels ranging in size from 13' - 55' in length, a private marina that accommodates approximately one hundred fifty (150) vessels and two (2) public boat launch ramps with parking lots that will accommodate over two hundred (200) vehicles. The harbor provides commercial and recreational vessels with access to the waters of Cape Cod Bay. The entrance channel to Sesuit Harbor is subject to significant shoaling annually due to winter storm events. The Town of Dennis anticipates appropriation, as it has done annually for decades, of \$75,000 for maintenance dredging of this area at

the Annual Town Meeting to be held in May, 2021. Dredging is to be performed in January, 2022 we are requesting a match of \$75,000 within this application for this project

Enjoy your week everyone!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan
Town Administrator