

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

AUGUST 10, 2021

1. 2021 DENNIS POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Chief John Brady is pleased to announce that the Dennis Police Department will be sponsoring its 18th Citizens Police Academy this fall. The CPA will be held on consecutive Tuesdays beginning September 28th and continuing through the following ten weeks. Classes will be held at the Dennis Police Station at 90 Bob Crowell Road in South Dennis from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

The citizens academy in Dennis has long been a great tool for both the police and the community, bringing everyone together to provide a better understanding of the police function. By establishing relationships and connections with the community, an efficient working partnership is developed and helps contribute to the overall safety and high quality of life in the Town of Dennis.

The officers of the Community Operations Unit oversee the administration of the academy and are constantly enhancing and improving the curriculum. This year's topics of instruction will include: Community Policing; Patrol Functions; Investigative Functions; Law; Use of Force and Defensive Tactics; Communications; Specialized Units; and other topics related to policing. Classes are taught by officers that specialize in the particular field of instruction.

Applicants must be 18 years of age and will be subjected to a criminal background check. The number of participants will be capped at 30. Applications can be obtained at the Dennis Police Station, via the department website www.dennispolice.com, or in person at the Dennis Police Department. The deadline to submit an application is September 21th, 2021.

2. DENNIS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 8, 2021 – ARTICLE 34 PROHIBIT SALE OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES, APPROVED BY AG'S OFFICE

Town Clerk, Terri Bunce has advised that the Attorney General's office has notified approval of Article 34 from the May 8, 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

Dear Ms. Bunce:

Article 34 - We approve Article 34 from the May 8, 2021 Dennis Annual Town Meeting. Article 34 amends the Town's general by-laws to add a new by-law prohibiting the sale of single-use plastic water bottles. As further explained below, we approve the by-law because we find no conflict with state law or the state Constitution.

The new by-law imposes a ban, beginning December 31, 2021, on the sale of "non-carbonated, unflavored drinking water in single-use plastic bottles of less than one gallon in the Town." Section 1, "Sale of Single-use Plastic Water Bottles." The by-law defines a single-use plastic bottle as "a beverage container made from any type of plastic resin." Section 2, "Definitions." The by-law provides for exemptions related to a declaration of emergency affecting the availability or quality of drinking water. Section 3, "Exemptions". Lastly, the by-law provides for enforcement by the Town Manager pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 21D. Section 4, "Enforcement."

Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32, neither general nor zoning by-laws take effect unless the Town has first satisfied the posting/publishing requirements of that statute. The Town Clerk will be proceeding with the mandatory posting requirements of publishing in the newspaper for two consecutive weeks. The Town will also be notifying all businesses similar to the educational campaign that was done for the ban on plastic bags.

The new by-law was initiated by a Citizens Petition and approved by Town Meeting and will begin on December 31, 2021.

3. SPECIAL/ FALL 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.

4. SELECT BOARD GOALS UPDATES

➤ 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.

➤ 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.

5. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – THANK YOU!!

Thank you to all who came out in support of our public safety National Night Out! It was wonderful to see everyone in Dennis Port this year at Mike Stacey Park. Great event and well done by the Dennis Police Department and all the departments that participated.

6. RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF JOHN DONLAN

As the Select Board is aware, it is with a heavy heart that I share with the public that our own Assistant Fire Chief John Donlan after 46 years on the Dennis Fire Department will be retiring, his last day will be August 13th 2021.

John joined the Call Department on January 1st, 1975 and was hired full-time on October 1st, 1975. John has been an exceptional public servant and member of the Fire Department team. Rising up through every position in the department including EMS Coordinator, Deputy, Assistant and Acting Chief, is a true testament to his commitment to Department and the fire service.

He will truly be missed by the department and the Town of Dennis. Wishing John and his family well-deserved time together in retirement.

Enjoy your week everyone!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator