

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT  
TO THE SELECT BOARD – OCTOBER 6, 2020**

**1. COVID-19 UPDATES –**

**State DPH COVID-19 Numbers**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health reports the number of positive cases and deaths daily on the state's COVID-19 [dashboard](#).

Town-specific case numbers are published by the state every week on the [COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report](#).

- 111 Dennis cases to date (9/30/2020) Dennis is in the GRAY category with 1.62 cases per 100,000 residents. See the most recent [COVID-19 community map](#).
  
- Currently there are 4 active Dennis cases

**2. DENNIS SPECIAL TOWN MEETING COMPLETED –**

2020 Annual Town Meeting was held on Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 10AM outdoors at the Wixon School under a tent.

Of the 19 articles presented on the Special Town Meeting warrant, 16 were acted upon and approved. Three other previously petitioned articles, placed by the Select Board were indefinitely postponed.

I want to thank the staff for coordinating all aspects of the meeting allowing for this important exercise of democracy to take place in a manner that safeguarded the community's health and to all participants for coming out and exercising their right to vote at this unprecedented event. Thank you also to the CERT team and the DYRSD Facility and school employees that assisted as well.

A complete listing of the articles and actions taken at the 2020 Special Town Meeting, will be posted on our website shortly here – <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/town-clerk/pages/town-meeting-results>.

**3. CAPE COD WATER PROTECTION FUND**

On Wednesday 10/7/2020 there will be a meeting of the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund. The Meeting will include reviewing the draft regulations including any amendments since the last Management Board meeting. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program Eligibilities document describes SRF eligibilities as outlined by EPA. And H4073 was recently passed and made necessary technical corrections to exempt short-term rentals contracted prior to January 1, 2019 from the 2.75% Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund tax.

These meetings are open to the public -

To join Zoom meeting, use the following link: <https://capecodcommission.org/cciwpf/join>

To call in by phone: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 962 3150 0800

Please let me know if you have any questions.

**4. CAPITAL –**

As the Select Board is aware given the covid pandemic and potential impacts to overall budget the 2020 Capital Outlay Plan was bifurcated with some items going forward at the Annual Town Meeting in June of 2020, and several more public safety and public health projects were just approved by Town Meeting this past weekend. The remaining projects were deferred. The Finance Director and I have conferred with the with the Chair of the Capital Outlay Committee on the actions taken to date due to the ongoing health situation. To that end, the Finance Director and I will be reviewing the existing 2021 departmental Capital Outlay Plans and will recommend only those projects that are of a significant priority or those that have been deferred from last year. In speaking with the Capital Outlay Chair, he has indicated the preference is a streamlined process with TA Recommendations for review and a significantly pared down meeting schedule by the committee. Materials will be forwarded to the Capital Outlay Committee in the next week for the Committees review, in the coming months the Capital Outlay Committee will present their recommended plan to the Select Board.

**5. DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, DLS - NOTIFICATION OF FREE CASH APPROVAL –**

9/30/2020

**NOTIFICATION OF FREE CASH APPROVAL - Town of Dennis**

Based upon the un-audited balance sheet submitted, I hereby certify that the amount of available funds or "free cash" as of July 1, 2020 for the Town of Dennis is:

General Fund           \$5,566,888.00

This certification is in accordance with the provisions of G. L. Chapter 59, §23, as amended. Certification letters will be emailed to the mayor/manager, board of selectmen, prudential committee, finance director and treasurer immediately upon approval, provided an email address is reported in DLS' Local Officials Directory. Please forward to other officials as you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Handy  
Director of Accounts  
Massachusetts Department of Revenue

**6. ACADEMY HILL – UPDATE TO THE SELECT BOARD**

At a recent Select Board meeting the Board discussed the Academy Lane subdivision, and specifically the Open Space component of the development in question. The Board gave direction on a process to schedule a conversation with staff from both Conservation and Planning as well as Administration to discuss whether or not the Town holding a Conservation Restriction on the open space parcel would be of interest to the town and further held under the care and custody of the conservation Commission. On Thursday October 1st, I met with DNR Director and Planning Director along with two Conservation Commission members, including the Chair, as well as the Select Board Chair. During the meeting discussion ensued over the open space and the property in question. The members present from Conservation Commission expressed concerns over the town holding a CR over a development, this is not a precedent the town has set. Additionally, concerns were shared over maintaining a development property where much focus is needed on many existing town-owned Conservation properties.

Planning Director updated, that at this time, the developer is actively working towards a Home Owners Association (HOA) that will have the deeded rights to the open space. The covenants in the HOA will be recorded at registry of deeds in perpetuity on the lots within the subdivision. Furthermore,

Conservation and Planning is including specific language which will be included in the HOA covenants finally the town will have enforcement rights under both under Zoning and the Wetlands Protection Act. The HOA covenants are required to be recorded on the master deed prior to any lots being released by the Planning Board.

#### **7. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

The Cape Cod Commission has initiated a stakeholder process to inform development of the Cape Cod Climate Action Plan. We have contracted with the Consensus Building Institute to facilitate this process, which is a component of the [Cape Cod Climate Initiative](#). We know that Cape Cod communities are working hard to address coastal and climate vulnerabilities and we want to work closely with you as we develop this climate action plan to ensure the priorities and needs of municipalities are appropriately incorporated and addressed. To that end, the first set of meetings we are holding are subregional municipal meetings and I'm reaching out to ask that a team from each of your communities be identified to participate. We are asking that each community send 5-6 representatives that might include town administration, staff, appointed committee members from committees such as energy committees, climate action committees, conservation commissions or similar, and select board members. If possible, we'd like your local lead on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program to be one of your representatives.

The Mid Cape subregional meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 8, 2020 from 1:30 – 4:30pm. The meeting will be held virtually and a meeting agenda and details will be shared early next week.

#### **8. TRANSFER STATION HOURS**

Reminder on the Dennis Transfer Station Winter Schedule 2020-2021

The Town of Dennis Transfer Station began the winter schedule, effective Monday, October 5, 2020. The Transfer Station will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and the remainder of the week the schedule will be as follows: Wednesday open 7am to 4pm; Thursday, Friday and Saturday open 8am to 4pm; and Sunday open 8am to 5pm. Any questions or comments, please call the Department of Public Works office at 508-760-6220.

Have a great rest of the week, please take good care!!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator

