

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT DECEMBER 1, 2020**

### **1. COVID-19 UPDATES FROM DENNIS HEALTH DEPARTMENT –**

The Town of Dennis has had 204 confirmed and probable cases since January 1, 2020 with a total of 20 deaths.

As of this morning, December 1, 2020, Dennis had 16 newly confirmed cases and 4 probable cases. Probable cases are those that have tested Antigen positive, but require a PCR test to confirm. We find ourselves in the anticipated second surge of this pandemic. Community spread and transmission risk are on the rise. Since November 11th, Barnstable County has added 779 Confirmed cases. MDPH reports that our fatalities are not accelerating and that we remain in a pattern that was set in early summer. However, hospitalizations have increased significantly since the second week of November. Not all hospitalized patients are symptomatic, but an increasing number of these patients are. As of yesterday afternoon, there were 27 COVID patients hospitalized, with 4 in the ICU. Barnstable County Health is currently working on setting up three testing locations. One in Falmouth, one in the mid cape region and one in the outer cape region for both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. Eligibility criteria is still being defined, however this will include residency in Barnstable County. Testing will be done by appointment only. Testing locations and additional details will be forthcoming.

Schools remain vigilant and are reacting well to new case reports. The States rapid testing program, BinaxNOW, will now be extended to visitors of nursing homes and rest homes to allow visitation of residents while limiting the risk of infection from visitors. More information and guidance can be found on the MDPH website.

As a reminder, face coverings are required for everyone over the age of 5 in all public places, indoors or outdoors, regardless of social distancing. The Governor and MDPH continue to urge residents to limit travel to only those states identified as low risk, which as of November 27th, only Hawaii remains. In addition, I would urge residents to limit their activities outside the home, to only those that are necessary, such as food, medical appointments, and prescriptions. The Stay at home advisory remains in place from 10:00pm to 5:00am.

### **2. UPDATE ON STEPHEN PHILLIPS BOG FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION -**

As you may recall, recently at your October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting the Select Board discussed the Stephen Phillips Cranberry Bog. Discussion ensued over what, if any, maintenance was required of the open space, and potential restoration versus letting revert naturally. Director of Natural Resources Karen Johnson was in attendance. The Board requested that Ms. Johnson follow-up with the Conservation Commission, as the property is under the care and custody of the Commission.

*I have received the following update from the Conservation Commission - The Commission discussed the possible restoration of the cranberry bog on October 29, 2020. Members of the Commission stated that the bog was not desirable for commercial production due to its size and costs for planting, management (including irrigation, and harvesting). The Commission discussed allowing the area to continue transitioning in a natural manner.*

*The Commission does not support a large-scale restoration effort and recommended that the area be managed through the periodic removal of seedling and sapling trees to maintain a pasture*

*environment. They had no objections to mowing of a pathway around the property to allow pedestrian access.*

### **3. CORPORATION BEACH NOURISHMENT-**

In 2014 the Town of Dennis filed a Notice of Intent application for the Corporation Beach coastal bank restoration which included, the placement of coir envelopes along the toe of the coastal bank as well as annual sand nourishment. The Conservation Commission approved the project issuing an Order of Conditions. To date all work has been completed, and the Town is required to annually place sand over the coir envelopes.

On February 2, 2020 the Select Board was given notice that 1,100 cubic yards of sand was required to be placed at Corporation Beach prior to the end of the calendar year, to be in compliance with the order of conditions issued from MA DEP as part of the bank stabilization project (coir envelopes) at Corporation Beach.

- The Town procured the services of Robert B. Our, Company through the Barnstable County Tradesperson Bid in August of 2020 to provide services and materials to complete this beach nourishment project.
- The Town received verification from Briggs Engineering & Testing that the proposed sand to be used for this project was suitable for this use in October of 2020.
- To avoid any conflict with beach users this project was tentatively scheduled for the week after Thanksgiving.
- Due to poor weather conditions this project was moved from Monday to Wednesday of this week.
- It is anticipated that this project will be completed this Friday (December 4<sup>th</sup>).
- To avoid any conflicts with the public and the vendor the lower parking lot will be closed temporarily while work is taking place (Wednesday to Friday from 7:00AM to 5:00PM).

Please be aware the Town is responsible for one other placement next fall to be in full compliant with initial order of conditions.

The Order of Conditions, the permit for this project; Long Term Maintenance Plan associated with the permit specifically requires 1,100 cubic yards of sand be placed atop the coir envelopes annually for a minimum of 5 years - regardless of whether sand is lost to tides or storms.

Thank you everyone, have a great rest of the week, please stay well!!

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan  
Town Administrator