

Town Administrator Report to Select Board – June 2, 2020

TOWN OF DENNIS - COVID-19 UPDATES UNDER STATE OF EMERGENCY

1. The Emergency Operations Command Team continues to meet as needed and standing meetings remotely on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays to discuss the ongoing COVID Emergency Response actions by the Town, as well as review both Federal and State directives and Orders that are issued daily.

Currently as of June 2, 2020 - there have been 93 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Dennis. It's important to remember that most people who are confirmed to have COVID-19 recover. For more state data, visit www.mass.gov/coronavirus

Given the current ongoing COVID Emergency the Select Board has taken the following actions to date:

- Any Capital Raise and Appropriate Projects that could be deferred, have been moved until a Fall Town Meeting
- Dennis Town Meeting has been postponed from May 5th until June 23, 2020
- Dennis Annual Town Election has been postponed from May 12th until June 30, 2020
- The Select Board voted a local option to extend the due date for Real Estate and Personal Property until no later than June 1st
- The Select Board voted to extend the due date for Exemption and Deferral Applications from April 1st to no later than June 1, 2020 This includes Clause: 37-blind, 41C-Elderly, 42-Surviving Spouse-Police, 43-Surviving Spouse-Fire, Veteran's 22, 22A, 22B, 22E, 22D and 22F
- On April 23, 2020 upon recommendation of the Town Administrator and Finance Director, due to the ongoing pandemic the Select Board endorsed a hiring and spending freeze; only essential expenses and those for public health and safety are to be made.

2. **State Issues Additional Business Reopening Guidance**

Governor Baker today released additional details and guidance for reopening businesses in Phase 2. That information can be found [here](#).

The Governor also announced that Phase 2 will now allow reopening of summer camps and childcare facilities. More information on that can be found [here](#).

Dennis Recreation will be Updating on Summer 2020 Programs, Status

on recreational programs for Summer 2020. Due to COVID-19, Recreation continues to work to determine what it can offer this summer.

Governor Issues Additional Phase 2 Guidance, Includes Restaurants & Lodging

Last week Governor Baker provided an update on the Reopening Massachusetts plan and preparations for Phase 2. The state will determine the start of Phase 2 on June 6th.

For full restaurant guidance, [click here](#).

Lodging: Hotels, motels and other lodging businesses will be allowed to expand their operations in Phase 2. Lodging safety standards apply to all forms of lodging including hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, short term residential rentals including Airbnb and VRBO.

Event spaces, like ballrooms and meeting rooms, will remain closed. On-site restaurants, pools, gyms, spas, golf courses and other amenities at lodging sites may operate only as these categories are authorized to operate in accordance with the phased re-opening plan. Lodging operators also must inform guests of the Commonwealth's policy urging travelers to self-quarantine for 14 days when arriving from out-of-state.

For full lodging guidance, [click here](#)

3. TOWN OF DENNIS - COVID-19 PREVENTION CONTROL PLAN

As I outlined in my last update, we are working on ways to resume full staffing in many of our departments, while we also consider when and how to reopen these municipal buildings to the public. With the Governor's instructions, as well as the guidance from the Division of Labor Standards, and reviews by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, we have a guideline of how to accomplish some of this. Even with the latest information, we still believe that it is likely that any gradual reopening will not include (physically) hosting public meetings, and it likely will include a limit to the number of people we have in the building at any given time.

Administration, Human Resources, and Health are completing the Covid-19 Prevention Control Plan. We will share this plan with Select Board members, and the Board of Health, and others once the draft is complete.

4. OLD BASS RIVER ROAD BRIDGE-UPDATE

The Town Engineer, Tom Andrade reports - More good news from MassDOT on the Old Bass River Road bridge. The beams that were repaired last week have passed inspection and the steel work on the remaining two beams was completed this week. The contractor (NEL Corp) is working this weekend to place the last of the concrete. The concrete needs to cure for 5 days and if all goes well and the concrete passes inspection, the contractor may be able to open the bridge to traffic by the second week of June. There will still be some remaining work on Route 6 under the bridge to complete including removing the traffic management devices and some minor paving but that will not affect opening Old Bass River Road to traffic. We will continue to share updates with the public.

5. US CENSUS 2020

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data.

The hand-delivery of census forms to homes scheduled to begin in March was delayed due to COVID-19. Census Takers are resuming "Update Leave" field operations on Cape this week and will be dropping off census forms at the front doors of households which normally receive mail through PO Boxes. These individuals carry official US Census identification cards on their persons when conducting this work.

You don't have to wait for the forms to show up on your doorstep or in your residential mailbox to complete the census. You can go online to <https://2020census.gov/> or <https://my2020census.gov/> or call 844- 330-2020 to complete the census over the phone. I did mine on-line and it was very simple. Please take a few minutes to be counted and help our community receive its share of federal funding for important infrastructure, transportation, housing, and human service programs.

6. COA ADDITION/RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE -

Project schedule has been shifted due to the COVID-19 virus so the October / November timeline for completion will most likely be pushed out. This is due to changes in the construction industry in terms of safety, number of workers on site, manufacturing, vendor availability, etc. The upside of this is that the contractor has agreed to no cost increase from this.

Budget remains in line as we have worked hard to manage the contingency effectively.

The committee has been great to work with and has helped make value added decisions.

The building site work is for the most part complete. Hydroseeding will take place over the next couple weeks.

The building exterior siding and trim is ongoing but in very good shape, the work on this looks incredible. Very detailed.

Interior framing is complete and all trades are roughing in their work.

The architect has been turning around submittals and RFI's well.

7. TRANSFER STATION PROJECT UPDATE -

The overall project schedule still remains in place for a September 2020 completion. The original project schedule had plenty of wiggle room and being that most of the upfront work was site related we have not seen a major Covid impact.

Budget remains in great shape.

Recently excavation hit a stump dump in the area of the new compactors and unsuitable material needed to be removed. No hazmat, just organics. This has since been removed and will be replaced with clean fill. There will be an unforeseen cost associated with this but its something the contingency can cover. This was truly an unforeseen condition and the reason we carry contingencies.

The new scale gate house is scheduled to arrive the middle/end of July.

Building slab and underground routing is complete.

Pre-manufactured metal building frame is up. Roof to be complete by the end of next week and siding components will then start.

Bulk of upcoming work will be the building framing, compactor area, and scale gate house.

Committee and architect have been great to work with and have helped add value to the project.

8. SELECT BOARD & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEET JOINTLY - JUNE 2ND AT 5PM

The Select Board will meet virtually on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 5PM. The agenda includes an update on COVID-19 from our Health Director, updated guidance from the State, a discussion about the Annual Town Meeting Warrant review, and several other items. In addition, a portion of the meeting will be held jointly with the Finance Committee. The full agenda can be found here,

https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/sites/dennisma/files/agendas/board_of_selectmen_finance_committee_meeting_agenda_6-2-2020.pdf

and meeting can be accessed remotely via calling 646-558-8656 meeting id# 781-301-5968.

9. Thank you to First Responders – Highbank Bridge Incident

I want to express my gratitude and thanks all our Emergency First Responders both FD and PD and Harbormaster for all their work On Saturday, May 30, 2020, in their response to the unfortunate incident and drowning in the Bass River at the Highbank Bridge in South Dennis.

Additional agencies also involved with the search included the Dennis/Yarmouth Harbormaster offices, the Massachusetts State Police, The Massachusetts Environmental Police, Barnstable County Rescue Dive Team, Barnstable County Incident Management Team and the American Red Cross.

The incident remains under investigation by Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to the District Attorney’s Office, the Dennis Police Department, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Thank you to all the local government employees and officials that are providing so much support and services during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a challenging week and the public service provided would not be possible without the teamwork of all.

I wish you a good rest of the week. Please do stay well.

Elizabeth C. Sullivan
Town Administrator
Town of Dennis