

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT TO THE SELECT BOARD – JULY 7, 2020

1. COVID-19 UPDATES - KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK –

The Dennis community has done an outstanding job in adhering to COVID-19 protocols and has kept the number of confirmed cases in Town low and our curve flat. With the arrival of summer and the cautious re-opening of businesses, it is easy to become complacent about the measures that have brought us such success. Instead of relaxing our efforts, now is the time to double down to keep the virus in check.

We urge everyone to follow social distancing guidelines, wear a face covering when social distances cannot be maintained, wash hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, and practice proper respiratory etiquette.

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 here](#).

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

1 Dennis cases (7/7/2020)

Phase 3 Began in MA Monday, July 6th

Last week the state announced that Phase 3 of the Reopening Massachusetts plan would begin Monday, with the opening of gyms and fitness facilities, museums and cultural facilities. The Governor also announced revised guidance around the limit on gatherings both indoors and outdoors. Like Phase 2, Phase 3 will have two parts. Phase 3 will also last significantly longer than earlier phases, with Phase 4 not occurring until there is a vaccine. Learn more: <https://www.mass.gov/news/reopening-massachusetts-baker-polito-administration-initiates-transition-to-third-phase-of>

14-day Quarantine Advised for Travelers to MA Including Residents Returning From Out of State Travels

Additionally, Governor Baker reiterated that travelers from out of state and Massachusetts residents returning home from out-of-state travels are advised to quarantine for 14 days. The Governor offered an exception for those traveling from any New England state, New York and New Jersey, given the lower levels of COVID-19 cases in those states.

2. DENNIS REOPENING WEBSITE OFFERS LOCAL REOPENING INFORMATION

The Town will continue to post reopening-related updates to a dedicated website at <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/home/news/reopening-dennis>
Check there for updates as new information is posted.

3. DENNIS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING COMPLETED –

2020 Annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. outdoors at the Wixon School under a tent.

Of the 23 articles presented on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, 18 were acted upon and approved. Five others including all petitioned articles, were indefinitely postponed with the understanding that the Select Board would place all on the next available warrant.

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 Annual Town Meeting, will be posted on our website shortly here – <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/town-clerk/pages/town-meeting-results>.

4. THE 2020 CENSUS -

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States and five U.S. territories.

We need your help in ensuring our community is accurately represented in the 2020 Federal Census. Did you know the deadline for responding to the federal census has been extended through October 31st? As of June 30, 2020, only **33.6%** of Dennis residents have responded to the Census (*Harwich is at 45.9%, Yarmouth 51.3% and Brewster 45.1%*). Let's work together to bring the Dennis number up!

The results of this once-a-decade count will show where communities need more services for families, older adults, and children.

Census Takers, carrying official US Census identification, have begun dropping off census forms at the front doors of households which normally receive mail through PO Boxes. But you don't have to wait for the forms to show up on your doorstep or in your home's mailbox to complete the census. **You can go online to 2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020 to complete the census over the phone.** 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.

5. COA BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES –

- Transformer delivered and set
- Site in great shape – paving and striping complete
- Grass will be replanted in the fall
- Interior mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection are all 99% roughed in
- No issues with material testing
- Substantial completion = Jan 2021
- Final completion = Feb 2021
- Covid 19 safe measures are still in place
- On budget
- Front entrance should be open early August
- Finishes at interior starting

6. TRANSFER STATION PROJECT UPDATES -

- New scale house delivered and in place
- Unsuitable soils removed and replaced with good onsite material to save \$
- Metal building shell is complete
- Interior framing of metal building to start

- On schedule to be complete September 2020
- Install grinder for septic
- On budget
- In process of ordering new trash compactors

7. REPORT FROM DNR -

Plover Updates –

On Monday a nest hatched at Crowes Pasture. ORV access is closed due to the plover chicks and we will be escorting the Shellfish grant holders with the escort plan we have followed before.

Conservation Properties

I regret to inform the Board and the public, we are continuing to experience significant vandalism at the conservation areas: kiosks broken, signs damaged or stolen, fencing broken, and trash. Our gates are being vandalized as well. A comprehensive update for Crowes Pasture management will be presented to the Board at your next meeting.

In the meantime, if you see vandalism please do report this to Natural Resources and or the DPD.

8. JULY 4TH 2020 ACTIVITY SUMMARY –

We had a very busy July 4th weekend here in Dennis, the beaches, harbor and golf were all very busy with activity. Overall, all reports are that it was a busy but safe weekend. Health staff was on all weekend monitoring as well.

Specifically, for the 3-day period of Friday, July 3, thru Sunday, July 5, 2020, the Fire Department responded to 74 emergency calls for assistance, throughout the community.

These calls included emergency medical incidents, carbon monoxide incidents, power lines down, service calls such as lock outs, person in distress, fires, water problems, cooking incidents, unauthorized burning, fireworks, fire alarms and other hazardous conditions and assistance as needed.

The Dennis Police Department responded to 278 calls over the holiday weekend ranging from locations checks, noise complaints, traffic incidents, fireworks, alarms and other assistance as needed.

I want to thank all the employees for everything they did leading up to the Holiday weekend and all throughout. Much appreciation to all our Town teams that worked through the holiday weekend, away from their own families, it was a busy but safe weekend here, on top of some very challenging months we have been dealing with, balancing life and death under the Covid emergency. Simply stated, the staff are all commended for maintaining a safe environment and excellent service to the Community and our visitors.

I wish you a good rest of the week, please do stay well!!

Elizabeth C. Sullivan
Town Administrator
Town of Dennis