

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT  
TO THE SELECT BOARD – JULY 28, 2020**

**1. COVID-19 UPDATES –**

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](#).

Currently there are 3 active Dennis cases as of 7/28/2020.

**2. STATE COVID-19 UPDATES - AUGUST 1ST - NEW STATE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE –**

**UPDATED Guidance for Travelers to Massachusetts:** All travelers arriving to Massachusetts – including Massachusetts residents returning home – are instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days, except that, beginning July 1, 2020, travelers from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, and New Jersey arriving in Massachusetts are exempt from this directive and need not self-quarantine for 14 days. In addition, workers designated by the federal government as essential critical infrastructure workers are exempt from the directive to self-quarantine for 14 days if traveling to Massachusetts for work purposes. All persons are instructed not to travel to Massachusetts if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

**New COVID-19 Travel Order EFFECTIVE August 1, 2020 - [click here for details](#).** Affects all visitors and returning MA residents; failure to comply may result in fine of \$500 per day.

**3. 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 as guidance becomes available.

**4. VETERANS HOME –**

Great news was received, the Barnstable Housing Trust voted to approve a \$90,000 contribution to the Veteran's Home. With that contribution and access to the Community Preservation Committee Grant, the home is fully funded. From here forward, fund raising can focus on eliminating the need to carry a mortgage on the home and allow CIVOC to dedicate operating revenues strictly to the needs of the residents.

Other recent accomplishments include the installation of the septic system by Robert B. Our and Mid-Cape Home Centers raising \$14,300 through its silent auction and fishing derby to benefit the house.

Thank you to the Cape and Island Veterans Outreach Center for all their work on this important project.

**5. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES FROM SENATOR CYR –**

Dear Town Managers/Administrators, Select Board/Town Council Chairs, and Superintendents, I am writing with **exciting news!** related to Chapter 70 funding and local aid, one that I hope will provide clarity as you work to plan your budgets and prepare for the upcoming school year. COVID-19 has presented a huge challenge for our communities and schools, and there’s been much uncertainty in what you can count on for state support.

Notwithstanding the unprecedented realities facing the Commonwealth today, the Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means have reached an agreement on an interim budget for FY21 includes:

1. **Maintenance level state funding for Chapter 70 at FY20 levels, adjusting for and including inflation.**
2. **A guaranteed minimum for local aid has been established at the FY20 level.**

Here is the joint statement from the Senate and House Ways & Means Chairs:

*“Today, the Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means have agreed to a three-month interim budget that will provide near-term fiscal stability for our Commonwealth.*

*We are committed to finalizing a full-year budget that is fiscally responsible and responsive to the needs of our state, but key to developing that budget is further clarity around potential federal action, our economic recovery and continued trajectory of COVID-19.*

*Monitoring these outstanding issues, as well as the full scope of our revenue shortfall and resources, is our top priority and once better information is available, we will take action on a final FY2021 framework.*

*In the meantime, we believe this approach is the most prudent and responsible path forward.”*

Respectfully,  
Julian

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Julian Cyr  
State Senator  
Cape and Islands District  
State House, Room 309  
Boston, MA 02133

**6. DENNIS RECEIVES SPECIAL CDBG FUNDING GRANT –**

The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$19.6 million for municipalities to address emergency needs in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. This funding will support 174 communities in their work to provide vital services to low-income residents and small businesses affected by the recent outbreak.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) made this \$19.6 million award through the federally-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Congress allocated new emergency funding for the program through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act – the CARES Act – to address substantial needs in low and moderate-income communities affected by the pandemic. DHCD has received \$46 million in special CDBG funds so far, and is distributing funding across municipalities and stakeholders to meet increased needs, with a focus on helping households maintain housing stability.

**Dennis will receive \$200,042 for microenterprise (owner with fewer than 4 employees) assistance and for a grocery and meal delivery program for elders and HEAD start students.**

We are waiting for guidance (and contracts) from DHCD. Typically we will work with our grant consultant Alice Boyd who will advertise that the funds are available and micro enterprises will be required to complete an application and income qualify. Once we qualify a business there will be a forgivable loan of \$10k issued to each applicant.

**7. HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN -**

I am pleased to update that recently the Planning Department requested Quotes from three companies that commonly perform the services necessary to create a “Housing Production Plan”. There was only one quote submitted. “**Barrett Planning Group, LLC**” is the apparent lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Upon requesting information regarding “no bid” from prospective bidders, both indicated that they were “too busy” to conduct this work at this time. I recommend that the Town of Dennis award the aforementioned bid to **Barrett Planning Group, LLC** as per quote. The following quotes were submitted:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Total Price</b>
<b>Barrett Planning Group, LLC</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Karen Sunnarborg Consulting</b>	<b>No Bid</b>
<b>Lynne D. Sweet</b>	<b>No Bid</b>

The Town is required to update its Housing Production Plan every five years. The plan depicts progress we are making towards affordable housing and our plans for the next five years. State and Federal revenue sharing can be denied without a plan. This work will be completed through available Community Development Block Grant Funding, (separate from the further funding the town just received).

Have a great rest of the week, please do stay well!!

Elizabeth C. Sullivan  
Town Administrator  
Town of Dennis