

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT TO THE SELECT BOARD – AUGUST 25, 2020**

### **1. COVID-19 UPDATES –**

The MA Department of Public Health (MDPH) changed the way cases are reported in the state on August 12, 2020. Cases and deaths are no longer reported by county. Instead the daily dashboards focus on the statewide cases, deaths, testing and 7-day rolling averages of positive test results.

On a weekly basis (Wednesdays after 4 p.m.), MDPH is releasing information on individual cases and testing for individual cities and towns including a color-coded map which reflects increasing, decreasing, or no change to case counts over the previous two weeks. The daily and weekly data is available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>.

Currently there are 1 active Dennis cases as of 8/25/20.

### **Covid -19 Safe Practices Concern Form**

The Commonwealth, in recognition of the concerns that members of the public may have regarding businesses and/or individuals not complying with the Commonwealth's travel advisory quarantine, face covering, gathering, or other public health rules has created a form, available on its website, with which those concerns may be reported: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/covid-safe-practices-concern-form>.

Concerns may be reported locally to the Health Division at 508-760-6158.

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.

### **2. SAVE THE DATE - SELECT BOARD SETS SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DATE, LOCATION**

The Select Board voted today to set the Fall Special Town Meeting to Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 10AM. Like Spring Town Meeting, Special Town Meeting will be held outdoors in the Wixon School parking lot to allow for COVID-19 safety measures. More information will be forthcoming.

### **3. FIRE STATION 2 UPDATE –**

Update - Article 14 "Owner's Project Manager, Design and Engineering for Fire Station" (ATM June 23, 2020

- Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup> opened proposals, distributed to selection group.
- Total of nine proposals received.
- Met with selection group August 19<sup>th</sup> and unanimously selected three top candidates for interviews.
- Secured Police Station meeting room for Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> for interviews. All three candidates have confirmed date and times.
- Intention to tentatively select OPM August 28<sup>th</sup>, start OPM negotiations first week in September, and subsequently award.
- Intent to start designer selection process immediately after award.
- Designer Selection (Architect) anticipated in December 2020.

#### **4. CAPE COD COMMISSION SEEKING STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

Stakeholders and organizations to work together to increase environmental and economic resiliency  
The Cape Cod Commission is continuing its efforts to address the impacts of climate change in our region. Mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to its effects on Cape Cod involves regional planning and policy decisions with both environmental and economic considerations.

Stakeholders are being sought to participate in a region-wide effort to identify strategies and contribute to the Cape Cod Climate Action Plan.

Participating organizations are being sought to assist in the process by hosting facilitated focus groups, assisting with survey outreach, and providing expertise and perspective.

Further information on the stakeholder process and call for participating organizations can be found on the Cape Cod Commission's newly updated Climate Initiative webpage which highlights current and ongoing efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change in our region.

Cape Cod faces unique challenges due to its geography and geology, historic connection to the sea, and the number of residences, businesses and critical infrastructure located in its most vulnerable areas. The extent of threats facing the Cape Cod region requires coordinated action and broad community efforts.

All interested stakeholders are encouraged to submit a stakeholder interest form:  
<https://cccom.link/stakeholders>

All interested organizations are encouraged to submit a letter of interest  
as detailed here: <https://cccom.link/organizations>

#### **5. UPDATE ON ENERGOV**

In speaking with the Building Commissioner and MIS Director, I am pleased to inform you that the Town will be launching its new online permitting and application platform very soon in mid-September. This new software is designed to afford the public the ability to submit electronic applications as well as search public records. In addition to applying online, payments will also be accepted giving the consumer the ability to complete their entire process remotely. A detailed user-friendly dashboard will also be available for any public who registers as a user. This dashboard will allow home owners and contractors a single location to view and interact with all permits and applications filed with the town. Furthermore, inspectors and field agents will now have the ability to provide instant results to consumers when conducting field inspections through real time tablet applications. The goal of this new system is to enhance the customer service from the town while allowing the convenience of conducting business with the town remotely.

As you know the Select Board and Town Meeting overwhelmingly supported this new technology as part of the overall Technology Plan in 2019.

Thank you to Nick Mayo our Building Commissioner for all his support and work on this initiative, and to all the departments for all their tireless work in this process.

**6. CABLE CONTRACT –**

The contract with our cable provider, Comcast will expire next in July of 2021. Every 10-years cities and towns have a cable renewal process generally called ascertainment.

The process is designed to determine two separate things, both of which are essential to renewal negotiations: (1) is the cable operator in compliance with its current license?; and (2) what are the Town’s future community cable-related needs?

The town will procedurally notify the cable provider of commencement of formal renewal proceedings. A survey will also be utilized to determine our local subscribers satisfaction with our current provider. At an upcoming meeting an overview of the process will be given to the Board, and over the next few months, the Board will identify and determine meetings dates for potential public hearings for this process.

**7. SCARGO TOWER PROPERTY UPDATE -**

I am pleased to share, starting tomorrow, August 26<sup>th</sup> the Scargo Tower property will reopen after many months of being closed due to repairs on the Tower. At this time only the site will be accessible not the Tower. The Tower itself is not able to be open at this time due to Covid construction protocols.

Scargo Tower signs will be in place the areas will be “Closed at 9 p.m.” have been relocated to gate entrance.

The gate will open daily in the morning and close daily by 9PM.

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

Elizabeth C. Sullivan  
Town Administrator  
Town of Dennis