

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT  
TO THE SELECT BOARD – SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

**1. COVID-19 UPDATES –**

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 2 active Dennis cases as of 9/7/20.

**2. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, DATE, LOCATION**

The Select Board voted the Fall Special Town Meeting date; 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.

Town Meeting logistics

- Undercover Tent - \$6,714.50
- United Site Services (Toilets) - \$1,225
- Buster Brown (Deputy Chief Fire) working on Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to assist with Parking.
- Same setup as Annual Town Meeting
- Contacted Sandra Cashen (DY Facilities Manager) to assist with podium, flags, extension cords, etc.

**3. CAPE COD WATER PROTECTION FUND MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING**

I will be attending the next meeting of the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund Management Board, which will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 4pm via Zoom.

As you may know, the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund was signed into law as part of the short term rentals bill by the Governor on December 28, 2019.

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2018/Chapter337>

For information on the short-term rental legislation implementation here is a link to the Department of Revenue's FAQs: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/short-term-rentals-frequently-asked-questions>

*What is the purpose of establishing the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund?*

The Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund (CCIWPF) was created to capture \$1 billion in state revenue to help Cape Cod towns pay for upgrading their wastewater plans. By assessing a 2.75% excise tax on traditional lodging and short-term rentals, visitors to the region would help contribute toward the steep price of wastewater upgrades needed to accommodate the population surge during the summer season. Once realized, the fund will provide \$1 billion in property tax relief to property owners and businesses toward the \$4 billion price tag.

*What is the CCIWPF?*

The CCIWPF is a dedicated fund within the state's Clean Water Trust set up to solely benefit communities on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. The fund is administered by the existing Clean Water Trust and overseen by a management board comprised of representation from every member town from the region.

#### **4. HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN**

- The Housing Production Plan Update was kicked off on August 24<sup>th</sup> with a meeting of key people from the Planning Board, Dennis Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, Community and Economic Development Committee and Zoning By-law Study Committee, as well as the relevant Selectmen Liaison to these committees.
- This past week these same people reviewed a draft Community Housing Survey.
- Tomorrow, September 9<sup>th</sup> the Community Housing Survey will go live and be available for a month to collect responses.
- September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm there will be a community wide webinar Listening Session run by our consultants, Judi Barrett and Jennifer Goldson.
- September 26<sup>th</sup> the consulting staff will hold several village targeted listening sessions on housing with concurrent sessions in all five villages occurring at both 10 am and 1 pm.
- Community Housing Survey will close on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- A second community wide listening session webinar will occur on October 28<sup>th</sup>

#### **5. LABOR DAY**

What a summer this has been! As I look back, I remain proud of everything that has gotten done, been achieved, and accomplished in the Town of Dennis and each of you should be too. There are many lessons we have learned throughout this summer but much to be grateful for as well.

It certainly has been a challenging and whirlwind year and including summer season for all; we have all been through a lot. I want to give my heartfelt thank you and recognition to all the Town of Dennis employees, seasonal and permanent for all their inspiring work during a challenging time balancing the summer season with a focus on health as the number one priority.

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

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator