

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 10, 2023

1. WASTEWATER PHASE 1 DESIGN UPDATES

- Wastewater Superintendent Updates
- Sewer Rules & Regulations -Working on draft and discussions with the Board of Health.
- Notice of Intent (NOI) – Anticipate document to be prepared and submitted within the next month (well before the January 8, 2024 deadline).
- DEP Watershed Permit – Will pursue the permit after Town Meeting in May 2024.
- Financial Analysis -The Abrahams Group is under contract with GHD to develop a financial model that will show the estimated cost impacts of Phase 1. The timeframe to conduct this is from October 2023 to December 31, 2023.
- Public Outreach - Updating “Frequently Asked Questions”
- Pumping Station Locations – Met with the private property owners.
- Tours have (or will) occur for the following facilities:
 1. Kingston, MA,
 2. Provincetown, MA and
 3. Falmouth, MA
 4. Plymouth, MA (10-20-23)
- CDM is working with IT, DFD & DPD regarding various design items for the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF)

Treatment Facility/ WRRF:

- Delivered 60% design drawings, technical specifications and Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) in August
- Scheduled to deliver 90% design and cost estimate to Town in early December
- Initiated planning for contractor pre-qualification process with official notice scheduled to be advertised in early December
- Delivered site drainage analysis
- Presented project to Town Department Heads
- Met with Deputy Fire Chief to review design and safety considerations
- Submitted final Project Evaluation Form (PEF) related to MassDEP State Revolving Fund loan program
- Submitted Notice of Project Change (NPC) to MEPA office as required by CWMP Approval Certificate

Collection System Design:

- Continued development of Phase 1 pipeline design drawings
- Working toward 60 percent design submittal in October
- Met with private property owners at proposed pumping station locations
- Obtained approval from D-Y School Committee to locate pumping station on Ezra Baker property
- Performed initial archaeological screening of 5 pumping station sites
- Developing geotechnical drilling program for pipelines and pumping stations

2. COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT COASTAL HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY GRANT

Great news! Town Engineer, Tom Andrade updates, we have been working with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) on several grants to improve water quality at boat ramps. Through a Southeast New

England Program (SNEP) grant, APCC developed a prioritization list for boat ramps across Cape Cod. Engineering included a number of ramps in Dennis but focused on the two ramps on Scargo Lake, one off Route 6A and one off the Dr. Lord's Road South lot. These sites made the short list and were included in a subsequent grant through the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grant described below. The **Dennis sites will receive \$500,000** of the \$795,908 listed below as "Yarmouth" for final design, permitting and construction of the two sites. The grant will allow for stormwater and water quality improvements to be made in the Fall 2024/Spring 2025 timeframe.

This work is in addition to the 7 boat ramps we know have under contract through NRCS and the Weir Creek grants we have through SNEP and NFWF.

The main reason we were prioritized on all of these grants is because the Town had matching funds available to take advantage of these grants. The ARPA funds that the Select Board approved for water quality projects being the main source and Engineering's drainage capital request.

\$2.1 Million in Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grants Announced



On September 29, EEA announced \$2,126,159 in grant funding for projects to protect coastal habitat and water quality in Massachusetts. The CZM [Coastal Habitat and Water Quality \(CHWQ\)](#) Grants support efforts to address polluted stormwater runoff to further protect coastal water quality and habitat, develop comprehensive coastal habitat restoration plans, and implement priority habitat restoration actions. One priority of the grant program is to support implementation of stormwater green infrastructure, which uses approaches that replicate natural processes to filter and treat pollutants in runoff. The ten funded projects—which are matched by \$544,118 from municipal and non-profit sources, demonstrating a strong local commitment to coastal water quality and habitat— will help keep beaches and shellfish harvesting areas open and advance coastal habitat restoration planning.

Association to Preserve Cape Cod - \$761,137 to complete permitting and final designs of green stormwater infrastructure at four public boat ramps sites as well as construction at two of these sites to treat stormwater for nutrients and bacteria and improve water quality and recreational opportunities. This work involves several municipal, regional, and federal partners and builds off assessment work supported by previous CZM funding.

Yarmouth - \$795,908 to develop green stormwater infrastructure designs for five priority sites, resulting in the permitting and installation of two stormwater BMPs. This project, which builds on assessment work supported by previous CZM funding, will improve water quality for fish and wildlife habitat and reduce beach closures.

3. LIBRARY HAPPENINGS AT THE DENNIS PUBLIC LIBRARY **NEW ENGLAND GHOST SHIP PROGRAM**

On Saturday, October 21st at 11:30 a.m. author Jill Farinelli will discuss her book *The Palatine Wreck: The Legend of the New England Ghost Ship*. Two days after Christmas in 1738, a British merchant ship traveling from Rotterdam to Philadelphia grounded in a blizzard on the northern tip of Block Island, twelve miles off the Rhode Island coast. Shortly after the wreck, rumors began to circulate that the passengers had been

mistreated by the ship's crew and by some of the islanders. The stories persisted, transforming over time as stories do and, in less than a hundred years, two terrifying versions of the event had emerged fueled by reports of a fiery ghost ship first seen drifting in Block Island Sound on the one-year anniversary of the wreck. These tales became known as the legend of the Palatine, the name given to the ship in later years, when its original name had been long forgotten.

So how did the rumors begin? What really happened to the Princess Augusta and the passengers she carried on her final, fatal voyage? Through years of painstaking research, Jill Farinelli reconstructs the origins of one of New England's most chilling maritime mysteries.

LOCAL AUTHOR PROGRAM

On Thursday, October 26th at 6:00 p.m. the Dennis Public Library will host a local author event. So, you might ask, how does one start writing a historical fiction book series? Where does one gain knowledge and insight sufficient to breathe life into an ancient world, a world whose inhabitants have long-since perished? Local Cape Cod author E. A. Meigs will speak on her writing/illustrating career and the many experiences that have brought her to this juncture in life.

SHAKESPEARE PROGRAM

On Saturday, October 14th at 12:00 p.m. local actor and retired English teacher Rod Owens will host the premiere performance of his one-man show Come Here, Shakespeare! The performance includes twelve characters and fifteen scenes from five plays: As You Like It, The Tempest, Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice, and King Lear.

Please call the library at 508-760-6219 to register for these programs.

4. EVERSOURCE ENERGY UPDATES

The cost of electricity (as well as natural gas for home use) is expected to once again increase when we transition from summer to winter rates on January 1, as a result of limited natural gas supply caused by global events and high demand.

We don't yet have specific winter energy supply rates but are reaching out to all our stakeholders to make them aware of the likely increase and encourage them to take action and help make their residents and constituents aware of the ways they can manage their energy usage. We'll file proposed rates with the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) in mid-November, and the approved new rates will take effect January 1, 2024.

We recognize the financial burden that high energy prices place on our customers, especially as the costs of other goods and services have increased. Here are some of the programs and services that we're letting customers know are available to help:

Visit <https://Eversource.com/manage-cost> to learn more about the programs available to help you pay or manage your bill this winter.

Eversource, a Sponsor of Mass Save, is proud to bring our electric and natural gas customers energy-saving programs and offers.

Residential customers are encouraged to visit <https://eversource.com/home-savings> for information including seasonal tips and offers plus access to programs and rebates to help you reduce your energy

use leading up to and during this winter. (Some programs have a lead time for appointments, so we encourage customers to act now.)

Enroll in Budget Billing to set up predictable monthly payments and even out bill spikes during heating and cooling seasons.

Learn about special assistance programs and payment plans to lower your monthly payments, forgive past due balances, or enable you to pay over time. We encourage any customer who's having trouble paying their bill to contact us so we can connect them with the programs or assistance that's best suited for them.

Changes in our supply rate do not affect customers who obtain energy from other suppliers or participate in municipal aggregation programs. However, current rates for many aggregation programs are scheduled to expire late this year, and due to current market conditions, those customers will likely be exposed to higher rates than in previous years. We've notified community officials that we plan to send a general communication to these customers, recommending that they compare available rates and be aware of their options.

As you know, Eversource does not produce electricity, but purchases energy to meet customers' electric needs throughout the year. Eversource does not earn a profit on the cost of energy and charges customers only what the company pays in the energy market.

Thank you for your consideration, and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Community Relations & Economic Development – Massachusetts

5. DEP SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS RECOVERY PROGRAM GRANT

Great work by our Transfer Station Foreman Chad Contonio and the DPW team in securing this recycling grant.

Congratulations! It is my pleasure to inform you that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has awarded the Town of Dennis Recycling Dividends Program funds under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. The Town of Dennis has earned 15 points and will receive \$16,500. The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) was created under 310 CMR 19.300-303 and the Green Communities Act, which directs a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates to recycling programs approved by MassDEP. This year, we are awarding \$5.2 million in SMRP funding to 283 municipalities and regional groups.

Recycling programs play a vital role in limiting our dependence on landfills and incinerators, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting economic activity in the Commonwealth. Recycling Dividend Program funds foster investment in local programs including recycling equipment, organics diversion, outreach and education, pilot programs, school recycling, toxics reduction, and more. Please refer to the RDP Approved Expenses List for more information. MassDEP has invested in developing nationally recognized tools to assist municipalities with reducing recycling contamination and improving public awareness of smart recycling practices. We encourage you to utilize the Recycling IQ Kit and Recycle Smart MA website and to consult with your MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator for assistance in implementing these best practices.

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

6. CAPE COD REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY DENNIS TOWN REPORT

The Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) has provided a total of 44,698 one-way passenger trips across all services in the town of Dennis from July 2022 through June 2023 (FY23).

CCRTA provided 86 ADA trips for Dennis residents. CCRTA also provided 20 Dennis residents with 50 trips to Boston area hospitals through the Boston Hospital Transportation service.

CCRTA provided 278 Dennis residents with 11,204 DART (Dial-a-Ride Transportation) trips during FY23. Total DART passenger trips in the fifteen towns of Cape Cod were 119,526 in FY23.

The fixed route Hyannis to Orleans (H20) serves the towns of Barnstable, Yarmouth, Dennis, Harwich, Chatham, Brewster and Orleans along the Route 28 corridors. A total of 33,358 one-way trips originated in Dennis for the H20 route for the period July 2022 through June 2023. Total ridership for the H20 route for this period was 151,496.

CCRTA supplied the Dennis Council on Aging with three Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) vehicles that provided 2,130 rides from July 2022 through June 2023.

Route maps, schedules, fares, Google Transit Trip Planner and the latest news about Cape Cod public transportation services are provided at www.capecodrta.org, as well as links to many other transportation resources.

7. NEXT MEETING DATES OF THE DENNIS SELECT BOARD

The Dennis Select Board will meet on October 24, 2023 at 4:30PM for regularly scheduled business. Upcoming meeting dates of the Select Board can be found on the [Town of Dennis website here](#).

All are welcome to attend and participate in our open and public meetings. The agenda for each meeting is posted 48 business hours prior to the scheduled meeting time and can be accessed through the Select Board's webpage or the Town calendar webpage.

Attend in-person at the Town Hall, Stone Meeting Room. Or for alternative public access join the meeting online via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7660036712> or participate by phone by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and entering Conference ID 766 003 6712 #.

8. TOWN OF DENNIS IS HIRING

Apply and View current job openings [here](#).

Have a great week!

Respectfully,
Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator