

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

1. 187 DEPOT STREET/VIC HALL RFP INFORMATION SESSION

Please join us. The Town of Dennis will hold an Information Session on Thursday, November 30th at 5:00 PM at the Dennis Public Library in the Benjamin and Ruth Muse Meeting Room, regarding the use 187 Depot Street (site of VIC Hall) in Dennis Port for housing and the related RFP released by the Select Board on October 25, 2023. RFP is located on the Town's website – Online Services – Procurement page.

Town officials will provide background on the project and how the RFP was developed. RFP timeline and technical process also will be reviewed. For any questions, please contact the Town of Dennis Administration Office at 508-760-6148.

2. TOWN OF DENNIS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The Town of Dennis Childcare Subsidy Program was funded to provide financial assistance for 50 local families with children who are under five years old as of August 31, 2023, for the program period September 1, 2023 -August 31, 2024.

As of today, we have approved 25 eligible families who are now receiving assistance childcare leaving 25 available subsidies for this first year of the program. We will continue to accept applications on a rolling basis until the limit is reached.

For more information, an application form and a required document list please visit The Town of Dennis official website or follow the link below:

<https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/699/Childcare-Subsidy-Program>

3. LIBRARY HAPPENINGS AT THE DENNIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE DENNIS LIBRARIES PRESENT...	
	
A series of programs and activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of one of the nation's most iconic events - The Boston Tea Party.	
Thursday, 11/16 4-6 pm Jacob Sears Library	Dr. John Strudwick, British Economic Historian & Tea Enthusiast, will discuss everything about tea - it's history, economic influence, and cultural importance.
12/2 to 12/16 Dennis Memorial Library	Kids Boston Tea Party StoryWalk, craft, gift, and more! Open during the Library's open hours.
Friday, 12/8 1 pm West Dennis Library	Join local historian Ron Peterson for a talk about the Boston Tea Party and its connections to the people and places of Cape Cod.
Saturday, 12/9 12:30 pm Dennis Public Library	The Boston Tea Party wasn't just attended by men. Join Anne Speyer, long time educator, to hear about the women who helped shape this pivotal event in American history.
Saturday, 12/16 10 am - 12 pm South Dennis Library	"Boston Tea Party" PARTY! Come celebrate with a scavenger hunt, crafts, games, cookies, and of course, Tea! All ages welcome. Costumes encouraged!

4. CAPE COD COMMISSION REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY NEARING COMPLETION

The Cape Cod Commission is nearing the end of a yearlong process to create the Regional Housing Strategy, a plan that aims to identify policies, strategies, and appropriate areas for housing development and redevelopment to address our housing supply, affordability, and availability challenges while protecting our sensitive resources.

The Regional Housing Strategy examines ways to combat these challenges and create an environment that supports and sustains affordable, accessible year-round housing for those who live and work here, in a way that is context-sensitive and environmentally conscious.

The planning process began in late 2022 with a series of meetings with individual towns to discuss existing challenges, efforts, resources, and needs. Staff and consultants then gathered background information, conducted a needs assessment and a zoning analysis, and created data-driven housing profiles for each Cape Cod town and the county.

A series of subregional stakeholder meetings began in 2023, designed to gather broad input from a range of perspectives across the region. Stakeholders included housing organizations and advocates, town representatives, builders, developers, realtors, business owners and employers, chambers of commerce, nonprofit and civic organizations, and conservation and environmental organizations.

Through these meetings, staff and stakeholders reviewed baseline data, discussed housing challenges and ways to define success, reviewed and built consensus on high-impact strategies and defined pathways for implementation. Now, as the work to compile the strategy nears completion, staff is once again meeting with individual towns to solicit feedback on both regional recommendations and local opportunities.

Cape Cod's housing challenges are exacerbated by the fact that in many places, multifamily housing is not allowed, too expensive, or too complicated to build. For residents, it's too expensive to maintain or secure housing, and it's difficult to find and keep year-round housing.

Preliminary results from a zoning analysis found that single-family development is allowed by-right in most places in most towns. Conversely, multifamily—in this case three- and four-units of housing (or more)—is allowed to be built by-right on only 2% of Cape Cod's zoned land. And this is only what is allowed under zoning, not what may actually be viable areas for potential development or redevelopment. Zoning changes are local decisions. The Commission is working to identify and develop resources for our municipalities to support local zoning changes in appropriate places to allow for greater housing choices and opportunities in our region. Zoning changes will play a pivotal role in addressing our housing challenges but are only one of several key recommendations which will comprise the focus of the Regional Housing Strategy.

The Commission expects to release a draft of the Regional Housing Strategy in December, with key regional recommendations related to policy and permitting; land acquisition and development; funding and financing; and communication, education, and support.

5. NEXT MEETING DATES OF THE DENNIS SELECT BOARD

The Dennis Select Board will meet on December 5, 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 #.

6. TOWN OF DENNIS IS HIRING

Are you or someone you know looking for work? The Town of Dennis is hiring! Several full and part-time positions available. Apply and View current job openings [here](#).

Have a great week!

Respectfully,
Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator