

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

## JULY 30, 2024

### **1. TOWN OF YARMOUTH RECEIVES MASS DREDGING PROGRAM GRANT FOR \$157,000**

I am pleased to report, I received correspondence from the Secretary of Economic Development regarding the joint grant Yarmouth and Dennis received to dredge the Bass River. "Thank you for applying to the FY25 Annual Grant Round for the Massachusetts Dredging Program. On behalf of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, I am pleased to inform you that a grant in the amount of \$157,000 has been approved for the Yarmouth-Dennis Bass River Dredging Project, submitted by the Town of Yarmouth (Grantee)."

Thank you to Harbormaster Dawson Farber for his assistance with this much needed grant funding to provide dredging to this important waterway.

### **2. DENNIS FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES A \$70,768 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR FIRE HOSE REPLACEMENT**

West Dennis – The Dennis Fire Department received a \$ 70,768 FEMA Grant for firefighting hose through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. Fire Chief Chris Guerreiro was notified by the Department of Homeland Security of the award this past week. The grant will allow the department to replace all of its firefighting hose. Assistant Chief Geoffrey Mulholland wrote the application for the grant and will be in charge of administering it.

"Grants like this are a perfect example of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program having a direct and immediate positive impact in our communities," said Chief Guerreiro. "We have been working together with the State Fire Marshal over the last year on developing our grant writing program. The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Management Training Program has been an important part of our development and we credit Fire Marshal Jon Davine and his staff for their continued commitment to the development, training and support of the fire service and our department."

Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed resources for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

### **3. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT – NEW FIRE STATION 2 OPENS!!!**

The Dennis Fire Department is proud to announce that on Monday July 15th, 2024 at 08:00 AM the new Dennis Fire Station 2 located at 350 Paddocks Path officially opened and the Dennis Fire Station 2 located at 1015 Old Bass River Road is no longer being used for emergency services.

Headquarters Station will remain located at 883 Main Street (Route 28) in West Dennis.

Any Fire Department Business related matters will continue to be conducted there.

**In the event of an Emergency please Dial 9-1-1.**

### **4. CAPE COD COMMISSION REGULATORY UPDATE | JULY 2024**

**Published Jul 29, 2024 <https://www.capecodcommission.org/about-us/newsroom/regulatory-update-july-2024/>**

*This Regulatory Update provides a status on projects currently under review by the Cape Cod Commission. Visit [www.capecodcommission.org/regulatory](http://www.capecodcommission.org/regulatory) for a full overview of our Regulatory program and answers to frequently asked questions.*

**One Love Lane (CCC File No. 24018)**

1 Love Lane, Dennis

The Cape Cod Commission received a Discretionary Referral from the Town of Dennis Planning Board on July 3, 2024. The building permit which is the subject of the referral is for interior renovations to a building

formerly used as a nursing home. The Commission discussed the matter during the July 25, 2024 Cape Cod Commission meeting and voted to not accept the discretionary referral as it did not meet the criteria for review as a Development of Regional Impact.

## **5. TOWN CLERK UPDATE: THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE HAS RECEIVED THE BALLOTS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 STATE PRIMARY**



The sample ballots are on our webpage showing the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian Ballots: <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/377/Election-Information>

### **Below are the bullet points to know:**

- 3 ways to Vote: Vote-by-Mail, Early Voting In Person or Election Day.
- This past week: the Secretary of State's office mailed out the "Vote-by-Mail" postcards. Please note that this is an application and not the ballot. If you are using this postcard to receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot, you must sign the postcard. Also, if you are an "Unenrolled" Voter (Independent), since this is a Primary, you will need to check off whether you would like a Democratic, Republican or Libertarian Ballot. This will not change your Political Party Designation. If you are Unenrolled, you will remain Unenrolled.
- August 24, 2024: Last day to Register to vote and/or change your Political Party for the State Primary.
- August 24, 2024 – August 30, 2024: Early Voting In-Person at the Dennis Town Hall, Prue Room, hours: Sat, August 24, 2024 10 am – 4 pm, August 26-August 30, 2024 Mon-Fri 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
- August 26, 2024: Vote-by-Mail application Deadline for the State Primary, 5:00 pm.
- August 30, 2024: Deadline to vote by Absentee at the Town Clerk's Office for the State Primary, 5:00 pm.
- Once the Town Clerk's Office receives your ballot, whether it be Vote-by-Mail or Early Voting In-Person or Absentee, it is considered a "cast ballot".
- Vote-by-Mail ballots can be either Mailed, dropped off at the Town Clerk's office or dropped off in our "Official Ballot Drop Box" in front of the Town Hall. Ballots cannot be hand delivered by the Voter to a Voting Precinct. They must be returned to the Town Clerk's office by 8:00 pm on Election night, September 3, 2024.

### **Precinct Locations are as follows for the State Primary:**

- Precinct 1: Carleton Hall, 1006 Old Bass River Road, Dennis (location might move-TBD)
- Precinct 2: Dennis Senior Center, 1045 Route 134, East Dennis
- Precinct 3: Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall St., Dennis Port
- Precinct 4: 1867 West Dennis Graded School House, 67 School Street, West Dennis
- Precinct 5: Dennis Police Station, 90 Bob Crowell Road, South Dennis

### **Track my Ballot:**

The Secretary of State's Office has set up a Track-my-ballot system for all Elections. The website is: [www.trackmyballotMA.com](http://www.trackmyballotMA.com)

This website will show:

1. That the application has been received.
2. When the Ballot has been mailed from the Town Clerk's Office.
3. When the Ballot has been received by the Town Clerk's office.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's office at (508) 760-6112.

## **6. CAPE COD LATEX PAINT TAKE-BACK DAY** **SAVE THE DATE**

**Date: August 3rd, 2024 | Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM | Location: Tony Kent Arena, Dennis, MA**

Barnstable County residents, it's time to dig through your garages and basements for those old cans of latex paint! Save the date for the upcoming Latex Paint Take-Back Day, a community initiative designed to help you dispose of leftover latex paint in an environmentally friendly way.

Join us at the Tony Kent Arena in South Dennis for this event. Whether it's those half-used cans from a bedroom makeover or old colors from a faded project, bring them along and ensure they are disposed of properly.

### **Event Details:**

- **When:** August 3rd, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- **Where:** Tony Kent Arena, 8 South Gage's Way, Dennis, MA

This event not only helps free up space in your home but also protects our environment by preventing improper paint disposal.

## **7. FIND A SUMMER EATS MEAL SITE!**

**Published on: July 17, 2024 – Barnstable County**

Summer Eats livens up every kid's summer by filling their bellies and filling their days with activities that get them out, up, and moving.

Brought to you by Massachusetts' Department of Education and local school and community meal providers, **Summer Eats sites across the state provide free meals to all kids and teens, no identification or registration required.**

Caregivers can rest easier knowing meals are off their hands, and use that time and energy to focus on everything else on their to-do list.

Sites are available across Cape Cod – find a Summer Eats location near you by visiting the [Project Bread Website](#).

**FIND A SUMMER EATS LOCATION NEAR YOU!**

## **8. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES – VEHICLE ACCESS UPDATE**

Crowes Pasture had a total of 4 nests this year. All nests successfully hatched and chicks from three of the four nests have already fledged. Currently there is one remaining nest with unfledged chicks.

An escort for the aquaculture grant holders through the East access was started on June 9th. This continued until that nest of chicks fledged and was reopened to normal grant holder access on July 11th.

Also, on July 11th the West access was closed to both recreational off-road vehicle use as well as grant holder access due to hatching chicks immediately adjacent to the access point on the beach. An escort could not be implemented for grant holders due to the close proximity of the birds. This access will remain closed likely until mid-August.

We were successfully able to have the recreational ORV access remain open on July 4th by eliminating grant holder access that day and prioritizing staff time for recreational use. The grant holders were agreeable and we think the public appreciated this.

South Village Landing had one nest of chicks hatch this year. We are awaiting this nest to fledge. Chapin Beach had two known nests that hatched successfully. There was also a third brood of chicks that appeared near Chair 3 which are assumed to have come over from the ARC area which immediately closed the beach to all vehicle use (beach kubotas and police ATV) on July 14th.

Natural Resources staff spent almost the entirety of two full days escorting a film crew to and from the parking lot and their set during this closure to vehicles.

West Dennis Beach had 12 pairs of birds with 9 successful nests. Currently, four nests have successfully fledged while we are awaiting 5 more nests of chicks to fledge.

The end of the parking lot beyond the middle bathhouse was reopened to all vehicle traffic on July 12th. There are still unfledged chicks in the area of the resident/main beach. As a result, beach raking is currently prohibited. We anticipate these birds to fledge very soon.

## **9. 187 UPPER COUNTY ROAD (FORMER CATHOLIC CHURCH PROPERTY) STATUS REPORT**

*Add new*

Key milestones regarding 187 Upper County Road:

- 12-21-23 Contract signed with Kleinfelder for Environmental site assessment
- 2-16-24 Kleinfelder completed environmental site assessment including setting and testing monitoring wells (phase I & II) and building hazardous waste materials testing.
- 2-29-24 STM approved purchase and funding for demolition of building at 187 Upper county road
- 3-29-24 Topographical draft survey was completed with wetland delineation included
- 4-17-24 final set of plans stamped, concrete boundary markers placed
- 4-17-24 final inspection report from Kleinfelder regarding asbestos containing materials received
- 5-3-24 Kleinfelder provided supplemental specifications for bid document regarding removal of hazardous materials
- 6-13-24 Received additional information from Brian Humes, architect regarding standard specification for demolition
- 7-1-24 Conservation Commission administrative approval of demolition
- 7-16-24 confirmation of gas disconnect from National Grid, this is the last in a series of disconnects required to obtain demolition permit.

Please note many of the items above are necessary to complete the bid documents for the demolition. It is hoped that since the Town has done much of the due diligence, it will assure the demolition is not delayed upon successful bidding. For instance, if we had required the vendor apply for demolition permit, make disconnects, obtain Conservation Commission approval would have taken many more months.

The Dennis Public Works has a draft bid document for demolition, which is currently under review, bid due date most likely end of August, due to advertising requirements.

#### *TA Report June 25, 2024*

During the Special Town meeting held on February 29, 2024, the citizens voted affirmatively to purchase the property at 187 Upper County Road (Article 3), and subsequently voted to transfer a sum of money to demolish the building located on this property (Article 4) and survey the property (Article 5). An as-built survey was conducted, locating the building, wetland and all associated features.

A “Plan of Land in Dennis, Massachusetts” was prepared by Paul E. Sweetser, Professional Land Surveyor, dated March 29, 2024. The property has a wetland located at the rear of the property, there have been a number of staff meetings regarding this property to determine next steps.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has been actively preparing for this project and has had the power and water disconnected and the gas company is scheduling the disconnect, bid documents are being prepared by DPW. The consultant Kleinfelder has been retained for assisting with hazardous waste removal specifications for the bid document and met on May 30th via ZOOM to discuss status of project. The lack of existing building and septic plans have created a challenge in regards to depicting the scope of work. The Engineering Department, who assisted on May 31st to conduct a septic system investigation, finding a septic tank and leach pit as well as marking out the 50’ buffer zone from wetland.

It was determined that permitting through Conservation can be handled Administratively and a letter of intent has been crafted and notations have been made on the existing plan. The DPW is working with the Building Department to obtain a demolition permit in advance of bidding project, as to avoid any unnecessary delay, which will be transferred to the contractor upon successful bidding process.

The property has recently been mowed. The Select Board will be discussing and seeking feedback from the public on next steps for the property at an upcoming meeting.

### **10. REMINDER SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00PM at the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School located at 286 Station Ave. S. Yarmouth, MA. 02664

The Select Board will commence review of Town meeting articles during the month of July and continue through August and once complete the Warrant will be published in September.

August 13, 2024 is the Citizen Petition deadline for the October 1<sup>st</sup> Special Town Meeting, due by 4PM to the Town Clerk’s Office.

September 20, 2024 is the last day to register to vote in the Special Town Meeting.

### **11. NEXT MEETING DATES OF THE DENNIS SELECT BOARD**

The Dennis Select Board will meet on August 13, 2024 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 #.

## **12. JOIN THE TEAM – THE 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](#).

Respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator