

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 29, 2024

187 UPPER COUNTY ROAD UPDATE ON DEMOLITION

- The contract has been fully executed with the contractor, Costello Dismantling
- The Board of Health Permit for the septic discontinuance and the demolition permit have been issued
- The permits have been assumed by the contractor
- A kick-off meeting was held onsite on 10/2 between the contractor, Klienfelder (the Town's engineer overseeing the asbestos abatement) and Public Works.
- On 10/8 Costello mobilized onsite.
- 10/9 the contractor began the process of exploratory demolition to identify any unknown asbestos containing materials. This process will be verified by the Town's engineer.
- All Asbestos has been abated from the site. No additional hazardous materials were identified.
- Demolition of the structure has commenced. This is estimated to be completed this week. It will be another week for the foundation removal.
- The project is estimated for completion in three weeks.
- The Dennis Port West Dennis Advancement Committee presented a draft schematic for proposed recreational use of the property to the Select Board at their September 24, 2024 meeting.
- The Select Board directed the draft schematic plan be reviewed by the Towns Site Plan review team for permitting and regulatory compliance requirements; including Planning, Building, Engineering, Conservation, Police, Fire, Recreation, and DPW this process is currently underway.
- A public survey is being developed for citizen feedback on the use of property, the survey has not yet been released.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION INFORMATION



Update from Town Clerk, Terri Bunce - below is an outline with some updates with regards to the State/Presidential Election.

As of this afternoon:

- 1.) 1,661 Voters have Early Voted In-Person
- 2.) 3,075 Voters have returned their Vote-by-Mail Ballots
- 3.) 95 Voters have returned their Absentee & UOCAVA Ballots (UOCAVA are the overseas Military Ballots)
- 4.) A total of 4,831 (36.01%) of our Voters have cast their ballots.
- 5.) Today was the last day to apply for a ballot to be mailed.
- 6.) Early Voting in Person will still take place this week through Friday, November 1st from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, in the Paul Prue Conference Room at the Dennis Town Hall.
- 7.) The last day and time to vote by Absentee in person is Monday, November 4th at 12 noon.
- 8.) Vote-by-Mail Ballots are accepted:
 - a. by mail with a postmark of November 5th, and received no later than November 8th.

- b. dropped off at the Town Clerk's Office or
 - c. dropped into our Official Ballot Drop Box in front of Town Hall
- 9.) Be assured that our Official Ballot Drop Box is emptied throughout the day and is monitored by video surveillance 24/7.
- 10.) If you do not Early Vote, please vote on November 5th at your polling location. The polling hours will be from 7am-8pm.

For more information about the State/Presidential Election, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at (508) 760-6112.

BUDGET BUILDING AND SCHEDULE FOR FY26

As you know, the FY2026 Budget planning process commenced in early October this year. The Finance Director and I met with the Chairs of both the Select Board and Finance Committee in late September. Budget guidelines were distributed on October 3, 2024 for departments to begin building their budgets. At this time, with many unknowns on utilities, insurance, fringe benefits, all town departments were asked to prepare level funded budgets with the exception of increases in contractual and other fixed costs. Next week, I will meet with Department Heads from each department to review their budgets. In addition, I will be meeting with the School Superintendent, together with the Finance Director, as soon as any financial information from the school becomes available it will be shared with you immediately. In keeping with the overall budget schedule, the Select Board will review my TA Budget Message on December 3rd and review departmental budgets during the month of December. In January, the Finance Committee will begin their review of the FY2026 Budget.

Capital I am reviewing the existing 2025 departmental Capital Outlay and there are many requests that are of a significant priority and many that have been deferred from previous years. Materials were forwarded to the Capital Outlay Committee in October for the Committee's review. The Capital Outlay Committee kicked off their schedule with their first meeting on October 16th. They will be meeting weekly for the next month or so. In the coming months the Capital Outlay Committee will present their recommended plan to the Select Board.

WASTEWATER IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Recent Accomplishments

- The SRF application was submitted on October 11th
- Very exciting news! The Town received the final groundwater discharge permit from DEP for Site 1 on October 16th

Upcoming milestones

- MassDOT permits are expected in November
- The SRF program is expected to issue the Authorization to Award for the four construction contracts by early December
- The Town expects to start awarding the construction contracts in December
- Construction may commence as early as late December/early January

The following work is in progress

- Town-wide screening for an additional effluent disposal site is ongoing
- Meetings with DEP will continue on a monthly basis to identify future groundwater recharge sites
- The financial modelling for Phases 2-8 as well as the operating costs subgroup will begin in January

Thank you to the DPW, Engineering, Health and Finance staff who have worked tirelessly on this project, it is their efforts together with strong leadership by the WIC, Select Board and Finance Committee that has advanced this project to the successful point we are at now.

TOWN OF DENNIS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Funding was approved at the Dennis May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting to pay the costs of funding and administering a childcare subsidy program for birth through 5-year-old children of Dennis residents to attend a state-licensed childcare 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, 2024, for the program period September 1, 2024 -August 31, 2025.

A subsidy in the form of direct payment of \$200 per month to State licensed childcare providers for up to 50 full time, year-round residents of Dennis (maximum of \$2,400 per household) will be provided for one eligible child and meets a threshold of 81% to 150% Average Median Income parameter. Child must be enrolled a minimum of two days per week for eligibility.

Included below are a Childcare Subsidy Program Overview, an Application Form, and a Required Documents List. The [Application Form \(PDF\)](#) includes questions to obtain information for verification of eligibility.

Applications and required documents must be completed fully and returned to:

Dennis Town Hall
 Attention: Childcare Voucher Program
 685 Route 134
 South Dennis, MA 02660

Or may be scanned and emailed to DennisCSP@town.dennis.ma.us with the subject line “CSP.”

FY 2024	HOUSEHOLD SIZE							
INCOME CATEGORY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
LOW								
80% Income Limit	\$70,960	\$81,080	\$91,200	\$101,320	\$109,440	\$117,560	\$125,640	\$133,760
81% Income Limit (DENNIS MINIMUM)	\$71,847	\$82,093	\$92,340	\$102,586	\$110,808	\$119,029	\$127,210	\$135,432
AVERAGE MEDIAN								
100% Income Limit	\$88,700	\$101,350	\$114,000	\$126,650	\$136,800	\$146,950	\$157,050	\$167,200
150% AVERAGE MEDIAN 150 % Income limit (DENNIS MAXIMUM)	\$133,050	\$152,025	\$171,000	\$189,975	\$205,200	\$220,425	\$235,575	\$250,800

NEXT MEETING DATES OF THE DENNIS SELECT BOARD

The Dennis Select Board will meet on November 12, 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/8780036813> or participate by phone by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and entering Conference ID: 878-003-6813,

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