

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT  
NOVEMBER 19, 2024

CURRENT COMMITTEE OPENINGS

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**



Dennis town government needs citizens who are willing to give time in service of their community. If you have ever wanted to give back to your town by volunteering on a board or committee, now is the time!

Sponsored by the Dennis Select Board

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES INCLUDE**

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1867 West Dennis Graded School House | Historical Commission           |
| Advisory Committee on Disabilities   | Human Services Advisory         |
| Agricultural Commission              | Josiah Dennis Manse             |
| Alternative Energy Advisory          | Library Board                   |
| Arts and Culture Council             | Memorial Day Observance         |
| Beach Management Advisory            | Old Kings Highway               |
| Caleb Chase Fund                     | Road Safety Task-force          |
| Caretakers of Veterans Graves        | Shellfish Commission            |
| Climate and Coastal Resiliency       | Substance Use Disorder Advisory |
| Community and Economic Development   | Solid Waste and Recycling       |
| Community Preservation Act Committee | South Dennis Historic District  |
| Council on Aging                     | Tourism Committee               |
| Diversity, Equity and Inclusion      | Water Quality Advisory          |
| Donald Trepte                        | Waterways Commission            |
| Golf Advisory Committee              | Zoning Board of Appeals         |

Contact Delaney Campbell with any questions at 508-760-6104  
or [dcampbell@town.dennis.ma.us](mailto:dcampbell@town.dennis.ma.us)

FILL OUT TALENT BANK FORM ONLINE AT

[www.town.dennis.ma.us/546/Join-a-Board-Committee](http://www.town.dennis.ma.us/546/Join-a-Board-Committee)

## **MASSACHUSETTS DROUGHT ALERT**

From the Massachusetts Office of Local & Regional Health:

Due to three months of below normal rainfall, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared a Level 3 - Critical Drought in the Central and Northeast Regions, and a Level 2 – Significant Drought in the Western, Connecticut River Valley, and Southeast Regions of the Commonwealth. The Cape Cod and Islands Regions remains in Level 0 – Normal condition.

To enhance awareness on the current drought conditions, EEA and MEMA are asking local, state and regional partners and stakeholder groups to assist in disseminating this critical information to residents, businesses, and farms in their respective communities.

Their office prepared a one-paged “Drought Alert” that provides information on the current drought conditions and how communities across the Commonwealth can do their part on water conservation and drought preparedness.

For more information on the current drought conditions, technical guidance regarding drought management actions and for drought-related tools and outreach materials, please visit [www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management](http://www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management); for water conservation information, go to [www.mass.gov/conservemawater](http://www.mass.gov/conservemawater) .

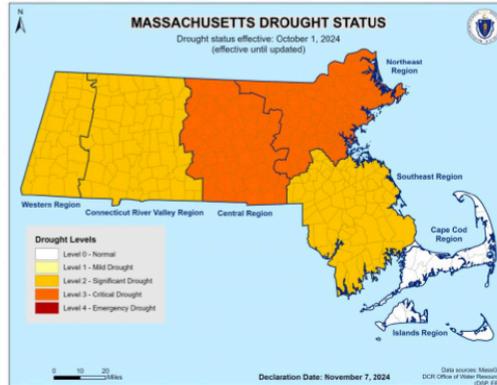
# MASSACHUSETTS DROUGHT ALERT

November 8, 2024



## DROUGHT STATUS

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has declared a **Level 3 – Critical Drought** in the Central and Northeast Regions, and a **Level 2 – Significant Drought** in the Western, Connecticut River Valley, and Southeast Regions. The Cape Cod and Islands Regions remain at a **Level 0 – Normal Conditions**.



## CURRENT CONDITIONS

Due to unprecedented low rainfall over the last two months, with many locations recording their lowest rainfall ever, the Commonwealth is experiencing significant drought conditions. Wildfires are occurring across the state (208 fires in October and 115 fires in November so far). Smoke effects from extended drought fires have impacted local communities. Since August, all regions, except Cape and Islands, have seen a rainfall deficit of 7 to 9 inches. Streamflow has dropped significantly, resulting in dry brooks and streambeds, increased ponding, exposed beaches and sediments, and limited fish passage. Groundwater levels are declining in all regions.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

### ALL DROUGHT REGIONS

#### Residents, Facilities & Businesses

- Minimize overall water use
- Run dishwashers & washing machines only at full capacity
- Fix leaks immediately
- Take shorter showers
- **Ban on open flame & charcoal fires at state parks**

#### Cities & Towns

- Use [outreach materials](#) to inform users about drought/water conservation tips and
- Establish a year-round water conservation program
- Enforce water use restrictions with stringent penalties
- Prepare to activate emergency inter-connections with other water suppliers
- Implement drought surcharge/seasonal water rates
- Establish/enhance water use reduction targets
- Conduct targeted outreach to top water users
- Establish a leak detection program
- Develop/refine local drought management plan for water supply
- Prohibit washing of hard surfaces, vehicles, boats

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs:  
**Rebecca L. Tepper**

Director of MEMA:  
**Dawn Brantley**



For Information on **Water Conservation** click [here!](#)

**Private Well** owners click [here!](#)

Learn more at [www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management](http://www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management)

## **UPDATES FROM THE DENNIS CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING**

THE BIG WRAP this year will be held on Thursday, December 12th, at 1:30 pm, at the Congregational Church of South Dennis, 218 Main Street, South Dennis. This is the day Friends of Dennis Senior Citizens get together and wrap over 2000 gifts for Dennis seniors who are alone and in need of Holiday cheer. If you would like to volunteer, please call our office at 508-385-5376 or email us at [DennisFOD@hotmail.com](mailto:DennisFOD@hotmail.com).

AARP Tax-Aide is a free tax preparation service focused on helping taxpayers with low-to-moderate income. Sponsored by AARP and funded by the IRS, the program is staffed entirely by volunteers who enjoy working together, learning new things, and serving their community. We need new volunteers at our locations across the Cape and Islands. A background in taxes is NOT required. In addition to tax counselors who prepare tax returns, AARP Tax-Aide needs volunteers to contact, greet, and check-in clients; assist with administrative tasks; or help manage technology. All volunteers get training and support to learn the necessary skills and procedures. AARP membership is not required. Training starts in the fall and an AARP Tax Aide Computer is supplied. Want more information? Please email us at [TAVolunteerd18@gmail.com](mailto:TAVolunteerd18@gmail.com).

## **FY 2026 General Fund Budget**

Budget instructions have been issued to all departments and throughout October and November we are met with all departments about their budget requests. We are scheduled to review the Town Administration General Fund budget recommendations at the Board's December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, and again on December 10<sup>th</sup>. As the Select Board is aware many of the recommendations are preliminary at this point until more of the figures are released from the State as well as Insurance and School Chapter 70 funds.

## **PERSONNEL UPDATES**

The Town of Dennis is excited to welcome three new employees to our Finance and Building Departments.

Anna De Oliveira has been promoted from the Accounting Office Assistant to the Assistant Town Accountant. Anna brings with her a Master's Degree in Finance and Economics and her understanding of municipal finance concepts. In her time with us she has learned many functions in the Treasurer/Collector's office and the Accounting office as well as supervising the seasonal sticker office and managing the Dennis Childcare Subsidy Program.

With the vacancy from Anna's promotion, we are excited to welcome Deborah Zinck as the Accounting Office Assistant. Deborah has financial experience in both for-profit and non-profit environments, skilled with bookkeeping, budget management and grant preparation. We are thrilled to welcome both Anna and Deborah to the Finance Team.

Annie Scola Wisnesky has joined our Building Department as their new Historic Clerk. Annie comes to us with a strong background in project management and customer service from her time working at the state offices. She is excited to be apart of the Building Department and the chance to work with the Dennis Historic District.

## **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY BUILDING CLOSURES**

All Town office buildings and facilities, including the Dennis Public Library and Center for Active, will be closed on Thursday, November 28, 2024 and Friday, November 29, 2024 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Dennis Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, November 25, and Tuesday, November 26 per their normal work schedule. The Transfer Station will be open Wednesday, November 27 from 8AM to 4PM.

The Transfer Station will be closed Thursday, November 28, 2024 and Friday, November 29, 2024. The Transfer Station will reopen on Saturday, November 30 from 8AM to 4PM.

The Dennis Highlands Golf Course is open for walking only from 8AM to 12PM on Thursday, November 28, 2024. On Friday, November 29, 2024 the Dennis Highlands will resume their regular schedule from 8AM to 4PM.

On Saturday, November 30, 2024, the Dennis Public Library will resume their regular schedule from 10AM to 2PM. On Monday, December 2, 2024 the Center for Active Living and Department of Public Works Office will resume their regular schedule, and the Dennis Town Offices will resume being open from 8:30AM to 4:30 PM.

**NEXT MEETING DATES OF THE DENNIS SELECT BOARD**

The Dennis Select Board will meet on December 3, 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