



# MEMORANDUM

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To: Selectboard  
From: Richard J. Waldo, Town Administrator  
Cc: Rebekah Eldridge, Executive Assistant to Town Administrator  
Subject: Department Update Report for the July 11, 2023, Select Board Meeting  
Date: July 6, 2023

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## Administration

- Kudos to the Wellfleet Chamber of Commerce, Fire Department, Police Department, DPW, Harbormaster and all the participants on a successful Fourth of July Holiday Parade. The holiday was busy, and we look forward to enjoying the rest of the summer with everyone.
- Our interim Assistant Town Administrator, David Colton, has begun work and making significant strides getting caught up on projects managed by the former ATA. David brings extensive experience in public administration to our team, and we look forward to his assistance as we transition to our next permanent Assistant Town Administrator.
- The Town has brought onboard Alex Williams to serve as interim Town Treasurer until the position can be permanently filled. Alex has many years of experience serving municipalities in the treasurer role. We look forward to having Alex's skillset help us build a stronger treasury department.
- The Town is finalizing the acceptance of a \$14,690,000.00 award from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration to assist with the Herring River Restoration project. This is an exciting opportunity for the Community and one of the largest awarded from the NOAA grant program.
- The administration is working closely with the Select Board to develop the Special Town Meeting Warrant. The first draft can be viewed in the Selectboard Packet for July 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Building

- Working with the Administration on bringing forward an online permitting platform to ensure a streamlined permit process.

## Collector

- The 3rd motor vehicle commitment of 2023 was issued on June 13, 2023, due July 13, 2023.
- The \$23,060,526.39 real estate commitment is 98% collected, with \$533,273.66 outstanding as of today, June 26, 2023.
- Collection of 2021 taxes through tax taking and advertisement is now down to 5 properties with a total of \$13,107.33 left outstanding. If payment is not received by July 6, 2023, at 10 am, the taking occurs and the accounts are transferred to the treasurer's side for collection

with an interest rate increase from 14% to 16%. Property owners can schedule a repayment plan for the 2021 overdue taxes with the treasurer.

- The flagging of beach/shellfish/mooring permits for non-payment of personal property taxes and boat excise taxes continues to be a successful way to get the outstanding taxes collected. This has been through diligent work by Cheryl Mulligan of the beach sticker office, and Suzanne Grout Thomas. My thanks for interdepartmental cooperation.
- Now for a non-boring financial report: My office has been painted a beautiful turquoise by Don Bragdon of the DPW! It is such a cheerful color and Don is an exceptional painter. My sincere thanks to Don!

## Community Services

### **Council on Aging**

- Thank you to Sally Largey, Outreach Coordinator, for her inspiration and hard work to put together a float for the COA in the Fourth of July parade. Sally signed on with the Chamber of Commerce for a space, obtained funding from the FCOA for the decorations and I sincerely hope that the rain holds off long enough for the parade to happen. Please thank her if you run into her!

### **SOCIAL AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- The SHS Committee will meet on July 5th to determine the grant allocations for FY24.
- On Friday, June 30th I was invited to and was able to attend a meeting in Provincetown with Julian Cyr and Sarah Peake who invited Kate Walsh, the newly appointed Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth to meet with key providers of human services on the Outer Cape. Representatives from Lower Cape Outreach, Homeless Prevention Council, Elder Services for the Cape and Islands, Barnstable County Health and Human Services, Habitat for Humanity and others were in attendance. The Secretary wanted to hear from us what the prime needs were on the Outer Cape. Naturally, we discussed Housing and mental health services. Given the demographics of the Outer Cape, (Eastham to Provincetown), banding together will yield more support and more funding. We all need more workers, and they all need housing.

### **BEACHES**

- The poor weather has impacted our sales. This is a quick comparison between 2022 and 2023. Our dollars are ahead only because of the fee increases for this year.

	2022	2022\$	2023	2023\$
Resident	1384	\$ 41,130.00	1282	\$ 44,545.00
Combination	3665	\$ 109,950.00	3639	\$ 127,365.00
Three Day	330	\$ 21,450.00	297	\$ 20,790.00
One Week	940	\$ 93,200.00	867	\$ 90,090.00
Two Week	173	\$ 19,560.00	158	\$ 31,600.00
Seasonal	126	\$ 40,950.00	96	\$ 33,600.00
4 to 6 month	N/A		68	\$ 5,100.00
White Crest	652	\$ 19,560.00	308	\$ 9,060.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7270</b>	<b>\$ 345,800.00</b>	<b>6715</b>	<b>\$ 362,150.00</b>

- Racks: there are still a few spaces left and I notified the next people on the waiting list for the last two spots at Mayo and the last two spots at Gull.
- Beginning July 1, the racks will be surveyed daily and any spot that is not occupied for 14 consecutive days in July and August will be deemed unused and that spot will be offered to the next person on the waiting list. This is year two of this regulation, but it is year one for enforcement. All rack holders will be notified by email that this is now being enforced.
- On Thursday, June 29th, I attended the Spring meeting of the Shark Working Group at the DPW building in Orleans. The meeting was facilitated by the CCNS and the member towns and representatives from the White Shark Conservancy were in attendance. Dr. Greg Skomal and Megan Winton reported out on the previous year's findings. The population study conducted over the last five years will be released soon but the estimate is an annual offshore shark population of approximately 800 sharks. Three movies based on sharks will be released in July. The HBO production, After the Bite, which features Wellfleet Lifeguards, will air on HBO on July 26th. I was invited to attend the premiere at the Provincetown Film Festival, held at the Governor Bradford, but I was unable to attend.

#### Harbormaster

- No Update

#### Health/Conservation

- No Update

#### Fire

- No Update

#### Library

- On Monday, June 26th, I took an all-day training on Mental Health first aid. it was designed for non-mental health professionals who work with the public so that we recognize and are able to diffuse potential situations and refer people to appropriate assistance. Youth Services Librarian, Anna Nielsen took the training as well.
- Tickets just went on sale for the Friends Distinguished Speaker fundraiser (to be held at the Congregational Church on Thursday, August 10th). This year's Distinguished Speaker is NPR's Legal Affairs Correspondent, Nina Totenberg. With everything that is happening on

the Supreme Court right now, people have many questions. They trust Nina to have the answers and these tickets are selling out quickly.

- The Friends Annual Booksale on the Town Hall lawn is Sunday, July 16th from 9-1 (rain date July 23rd). The books are amazingly curated and it's an incredible fundraiser for us. We love seeing the public at this event. People come from all over, because the selection is so incredible. Our Friends work so hard to make this the best Booksale around.
- National Security Archivist, Peter Kornbluh, will be at the Library on Tuesday July 18th for a very special event - it's been 50 years since Chile's coup and Peter will have formerly top secret CIA and Nixon administration documents on hand. Peter is the author of The Pinochet Files: A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability. This event begins at 7:00 PM.
- We have so many youth events coming up! One I'd like to highlight is the Whalemobile! Children can come sit inside an inflatable whale and learn about the biology of whales. Reservations are required. Call the library at 508-349-0310. The Whalemobile will be at the library on Wednesday July 12th and it will be back on August 8th.
- Did you know that if you are a visitor, you can still obtain a Wellfleet Library Card? Please stop by the circulation desk for details!

### Police

- Since Memorial Day 2023, The department and National Seashore have successfully implemented the Towns and National Seashore Policy educating the public of existing and new alcohol related regulations. As of this date, the public has complied with minimal enforcement.
- We were happy the department was able to bring back Tip-A-Cop fundraiser event June 12, 2023, in cooperation at the Pearl Restaurant. Money raised benefited Special Olympics. We had a great time and raised more than \$1,200 for local athletes.
- This past month we celebrated three officers' accomplishments promoting the following:  
Sergeant Michael Turner to the rank of Lieutenant  
Detective Nicolas Daley to the rank of Sergeant  
Officer Mark Braun to the rank of Sergeant
- Our Two new Community Service Officers Dakota Chixarro and Kylie Palomba are our new friendly faces downtown acting as a liaison for the Town of Wellfleet and the Police Department, they are ready to help with traffic, interact with the public and assist in any way.
- It's with gratitude that we let you know that Sgt. William "Billy" Brazile has completed his last overnight shift on July 1, 2023, after 36 years of service to the Town of Wellfleet.

### Public Works

- No Update

## Recreation

- The Morning Recreation and Gull Pond Swim Programs start Monday July 3. Resident only registration is full for Morning Recreation. Square Dances begin on July 5 and continue through August 30. Music at Mayo Concerts begin on July 6. The Department is fortunate to have veteran returning seasonal staff and excited to begin the summer season.
- The Phillips/Savoy Wedding on June 24 was a resounding success as the couple was extremely grateful to use utilize the upgraded facilities at Baker's Field. The recently approved pavilion use form is a huge help in facilitating these events which generate revenue for the Town.
- Pickleball round robins and clinics are offered 6 days per week in July and August for all levels of play. With the availability of six courts, pickleball is the fastest growing activity offered.
- A full list of summer activities as well as the Music at Mayo Concert Schedule can be found on the Town of Wellfleet website.

## Shellfish Department

- Commercial Shellfishery:
  - We conducted a commercial seed confiscation with a written warning letter.
  - We helped tow out a shellfish trailer.
  - At least one Environmental Police Officer has been at the pier checking shellfishermen landing product.
  - We have been having conversations with draggers and pickers about proper tagging during vibrio season.
- Grants:
  - We did nine grant inspections; have to return to one due to lack of tags.
  - We helped a dozen grant holders with paperwork for Selectboard hearings and more.
  - We advertised shellfish grant public hearings in July 3 Cape Cod Times, hung up postings and notified abutters for July 13 Selectboard meeting.
  - We assisted a grant in meeting vibrio control plan for harvested oysters.
- Recreational Shellfishery:
  - We hired and began training two new part-time Deputy Shellfish Constables, Erika Smith and Mark Howards, for recreational shellfish oversight.
  - Sent out a Recreational Shellfishing Crier.
  - There seems to be confusion about people shellfishing together with just one permit, which is not allowed. We are educating them on site and will send out a Crier with more details.
- Propagation:
  - We finished culching and got the spreader off the barge with the DPW. We are so grateful for their commitment to our work. We couldn't do our propagation activities without them!
  - We received 90,000 oyster seed and planted them on our grant with the help of volunteers.
  - Also with volunteers, we put 92 spat collecting devices (so-called hats) out, half on our farm and half in Chipman's Cove.
- Dredging Mitigation:

- We placed 300 bags of Mass Oyster Project recycled restaurant shells into Chipman's Cove to serve as spat collectors to be distributed to the Blackfish Creek mitigation area. Many thanks for Johnny Clam's Crew of die-hard volunteers. This was heavy lifting for many days, and they made it happen!
- We put a spat collector and 12 shell bags in the dredging mitigation area in Blackfish Creek as an experiment.
- Proposed to Army Corps to open Herring River as soon as possible. They agreed to take it off the table entirely and let the 28 acres in Blackfish Creek stand alone and be monitored for seven years.
- Also, proposed to include state metric of six oysters per square meter indicating significant oyster resource, as something that may have to be considered as indicative of success if can't hit metric of 25 oysters per square meter. Waiting to hear back.
- Conducted a biological survey in Blackfish Creek with GEI for mitigation area.
- Access/Beach Renourishment:
  - Met with Town Counsel and had letter sent re: blocked Herring River access at 925 Chequessett Neck Rd.
  - Working with Audubon on how to allow shellfishermen access on Lieutenant Island when joy riders have been tearing up the road so much that they had to close it for now.
  - Submitted letter to MEPA on reducing beach nourishment on King Phillip Rd.
- Business entities holding shellfish grant licenses:
  - Researched other towns and spoke with state and other shellfish constables about how business entities are handled.
  - Met with Town Counsel and Shellfish Advisory (SAB) Chair Becca Taylor and member Karen Johnson to go over questions re: business entities holding shellfish grant licenses that have come up at previous (SAB) meetings.
- Miscellaneous:
  - We assisted the state with its quality control of Wellfleet harvest data for its 2022 Annual Report.
  - We checked signs and put-up missing ones around the Harbor's landings.
  - We had our 2018 truck towed to Wareham Ford, as trade in for new truck, which should be arriving in the next two weeks.
  - We brought the Town Administrator on a patrol ride-along and showed a Selectboard member the Blackfish Creek mitigation area.
  - Nancy attended a Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting Law training.
  - Shellfish Department's partnership with Mass Oyster Project aired on WBZ-TV; Johnny Clam featured!

### Town Clerk

- On going work on Marriage intentions & Licenses
- Swearing in newly appointed board/ committee members and employees.
- Continued work on organizing & updating Records archival system and vault documents.
- Getting the office prepared and organized for switching over to the new FY.