

Town Administrator Report – May 9, 2023

- MassDOT has submitted the Environmental Notification Form for the bridge replacement project to MEPA. The NEF will be published in the May 10 Environmental Monitor and there is an extended public comment period that will be open until June 27, 2023.
- ISWM has diverted 1.37 tons of food waste as of April 28 through their partnership with Black Earth.
- Water quality testing at the public bathing beaches will begin the 1st week of June.
- Liz and I attended an Upper Cape stakeholder meeting organized by the Cape Cod Commission to discuss the next update of their Regional Housing Policy Plan.
- I was able to attend a portion of the Big Blue Conference that was sponsored by the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. The discussion was focused on the economic and cultural value that the region receives from the coastal and fresh water resources.
- The Town has received \$183,500 in grant funding through the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program to conduct a watershed assessment around the Queen Sewell Pond, which is unique because it is both a coastal and inland watershed. I'd like to commend Stevie Fitch and Tim Lydon for their hard work on this. I am looking forward to seeing the results of their efforts which will include designing storm water improvements to address high bacteria counts, flood storage, and green infrastructure. The scope of work will include public outreach and community review of the alternatives, as well as dedicated training for the DPW with regards to maintenance of green infrastructure and rain gardens.
- I attended a virtual panel on May 4 hosted by the MA Sierra Club regarding Municipal Climate Action Plans to learn what other cities and towns are doing. Also on May 4th Department Heads and I participated in the first session of a Learning Lab produced by ICMA about Effective Supervisory Practices." This is a 6-part training that we will be participating in together.
- The Pocasset broadband working group was successful in obtaining a digital equity planning grant. The Cape Cod Commission will be assessing the digital divide in the Town of Bourne, including, the lack of affordable internet access, affordable devices appropriate for an individual's civic, social, and employment needs, and the skills necessary to engage digitally, and proposing solutions.
 - The Commission will assist the town in developing a Municipal Digital Equity Plan, designed to accomplish two goals:
 - Guide municipal decision-making and investments to increase access, adoption, and usage of the internet for the populations most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
 - Prepare the town to submit grant proposals for existing or future state or federal programs to support digital equity activities.

- Liz & Irja have been working together along with the Library Trustees to issue an RFP for Strategic Planning Services to guide future decision making at the library over the next 5-years. The library is funding the strategic planning initiative through their earmarked State Aid receipts.
- The Health Department has mobilized to begin the work of utilizing the opioid settlement funds that were just authorized at the May 1st Town Meeting. The Department will continue to work closely with the Substance Free Coalition and is exploring our options for creating a Community Needs Assessment, so that we can best understand how to target our efforts, and has also reached out to the Visiting Nurses' Association to open talks because a portion of this work may require clinical oversight.