Advisory #80

Friday, June 5, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced there are 8,313 cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. DPH is now reporting both confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases and deaths. This change is in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control to include “probable” COVID-19 cases and deaths in data collection and reporting efforts. The Town of Kingston will continue to report out the number of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. As of this afternoon the Town of Kingston’s total number of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 remains at 94. Of the Town’s total number of confirmed positive cases, 51 are from one facility. Our Health Agent and Public Safety Officers will continue to monitor these local cases. Due to privacy requirements, the demographics of these cases will remain anonymous.

These graphs are a visual companion to the numbers that we have been reporting in our advisory letters to residents.
Kingston’s Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town’s ongoing response to COVID-19. Director of Elder Affairs Paula Rossi-Clapp shared that the first week of resumed transportation services has been a success. Paula also informed the group that since the Council on Aging closed its doors to the public, her staff have delivered 3,449 meals to Kingston seniors, first responders, and essential personnel. Additionally, they have provided 314 bags of non-perishable foods to seniors across town.

Fire Chief Mark Douglass confirmed that the Kingston Town House will reopen to the public by appointment on June 8th. If you would like to schedule an appointment to meet with staff in the building, please call the appropriate department to make those arrangements. Department phone numbers will be posted on the doors, and can be found at www.kingstonmass.org. If visiting the Town House, please adhere to the posted rules and traffic flow signage.

Mark also updated information regarding the reopening of several other Town buildings, outlined below:

**Animal Control**: Kingston’s Animal Control offices remain on-call throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with limited on-site services. Staff have returned to their offices, and volunteers are tentatively scheduled to return on Monday, June 8th, on an as needed basis. Please contact Animal Control at (781) 585-0529 with any questions.

**Council on Aging**: Kingston’s Council on Aging has remained open for outreach services and meal deliveries throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Transportation services have resumed. The building and related programming will remain closed, pending further guidance from the Commonwealth. Please contact the Council on Aging at (781) 585-0511 with any questions.

**Kingston Harbormaster**: The Ah Dee Nah is open for limited use. Rules for use have been posted throughout the property. The parking lot is closed at 9:00 PM. Shellfishing is open for the season. Additional information regarding shellfishing licenses can be found online at https://bit.ly/3eqDOJU. Please contact the Kingston Harbormaster at (781) 585-0519 with any questions.
Library: The Kingston Public Library has maintained digital services and programming throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The building will remain closed to the public through June 29th, though curbside pickup services have begun. Please contact the Kingston Public Library at (781) 585-0517 with any questions.

Recreation Department: Staff have returned to their offices. Gray’s Beach Park is now open, though park access is limited to Kingston residents only. Restrooms will be open daily from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. The tennis court is open, and signage has been posted on the fence regarding the current rules for use. The basketball court is open. No organized games are allowed, as these activities are still prohibited under the Governor’s phased reopening plan. Gray’s Beach Park staff will be working onsite Monday, June 8th, and will be checking parking stickers. Last year’s residents stickers will be accepted through June 30th. New stickers will be available for residents only starting on June 8th at the Kingston Recreation Department Office. Sticker sales will be available Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM, cash or check only. Please contact the Kingston Recreation Department at (781) 585-0533 with any questions.

Schools: Please visit www.slrsd.org for information relating to the Silver Lake Regional School District.

Streets, Trees, Parks / Transfer Station: Transfer Station stickers are on sale at the Highway Department. The reopening task force staff have installed a service window on the exterior of the building that will allow for residents and staff to conduct transactions as safely as possible.

Kingston’s Annual Town meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 13th at 9:00 AM at the Kingston Intermediate School. The Annual Town Meeting Warrant is available on the homepage of the Town’s website www.kingstonmass.org, along with a link to a Town Meeting Preview hosted by Moderator Janet Wallace, and a message from Moderator Wallace regarding what voters can expect and what is expected of voters at this year’s meeting. An additional Town Meeting Forum will be televised at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, June 10th. The program will focus on the FY21 budget as well as the safety plan for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. This program will be aired live on Kingston’s government channels (Comcast 15 and Verizon 42). We will post a link on the Town’s website once it becomes available.

Town Elections and Recall Elections will be held on June 27th from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM. As was the case with the recent Special State Senate Election, voting at the Town House will not be available. All residents from all precincts will be able to cast their ballots at the Kingston Elementary School.

At 10:30 AM this morning PACTV aired a COVID-19 Update for the Town of Kingston. The program featured Mike Slawson from the Kingston Public Library (KPL) and Director of Recreation Sue Woodworth. Mike discussed the KPL’s curbside pickup program as well as the library’s upcoming slate of virtual programs; Sue shared information on the reopening of a number of facilities under the management of the Recreation Department as well as what summer programming in Kingston will look like. This program will be rebroadcast on Kingston’s government channels (Comcast 15 and Verizon 42). A link to this morning’s program has been posted on the Town’s website.

Thank you for your continued efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19,

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman
Board of Selectmen