

From the Vineyard Gazette – February 18, 2021 – UPDATE 2
Prepared by Susanne Beck

The Martha's Vineyard health officials outlined plans for how they expect to manage the expansion of the Island's own vaccination rollout in light of Governor Charlie Baker's announcement yesterday that all state residents 65 and over and those with two or more underlying conditions will be eligible to receive Covid-19 vaccines starting today [Thursday].

According to the Vineyard Gazette, signup for eligible residents will not begin until Saturday morning, with the first appointments available for Monday of the upcoming week. The signup process will occur online at the hospital's website, and appointments will be available on a first-come, first served basis.

Details are available online at vineyardgazette.com.

In related news, the Vineyard Gazette reports that state Senator Julian Cyr, as well as 92 other signatories, wrote a scathing letter to the governor arguing that Barnstable county had received an inadequate supply of vaccines relative to its high number of elderly residents.

"Cape Codders are being left behind," the letter said in part. "The situation on the ground is untenable and must change."

Chilmark selectmen voted to apply to a state grant program to fund the installation of high-speed electric vehicle chargers.

According to the Vineyard Gazette the plan aims to install one or two high-speed electric charging stations at a central town location despite some concerns about the consequences of charging stations on an already over-congested area of town.

In other business selectmen appointed Warren Doty to act as the municipal representative to the Coalition to Create the Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank.

Additional information on Tuesday's meeting can be found at vineyardgazette.com.

The Steamship Authority will no longer need to look to the state in any significant way to make up for income lost to the pandemic.

According to the Vineyard Gazette, the boat line ended the calendar year with an operating deficit of about \$12.5 million, far less than originally projected. A busy summer and fall made up for a lack of traffic in the late winter and spring.

In other business, the Authority's board of governors declined to approve a request from the owner of the Pied Piper ferry to add a private shuttle service between Falmouth and the Vineyard Haven Marina. They also took a first look at a draft 2021 capital budget, with \$6.7 million in proposed new projects.

News from Martha's Vineyard is brought to you by the island's respected newspaper, the Vineyard Gazette. Subscribe today and follow us online at mv-gazette.com.