Drought, heat force mandatory water conservation

Stonington Water Company may have to haul water

BY LESLIE LANDERSMAN

STONINGTON—The Stonington Water Company is ordering its customers to conserve water as of July 1 because of heat, drought and an influx of summer visitors, according to Annabelle Hafford, the vice-president and engineering manager who manages the company.

"We have an extreme drought going on and excessively hot, dry temperatures," Hafford said in a phone interview. "That water tank is dropping half a foot a day."

Hafford said the company is trying to increase water production by putting another well online. But the day the well went online seemed like the day everyone came to town, she said. "All the businesses are slammed."

It’s unusual for Stonington to go to mandatory conservation—it happened in 2018 and 2019, but last in July, Hafford said.

"It’s still June, and we’re usually not at this level until late July," she said. Within the past month, someone or some people exacerbated the water shortage by opening the outside spigot on several properties overnight, causing the loss of thousands of gallons of water. Mandatory conservation

Hafford said the water company has the right to turn off customers’ water if they do wasteful things such as wash their lawns in the driveway or copiously water their gardens.

Should the water shortage grow more dire, the water company is preparing to haul water from off island. "The only thing horrible about that is the cost," Hafford said.

Young adults look at climate change

Looking at options to inherited problems

BY JIMMY SCHMIDT

STONINGTON—"Inheriting Change," the latest installment of the Maine Coast for Coastal Fishers’ monthly Luncheon and Learn webinar series, featured a panel discussion among three young adults addressing the local effects of climate change. Parker Gassett, a University of Maine Sea Grant student, moderated the discussion.

The June 28 discussion focused on the problems the younger generations will inherit. Rylee Eaton, MCCF data analyst, commercial lobster fisherman, and Deer Isle-Stonington High School Class of 2021 alumnus, said "even though I’m going off to college and studying engineering, I was born and raised on Deer Island and I’ll probably end up coming back right back here. It scares me because the way things have been moving in the short time I’ve been alive, there might not be these industries left for me to come back to. I’ll have ever had children"

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Events and parking in towns

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