



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 5:00PM

This meeting of the Barnstable Infrastructure & Energy Committee is being recorded and will be posted for future viewing on the Town of Barnstable website. Under MGL Chapter 30A Section 20, anyone else desiring to make such a recording or transmission must notify the Chair.

Remote Participation Instructions

The Infrastructure and Energy Committee's Public Hearing will be held by remote participation methods. Real-time public comment can be addressed to the Infrastructure & Energy Committee utilizing the Zoom link and access code for remote access below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://townofbarnstable-us.zoom.us/j/81185779775?pwd=IWwpaqEVRQXL3rbEwApX5INmtAB6b.1>

Meeting ID: 811 8577 9775

Passcode: 568500

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)

Barry Sheingold, Chair; Peter Doyle, Vice Chair; John Solomon; Rob Wilson; Jane Ward

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members absent:

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Gordon Starr, Town Councilor; Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager Department of Public Works; David Anthony, Director of Asset Management

Agenda:

1. Call to order

2. Approval of February 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes

3. Old Business

3 a. Green Communities Designation

David Anthony, Director, Asset Management, Town of Barnstable, to lead discussion

i. History and outlook for becoming a Green Community

ii. Next steps

iii. Coordination with IEC

3 b. Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting

Barry Sheingold, Chair, IEC to lead discussion

i. Status of Commission's process

ii. Town's participation / IEC's role

iii. Next steps

4. New Business

4 a. Food Waste

John Solomon, Food Waste Subcommittee, to lead discussion

i. Overview and program goals

ii. Next steps

4 b. Discuss agenda for next meeting

5. Motion to Adjourn

Call to Order:

Barry Sheingold, Chair, called the March 13, 2024, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:06 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Barry Sheingold made a motion to approve the February 26, 2024. Both John Solomon and Rob Wilson jointly seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the February 26, 2024, meeting minutes.

Old Business

a. Green Communities Designation

Barry Sheingold, Chair, introduces Barnstable Director of Asset Management, David Anthony.

Anthony provides a comprehensive review of the history, background, and previous efforts by the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to recommend the Green Communities Designation to Town Council.

We've tried three times officially to achieve the Green Communities Designation, the first in 2008, the second around 2012/2013, just recently within the past 3 years. "It's a lot of work, but good work, meaningful work," Anthony states. He believes we can certainly do this again, but there are challenges.

We have the by-right zoning, we have the green vehicle policy, and we have the accelerated permitting already in place. The tricky part is the Stretch Code, and the heavy lift is the production of an energy plan to reduce our energy usage by 20% over the next 5 years. We must establish a baseline year of energy consumption (everything from diesel, gasoline, oil, electricity, any kind of energy we may be using). Consists of us reviewing each Town building and developing energy reduction plans for each. Requires a lot of heavy lifting, but we were fortunate to have partners, such as the Cape Light Compact.

The biggest challenges will be the Stretch Code and energy reduction plan. Anthony begins with a closer look at energy reduction. Re: energy reduction, Anthony states, "it's not impossible to do, we can make that happen".

Stretch Code will require participation and support from Building Director, Brian Florence, 'who has not been a fan of Stretch Code'. The Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager have asked Anthony to put together an outline of what the staff support/impact would look like to support pursuing the Green Communities Designation again. Barnstable Environmental Sustainability Manager, Sean Hogan, will also be a tremendous support. Cape Light Compact has also offered support. Anthony feels there is a real appetite, and the door is open to move forward with this initiative again, "the genesis has come from this Committee".

Rob Wilson asks about the new sewer system coming online and how that infrastructure will impact energy usage in time. Naturally the more infrastructure that comes online, the more energy we will be using that we aren't currently accounting for in our baseline energy usage, so yes that does make it more difficult to plan for the 20% energy reduction needed. Anthony also outlines the reality that there are some high-energy-use buildings where upgrades and sustainability methods will be key; i.e. HYCC when hosting large events pumps out a lot of energy usage. Other high-energy-use buildings include Barnstable High School, Barnstable Intermediate School and Barnstable United Elementary School. Sean Hogan is looking at a micro-grid where solar canopies and other sustainable energy sources may be put in place.

Councilor Gordon Starr suggests perhaps we pursue pushing for Stretch Code on its own? Or skip and pursue the Net Zero Code, which requires new commercial, institutional, and mid- to high-rise residential buildings to install or procure enough renewable energy to achieve zero-net carbon.

Anthony circles back to summarize where he feels the Town is regarding the Green Communities Designation requirements. Anthony has managed energy reduction plans in the past, he knows what needs to be done, and is confident this is achievable. The electrical vehicle plan is in good shape; Anthony would like to provide an update to the IEC on this initiative in the near future (June timeframe is ideal). IEC could certainly be most helpful in researching, communicating, and pursuing support for Stretch Code. Overall, next steps include Anthony responding to the Town Manager's request for an analysis, to better understand the workload and staff support needs to pursue Green Communities Designation.

b. Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting

Barry Sheingold, Chair, leads discussion starting with a brief recap and overview of the Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting. Sheingold provides an update on Town comments to the Commission's survey and shares his contributions to Section 6 of the survey, which takes a closer look at Host Community Agreements. The Town was able to submit comments by the first deadline, March 1, 2024. Both Town Manager, Mark Ells and Town Council President, Felicia Penn, attended a Commission Listening Session. The request has also been made by the Town to become an active member of the Commission, being that Barnstable is hosting so many active and proposed wind projects – however the Commission has denied that request.

Big takeaways:

- Liability should be on the State, not the Town
- Needs to be a benefit for the Town/residents

New York has been developing a funding vehicle to help offset costs for those who have been impacted by wind project construction, infrastructure, etc.

Comments will be closed on March 15, 2024. IEC's contribution via Sheingold's comments has helped achieve the goal of submitting comprehensive comments and feedback from the Town of Barnstable by the deadline.

New Business

a. Food Waste

John Solomon leads the discussion. The next step here is, 'how do we take this initiative to Town Council and make it something actionable' – would make sense to wait and continue that part of the conversation with both Councilor Kristin Terkelsen and Councilor Gordon Starr are available.

Solomon sees two very practical areas where we can make an immediate impact:

- Increase collection of food waste at the Transfer Station
- Initiate collection of food waste from commercial entities (i.e. restaurants)
 - o This would include bringing all the commercial entities up to the latest DEP requirements regarding food waste
 - o First step is education, making sure commercial entities are aware of these requirements and helping them prepare plans for compliance
 - o Black Earth, Recycle Works are both organizations that can collect food waste, including de-packaging equipment
 - o Need to incentivize this for businesses, make it as easy as possible, possibly subsidy to make it cost efficient, etc.

Additionally, down the road, Solomon feels there may be an opportunity to also pursue food waste collection at schools. The Committee acknowledges this would be a very large undertaking.

Acknowledging the length of the meeting, the Committee agrees to continue further food waste discussions at the next scheduled meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024. The meeting is adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2024, at 5:00PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for March 25, 2024

1. Call to order
2. Approval of March 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - 3 a. Food Waste
 - i. Continued discussion from March 13, 2023
4. New Business
 - 4a. New Committee Candidates
 - i. Update from Councilor Terkelsen on applications and interviews
 - 4 b. Discuss agenda for next meeting
5. Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager, Barnstable Department of Public Works.

