



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 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=IWwpqaeEVrQXL3rbEwApX5INmtAB6b.1>

Meeting ID: 811 8577 9775

Passcode: 568500

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members Present: (On Zoom)

Barry Sheingold, Chair; Chris Gloninger, Vice Chair; Ron Ruggiero; Rob Wilson;

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members Absent:

John Solomon; Jane Ward

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager, Barnstable DPW

Agenda:

Call to Order

Chair Barry Sheingold called the May 27, 2025 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee to order at 5:10 PM.

Approval of May 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The committee discussed the minutes from the May 12th meeting. Chair Barry Sheingold requests one grammatical edit on the first page (whom versus "who joined..."). The minutes are edited accordingly. Rob Wilson makes a motion to approve the minutes, Chris Gloninger seconds; the

Committee votes unanimously to approve the May 12th meeting minutes.

Old Business

a) Green Communities

Chair Barry Sheingold led the Green Communities discussion with a brief update, starting with a public comment made by committee member, Jane Ward, at the most recent Town Council meeting encouraging the adoption of the Stretch Code. Sheingold notes that there has been discussion amongst Town Council members and the sense he got was that after this current budget cycle and the proposed “no flow” (Flow Neutral) ordinance, they would then have the bandwidth to consider the Stretch Code. Sheingold felt this means the Stretch Code conversation could perhaps be revisited in July, based on the Town Council’s meeting schedule. Overall, Sheingold feels it is good that there is some traction to at least consider further conversations and acknowledges that there are some Councilors likely to support the Stretch Code, some likely to oppose, and some in the middle who have yet to articulate their views.

Sheingold also reports that he has done some additional research into the MassSave program, which provides benefits for homeowners who, for new construction or major renovations/additions, use heat pumps. The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) had ordered a 5% reduction. And, in response, the program administrators, including the Cape Light Compact, have come up with a proposal. Specifically for the heat pump program, there are small reductions in the 2nd and 3rd year, not in the 1st year, so they've come up with a way to address that and they changed what they're offering to some extent including some changes to their processes, which they think will reduce the demand if you will. That proposal is with DPU for consideration. Ultimately, that has an indirect impact on the consideration of the Stretch Code.

b) Food Waste

John Solomon was absent from the May 27th meeting; no major updates. Chair Barry Sheingold did note what seemed to be additional or more prominent signage. Sheingold also suggests that upon Solomon’s return the committee should discuss visiting the Transfer Station again for additional outreach and surveying.

c) Climate Change and Climate Science

No major updates at this time. Vice Chair, Chris Gloninger, also reports he has had some conversations with people in regard to the possibility of hosting a tour at Sandy Neck (related to Solar SUNdays event proposal). He does note the anticipated project (Coastal Resiliency) that will take place onsite in the near term.

d) Air Quality Monitoring

Jane Ward was absent from the May 27th meeting; no major updates.

e) Technology and Infrastructure

Ron Ruggiero provided an update regarding his networking and research, which has led him to take a deeper look at the Barnstable Digital Equity Plan. Just two weeks ago this plan was published, which is an 83-page report, available on the Cape Cod Commission website (<https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/barnstable-digital-equity-plan/>). Ruggiero highlights a few points of interest including statistics for Massachusetts and the Town of Barnstable.

Massachusetts has one of the highest percentages of Internet subscribers in the country at 92% of its residents, and Barnstable County is actually even higher than that at 95%. With that said, according to the FTC, 30% of Barnstable residents are considered underserved. And what that means is it's qualified as "insufficient broadband Internet access areas that have speeds of less than a hundred megabytes per second." Last July, the eight Cape town (which includes Barnstable) were actually awarded what is believed to be a \$30M grant to expand high speed access to those needs areas. And again, about 30% of the Town of Barnstable is considered in that realm. At this time, what happens next is really dependent on whether or not the funding comes through. Ruggiero also reports recent conversations with David Eisenberg of the Falmouth Municipal Broadband Program, who indicates that they are exploring deals with private network builders to potentially build a Town-owned fiber optic broadband network. Ruggiero notes that he also continues to expand his conversations with other municipalities (i.e. Bourne). Further discussion among Committee members includes a deeper look into some of the statistics in the Commission's report, including the percentage of users for particular providers (i.e. Verizon, Comcast Xfinity, T-Mobile) – Comcast being the most heavily used here in the Town of Barnstable.

New Business

- a) Additional updates from Committee Chair and Committee Members
 - Updates in regard to a proposed Solar SUNday outreach event
 - Possibility of an event at Sandy Neck being explored, Chris Gloninger taking the lead, as reported earlier he has had some initial conversations
 - Chris feels the next step is to review logistics, determine if the Town would approve hosting an event at Sandy Neck, narrowing down a potential date (August timeframe was briefly discussed)
- b) Discuss Agenda for Next Meeting, Wednesday, June 25, 2025
 - Reminder: In-person meeting to be held at the Department of Public Works (382 Falmouth Road, Hyannis)

Assigned Tasks

- No change in tasks at this time

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn is made, so moved by Ron Ruggiero, the Committee votes unanimously. The May 27, 2025, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee is adjourned at **5:37 PM**.

Next Meeting: June 25, 2025, at 5:00 PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for June 25, 2025 – IN PERSON (DPW, 382 Falmouth Road, Hyannis)

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of May 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - a. Green Communities
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - b. Food Waste

- i. Relevant Updates
 - c. Climate Change and Climate Science
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - d. Air Quality Monitoring
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - e. Technology and Infrastructure
 - i. Relevant Updates
- 4. New Business
 - a. Solar SUNday
 - i. Discuss possibility of coordinating an outreach/educational event
 - ii. Example for discussion purposes: <https://solar-living.org/solar-sunday-february/>
 - b. Additional updates from Committee Chair
 - c. Discuss agenda for next meeting, June 25, 2025
 - i. In-person, hosted at DPW (382 Falmouth Road, Hyannis)
 - d. Assigned Tasks
- 5. Motion to Adjourn

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