



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 11, 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; John Solomon; Jane Ward

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members Absent:

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Gordon Starr, Barnstable Town Council; Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager, Barnstable DPW; Heidi Mahoney, GoNetspeed; John Dullaghan, GoNetspeed

Agenda:

Call to Order

Chair Barry Sheingold called the August 11, 2025 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee to order at 5:02 PM.

Approval of June 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The committee discussed the minutes of the June 25, 2025 meeting. Motion to approve is made by Jane Ward, seconded by Barry Sheingold. The Committee votes unanimously to approve the June 25,

2025, meeting minutes.

Presentation – GoNetspeed

Committee member, Ron Ruggiero, provides a brief introduction of GoNetspeed (<https://www.gonetspeed.com/>) and welcomes representatives Heidi Mahoney and John Dullaghan. A copy of GoNetspeed's presentation slides will be circulated to the Committee.

Heidi Mahoney from Go Net Speed presented on organization's plans to build a fiber network in Barnstable, which will be implemented in a phased approach. Phase One (including the Towns of Yarmouth and Barnstable) is anticipated to pass 7,000 locations and cost \$8 million, with aerial construction planned to begin next year pending utility pole attachments. The company, which is the largest privately owned fiber provider in the northeast, explained their expansion strategy across multiple states and their approach to building networks in phases based on density and subscriber potential. The discussion highlighted challenges with Massachusetts' regulatory environment, particularly regarding pole attachment timelines, with ongoing legislation to implement one-touch make-ready rules.

Mahoney explained the installation process for their fiber internet service, which involves attaching to utility poles and providing 500/500 Mbps symmetrical speeds. She highlighted their strong customer service, with local call centers in Bangor, Maine, and Rochester, New York, and a top 1% Net Promoter Score of 75. Mahoney also discussed the organization's pricing, which is currently lower than Comcast's offerings, and clarified that their service does not include TV but focuses solely on internet connectivity.

Mahoney also discussed community engagement strategies, emphasizing the importance of building relationships with municipalities, like Yarmouth and Barnstable, before construction begins and offering digital equity initiatives like educational classes and discounted services. She presented a map showing planned fiber network locations across Cape Cod. The group discussed reception of new fiber competitors in underserved areas, with Mahoney confirming that customers welcome additional choices, particularly future-proof fiber options over less reliable fixed wireless.

Old Business

a) Green Communities

Chair Barry Sheingold began the Green Communities discussion with an update on the public comment he provided during the most recent Town Council meeting. Councilor Starr and Sheingold discussed the upcoming Town Council agenda(s), including a possible timeline for when the Stretch Code Ordinance and Green Communities application may be considered for further discussion. Ideally the Committee would like to target a first reading in early September and second reading/public hearing/vote at the end of September. Councilor Starr noted concerns from the Home Builders and Remodelers Association about electricity capacity and air exchange system longevity, which Jane Ward provided added context to help quell these fears, mentioning that their heat pumps have lasted eight+ years.

Discussion continued with a focus on what implementation of the Stretch Code could look like in Barnstable. Councilor Starr shared that 125 single-family homes were built in the town over the past five years, which represents about 25 buildings annually. It was noted that most new homes are now in the \$1.2-2 million range, making the impact of the Stretch Code on housing costs less significant than previously assumed. Sheingold mentioned that while some builders expressed concerns about costs, the group has data showing that heat pumps

are actually less expensive under the Stretch Code compared to gas heating for new construction. Sheingold acknowledges that there are differing views on this point. The discussion concluded with Councilor Starr explaining that two additional components need to be addressed: a vehicle policy and an energy reduction plan for municipal buildings, both of which require School Committee approval.

b) Food Waste

John Solomon led the Food Waste discussion, expressing frustration over the lack of progress and information regarding the composting facility proposal at the Joint Base, noting that the County is not sharing the consultant's report with him at this time – rather just with the participating municipalities. Solomon suggested that Barnstable should move forward independently with its own initiatives, such as improving the Transfer Station offerings and raising awareness about food waste collection. Sheingold advised Solomon to continue his efforts to seek more information from other stakeholders (i.e. Alan Robinson, Falmouth) while Jane Ward mentioned that Town Councilor Betty Ludke, had shown interest in the project and may be able to lend additional support.

c) Climate Change and Climate Science

The group discussed plans for an educational event at Sandy Neck Beach to highlight climate change impacts and the town's coastal resiliency efforts. Vice Chair, Chris Gloninger continues to flesh out ideas and logistics for the proposed event. Gloninger discussed a potential event outline/format and potential date changes. The Committee agreed to aim for a date in late September (9/13, 9/27), with Gloninger planning to finalize the details and send them to Barry and Kelly for review. Related to education, Gloninger suggested displaying before-and-after photos of the beach changes, using archives for comparison, and having Committee members discuss climate adaptation work.

Kelly Collopy, DPW Communications Manager and Committee staff support, shared that a groundbreaking event for the parking lot relocation project is being planned for early October, potentially coinciding with the climate change event, though the exact format and audience are still being determined. Kelly agreed to explore the possibility of combining the two events or looking for ways where one can support/compliment the other and will provide more details.

d) Air Quality Monitoring

No major updates at this time. The Committee briefly touched on air quality technologies, including a UV-C system for sterilizing air.

e) Technology and Infrastructure

Ron Ruggiero continues to network and is coordinating additional internet-related presentations for future Committee meetings.

New Business

a) Additional updates from Committee Chair and Committee Members

- AI Applications and Data Analysis (Jane Ward)

The Committee discussed AI applications, particularly focusing on ChatGPT for meeting minutes and data analysis. Jane Ward shared her experience with using AI tools to rework minutes into outline form and highlighted potential applications for municipal data analysis, suggesting bringing in Russ Wilcox for a demonstration.

Barry Sheingold shared his experience using ChatGPT to summarize a letter about heat pump rates, noting it provided a useful first draft but required editing. John Solomon inquired about the AI meeting transcription tool, which Ward explained she had set up, and the group agreed it could be useful as long as the human editor takes responsibility for the final product. Kelly Collopy noted there is hesitancy at the Town leadership-level with using AI for particular public meetings and sensitive information.

b) Confirm Fall/Winter 2025 Meeting Schedule

Staff liaison, Kelly Collopy, circulated proposed September – December meeting dates to full Committee to consider and discuss at an upcoming meeting:

- Monday, September 8 – CONFIRMED
- Monday September 22
- Monday, October 6
- Monday, October 20
- Monday, November 3
- Monday, November 17
- Monday, December 1
- Monday, December 15
- Monday, December 29 (if needed for end of year wrap-up)

Collopy will schedule the September meetings for now and revisit the schedule with the group at the next meeting.

Assigned Tasks

- Barry Sheingold
 - Organize individuals to speak at upcoming Town Council meetings regarding the Stretch Code
- Chris Gloninger
 - Revise the Sandy Neck event outline and circulate for feedback
- Jane Ward
 - Discuss AI tools with Sean Hogan and David Anthony to potentially help with the energy reduction plan.
 - Follow up with developers regarding the UVC air sterilization technology.
- John Solomon
 - Speak with Alan Robinson about the status of the composting facility report
- Ron Ruggiero
 - Continue following up with OpenCape for a presentation at the September 8th meeting.
 - Continue reaching out to Verizon, Comcast, and state-level government representatives for future presentations.

Motion to Adjourn

The August 11, 2025, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee is adjourned at 6:23 PM.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2025, at 5:00 PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for September 8, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of August 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes
3. TENTATIVE – Presentation from OpenCape
4. Old Business
 - a. Green Communities
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - b. Food Waste
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - c. Climate Change and Climate Science
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - ii. Sandy Neck Outreach Event
 - d. Air Quality Monitoring
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - e. Technology and Infrastructure
 - i. Relevant Updates
5. New Business
 - a. Additional updates from Committee Chair
 - b. Discuss agenda for next meeting, September 22, 2025
 - c. Assigned Tasks
6. Motion to Adjourn

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