



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601

Office: 508.862.4610

Fax: 508.790.6226

www.town.barnstable.ma.us

Citizens' Resource Line: 508.862.4925



Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

mark.ells@town.barnstable.ma.us

M. Andy Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager

andy.clyburn@town.barnstable.ma.us

March 4, 2021

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for period February 19, 2021 thru March 4, 2021

1. Andy Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager, will provide an update relative to COVID vaccination efforts in Barnstable.
2. Lynne Poyant, Director of Communications, will share our video that walks you through BarnstableWaterResources.com which you can view here:

YouTube: https://youtu.be/_jSizgOpFdw

Video on Demand: <http://streaming85.townofbarnstable.us/vod/9377-Town-Manager-Mark-Ells-v1/vod.mp4>

3. The Town of Barnstable was informed on February 16, 2021 that the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) filed a Clean Water Act complaint against the Town. CLF has not yet served the complaint on the Town, and the litigation process does not start until that happens. We are continuing to pursue discussions with CLF. We will keep you advised through future executive session as we progress through this legal matter.
4. The Town of Barnstable has led the region's efforts to protect and preserve our water resources. With the recent state approval of our Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP), a 30-year plan focused on protecting the health of coastal, inland and drinking water quality, we embark on perhaps the most aggressive infrastructure and resource protection plan in the history of our community. We engaged our community in the next phase of the plan involving the review of fiscal policy to support the implementation of the approved CWMP. A Special Town Council meeting was held on October 29, 2020 to discuss proposed fiscal policy considerations in support of implementation of the CWMP. We have also provided subsequent reviews with Town Council, the Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee, civic groups and the general public and we will continue to do so as we progress through this important discussion. The fiscal policy under consideration would establish how to equitably distribute the remaining cost of the CWMP. The Town Manager's proposal to Town Council includes the following:

- First, review and approve the proposed Sewer Assessment Ordinance which includes a sewer assessment to each individual property receiving the planned sewer; and
- Second, discuss the use of general funds to pay for the remaining portion of cost associated with proceeding with the CWMP.

The Town has stressed the importance of community engagement in the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP), including the proposed Sewer Assessment Ordinance. The following is intended to provide the Town Council with a brief update on outreach and community engagement regarding these efforts.

- Public Engagement Sessions: Public engagement sessions to discuss the proposed Sewer Assessment Ordinance were held on February 25th at 10 am, 2 pm and 7 pm. The sessions were publicized in the local media, via social media, by email and e-newsletters sent directly to civic associations and other community groups and individuals, and on Channel 18. The virtual engagement sessions were conducted via Zoom as a webinar and streamed live on Facebook and aired live on Channel 18 and streamed live on the Town's website. Approximately 150 citizens participated in the live sessions via Zoom and Facebook, and many others viewed live on Channel 18. The sessions were recorded and posted to the website, and to date there have been more than 2,000 viewings of the three presentations. The next public engagement sessions are planned for March 25th at 10 am, 2 pm, and 7 pm and will be widely publicized in the community and will follow the same format.
- Meetings and Presentations: Since 2016, more than 75 presentations regarding the CWMP have been made to the Town Council, community groups, town committees and staff. Many of these sessions have been recorded and are available for viewing on the Town website. The Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Finance Director, DPW Director, Assistant DPW Director and Town Engineer continue to provide presentations to a wide variety of civic groups and town officials. The focus of the meetings varies based on the groups' interests, and may encompass a CWMP overview, detail on design issues, and discussion of the proposed Sewer Assessment Ordinance. In the last 60 days presentations have been made to the Town Council, Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC), Centerville Civic Association, West Barnstable Civic Association, Barnstable Youth Commission, Osterville Village Association, District Fire Chiefs, and Wequaquet Lake Protective Association, among others. Direct outreach is being made to all civic and village associations and other business and community organizations to send them information about the CWMP and proposed Sewer Assessment Ordinance and to make Town staff available for a special presentation and discussion with each individual group and their members.
- Barnstable Water Resources website: www.barntablewaterresources.com, provides access to current news and information about the CWMP and implementation efforts. Property owners can use the site's "property look-up" tool to find out if their property is included in one of the three sewer expansion phases. An introductory video has been added to the home page to introduce

users to the site and explain where they can find information. The site provides access to primary documents such as the CWMP, and the draft ordinance, as well as summaries of these and other materials. Site visitors are encouraged to sign up for the new *Community Currents* e-newsletter which will be distributed electronically to provide regular updates on the CWMP, construction schedules, Town Council meetings and hearings, and other pertinent news.

- Additional measures: Town Communications Office staff is working with the Town Manager, DPW and Finance Department to develop other communications tools, including brochures, explanatory videos, and various social media platforms. An Instagram page focused on water was added to the mix on December 23, 2020. We currently have over 1, 000 followers and many are unique as they are not following the Town's Facebook or Twitter pages. The Town of Barnstable YouTube channel, also with a water focus, was also recently created.

We will keep you advised of our progress on this important effort.

5. We are proceeding with the tasks in the budget action calendar for FY 2022 as scheduled. We have finalized the proposed FY 2022 Capital Improvement Program and plan to submit the proposed FY 2022 Capital Budget to Town Council on Monday, March 8. The first reading of the proposed FY 2022 Capital Plan is scheduled for March 18, 2021 and the public hearings are planned to commence on April 1, 2021. We are commencing final internal review of the proposed FY 2022 Operating Budget on March 22, 2021. We are planning to present a level service budget in FY 2022. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
6. We continue with regular conversations with Vineyard Wind regarding the status of the Phase I and Phase II projects. Vineyard Wind continues to work with Barnstable staff regarding both Phases of the project. They anticipate commencing construction on Phase I in the spring of 2021 and are proceeding with permitting on Phase II. We have engaged in discussion with Vineyard Wind regarding a Host Agreement for a potential Phase III. Vineyard Wind is scheduled to provide an update to the Town Council on the status of their projects both current and future later this evening. We will keep you advised as this project progresses.
7. Elizabeth Jenkins, Director of Planning & Development, will provide an overview of the Town's establishment of a Steering Committee for the Local Comprehensive Plan.
8. David Anthony, Director of Property and Risk Management, will provide us an update on Barnstable's efforts to apply for a Green Communities certification. At your next Town Council meeting there is a workshop planned to discuss the approach recommended by the Building Commissioner and supported by the Town Manager to develop and receive approval for a modified Stretch Code. We plan to have panel members of the building trade and state to discuss the Building Commissioner's proposed approach to this matter.