



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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February 3, 2022

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for period January 20, 2022 through February 3, 2022

1. On January 29, 2022 a winter storm impacted our area with blizzard conditions resulting in numerous power outages and wind related damages. Our staff response was well coordinated and effective resulting in accessible roads and restoration of power by Eversource for most residents by Sunday evening. I want to thank all involved in this successful response in keeping our community safe through this significant weather event.
2. Elizabeth Jenkins, Director of Planning and Development, shall provide an update on the Local Comprehensive Plan.
3. The 'Business Barnstable' website has been relaunched at www.businessbarnstable.com. This resource website is designed to enhance communication between the Town and small business owners and to market the Town of Barnstable to new businesses and developers, promoting our competitive advantages and high quality of life. The community also can sign up for periodic economic development updates on the home page.
4. The Town of Barnstable invites Civic Associations and community nonprofits to submit an application for a 2022 Tourism Mini-Grant. The Tourism Mini-Grant Program is designed to aid our seven villages in promoting new or existing events and festivals to draw visitors to our town. All civic associations and nonprofit organizations within the Town of Barnstable that are marketing village events to visitors and/or providing visitor services are eligible and encouraged to apply. These grants are available up to a maximum of \$1,000 per applicant, and require one-to-one matching funds.
5. The Town, in partnership with the Hyannis Main Street Business Improvement District, is offering a new round of COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Grants to low- and moderate-income business owners stressed by the impacts of the pandemic. These \$10,000 grants will assist 10 small businesses to cover losses incurred since the state of emergency declaration on March 10, 2020. Any business owner with an establishment in the Town of Barnstable with five or fewer

employees is eligible to apply and must demonstrate that they can meet the program requirements. Funding for these grants is provided through the Community Development Block Grant. More information and applications are available at www.hyannismainstreet.com and on the Town's homepage.

6. We are proceeding with the budget action calendar for FY 2023 as provided at the last Town Council meeting in the development of the proposed capital and operating budgets as per the budget action calendar. Mark Milne, Finance Director, will share a recent budget development relative to Chapter 70 Aid that will impact our FY 2023 budget planning and proposals. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
7. In FY 2020 the Town Council approved a Comprehensive Facilities Assessment to be conducted by our School Department. The assessment is intended to study school facilities, future enrollments, and other trends to aid in our School Department's long range planning. Michael Lambros, Director of School Facilities, shall provide an update on the assessment.
8. On January 24, 2022 Matt Levesque, Town Council President; Paula Schnepf, Town Council Vice President; Mark Milne, Finance Director; and I met with Barnstable County Administrator Beth Albert, and Vaira Harik, Assistant County Administrator, to discuss the use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds distributed to the County. The County explained that they had received comment directly from other community's leadership and from the public as well through a survey conduct by the County. We shared with the County that we appreciated the direct support the County has provided through the Barnstable County Department of Health throughout this health crisis and suggested that costs associated with that support should be one use of the County's ARPA funds. Beyond COVID response expenses incurred by the County, distribution of ARPA funds to regional priorities that are eligible under ARPA or direct distribution to Barnstable County communities for the same eligible uses would be appropriate. With us this evening is County Administrator Albert and Assistant Administrator Harik to share additional information relevant to the distribution of County ARPA funds.