



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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October 6, 2022

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for September 16 thru October 6, 2022

1. Ann Quirk, Town Clerk, will provide us with an election update.
2. We are proceeding with the Budget Action Calendar for FY 2024. The action items in the budget calendar include the meetings of the School Committee held as they develop the FY 2024 proposed operating budget. As noted in the Budget Action Calendar a joint meeting of Town Council and School Committee is scheduled for October 20, 2022. We distributed the budget instructions for the development of the FY 2024 Operating Budget and FY 2024-2028 Capital Improvements Plan to staff on September 23, 2022. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
3. On July 26, 2022, I provided the Board of Health an update regarding the proposed regulatory changes under consideration by the Department of Environmental Protection to Title 5. As previously reported on June 1, 2022, the Town of Barnstable was informed of regulatory revisions the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is developing to ensure that timely actions are taken to restore and protect coastal estuaries that have been impacted by excessive nitrogen pollution. We met with MassDEP on July 6, 2022 to further discuss these proposed changes and we submitted a letter summarizing our comments on the proposed changes for MassDEP's consideration as they finalize their draft regulations. We met again with DEP staff on September 23, 2022 to further discuss the proposed changes to Title 5 regulations. I spoke with the Undersecretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs this week and he shared that the state still plans to issue a draft regulation for review in October 2022. I have suggested that MassDEP present these draft changes to a joint meeting of the Town Council and Barnstable Board of Health as these changes are significant and merit such a presentation possibly in November or December 2022. We will keep you advised as these important regulatory revisions progress.

4. We continue review of permits filed with regulatory agencies regarding a proposed Phase 3 (Commonwealth Wind) landing of cable in Barnstable. At the presentation on March 17, 2022 the proposed landing locations for cable in Osterville were shared with the Town Council. Commonwealth Wind shared said information following their filing for Site Assessment approval with the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management documents that identified their proposed project including landing and cable route locations. To date I have only had general discussions with Commonwealth Wind (Phase 3) project representatives but have not commenced negotiations of a Host Community Agreement and shall not do so until authorized by Town Council. On September 30, 2022 Commonwealth Wind proceeded with filing an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) and supporting documents to the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency office (MEPA) of the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Attached is the document link below to the form and various attachments, including attachment A, which is a narrative describing the project and the rationale for various siting and design considerations, including the landing and the route.

<https://avangridrenewables.box.com/s/vwftpvf703ivpauz34yoadvimq8g8lbu>

Commonwealth Wind has requested that the ENF be noticed in the next issue of the Environmental Monitor to be published on October 7, 2022. Commonwealth Wind anticipates that the public comment period for the ENF will extend through October 27, 2022 and the Secretary's Certificate will be published on November 7, 2022. Staff is reviewing the ENF and we plan to submit comments within the public comment period. Based on Attachment D Permits, Reviews and Approvals Required for the Project of the ENF. We anticipate a filing later this fall with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB). We will keep you advised of our progress on this matter.

5. In thousands of communities across our nation, drinking water contains chemicals known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS is used in a wide range of products including non-stick cookware, water and stain repellent fabrics, and fire-fighting foam. PFAS enters our water resources and is difficult to remove. PFAS has been linked to a number of adverse health effects. [A report issues by the National Academies of Sciences Engineering Medicine entitled Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Test, and Clinical Follow-up](#) recommends to the centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to update its clinicians to offer PFAS blood testing to patients who are likely to have a history of elevated exposure. Later this evening Dr. Laurel Schaider, PhD, Senior Scientist, Environmental Chemistry and Engineering, Silent Springs Institute will share information regarding the ongoing efforts in Hyannis relative to the presence of PFAS and the opportunity for our residents to participate in a health study here in Hyannis.
6. Elizabeth Jenkins, Director of Planning and Development, will provide an update on the Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP).