



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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May 18, 2023

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for May 5 through May 18, 2023

1. We are proceeding with the Budget Action Calendar for FY2024 as scheduled. The Operating Budget for FY2024 has been submitted to the Town Council and public hearings are scheduled to begin on June 1, 2023. Mark Milne, Director of Finance, has provided a prerecorded summary of the FY2024 Operating Budget. <https://youtu.be/BhRI6442eVA> For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. Our Legal Department continues to participate in the discussion to prohibit discharge of radioactive wastewater into Cape Cod Bay during the decommissioning process of the Plymouth Nuclear Power Plant. We have discussed this issue with other Cape Cod Town Managers and they are supportive of our efforts as we move forward with this effort. Additional information will be provided as we advance with this effort. We will keep the community advised of our progress on this matter.
3. The Town of Barnstable is currently working to update the Town's Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) which is a long-term vision and growth policy that will guide Barnstable's future over the next ten years. The Local Comprehensive Planning Committee invites the community to review the draft [Phase I Vision Statement](#), which is now open for public comment through close of business Thursday, June 15th. The draft Phase I Vision Statement is available on the Town's Local Comprehensive Plan website BarnstableLCP.com via the [Document Library](#) page. Comments can be submitted online through the Comment Form or by email to BarnstableLCP@town.barnstable.ma.us.
4. The Town Manager's Office held a public hearing on proposed Green Burial Regulations on May 10, 2023. The full text of the proposed regulation is available on the Town of Barnstable website at <https://townofbarnstable.us/Departments/TownManager/> under Town Manager Hearings. Public comment will be accepted through June 9, 2023.
5. As reported in previous Town Manager Communications, last summer Barnstable was required to stop beach raking at some of our public beaches after a complaint

was received by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program regarding endangered species habitat. In 2021, the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) released a document that clarified their permitting requirements for raking beaches within endangered species habitat. The document states that a Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) permit is required for all raking activities on beaches that are designated habitat. It also lists restrictions that will be placed on MESA permitted beaches. Specifically, towns will be subjected to conditions in the MESA permit that require time of year raking restrictions. The Town of Barnstable has six public beaches that are designated as habitat for endangered nesting shorebirds. Sandy Neck has a MESA permit that is associated with the off road vehicle beach. The rest of our designated habitat beaches (Dowses, Kalmus, Craigville, Covell's and Fortes) will be MESA permitted in the future as the town works through this permitting process. For the summer season of 2023 these five beaches will not be mechanically raked on a routine basis. The Town recognizes that, even once permitted, raking will be greatly reduced at these beaches and public outreach is imperative in order to educate and prepare our community for this change. The Town is committed to provide public access to our beaches while still protecting our natural resources. We will keep our community advised as we progress on this matter.

6. On April 21, 2023 the Town received an email from John Cox, President of Cape Cod Community College (CCCC or 4Cs), notifying the Town of the recent Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) notice for the Public Hearing that occurred on May 3, 2023 to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the land transfer on 4Cs' campus from Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to DCAMM. Cape Cod Community College intends to conduct a planning exercise regarding the feasibility of other uses or subsequent disposition. Any disposition would require legislative authorization. M.G.L. c.7C Section 37 requires that notice be provided to governmental bodies in the affected area at least 120 days prior to any purchase, sale, rental, lease, transfer, or change in use of one or more acres of real property owned by the Commonwealth on behalf of state agencies. This notice is intended to satisfy the requirement of the statute. The letter date April 19, 2023 from DCAMM requests the Town's agreement to a reduction of the 120-day notification period to 30 days from the date of this notice and the Town's approval. This is permitted under M.G.L. c.7C, Sec. 37 and if approved by the Town will allow DCAMM to proceed with the acquisition without delay. We have taken this request under advisement including any comments submitted at the May 3, 2023 public hearing by DCAMM to determine future action but at this time do not anticipate granting a reduction of the 120-day notification period which commenced on April 19, 2023.
7. We continue to meet with State Officials on the proposed regulatory changes to Title 5 and Watershed Permit regulations. Our most recent meeting was held on May 10, 2023 to continue the discussion regarding specific questions MassDEP (Department of Environmental Protection) had relative to our comment letters. The next discussion with State officials is scheduled for later this afternoon where

a Title 5 Advisory Committee of which I am a member will meet regarding the proposed regulatory changes. We will keep you advised of our progress on this matter.

8. Our public outreach for the two-way conversion for has concluded its conceptual phase. The Great Streets Downtown Hyannis project is focused on re-envisioning how Hyannis Main Street and the surrounding streets and intersections are designed and how they function. The project aims to place more of an emphasis on pedestrians, address congestion, and enhance public spaces and opportunities for multiple modes of travel downtown. A final report on this phase is available online at www.tinyurl.com/hyannisgreatstreets, along with a video recording of the meeting at which the final preliminary design plan was presented. We anticipate additional public outreach and discussion as we progress with this project.
9. The Barnstable Youth Commission is hosting their annual Youth Summit for Barnstable Intermediate Students (BIS) on Friday, May 19, 2023 at the Barnstable Adult Community Center. The event features speakers Kevin Rosario of Gosnold Inc. and Robert Hackenson of Dynamic Influence. The speakers will help educate students about making good choices as they enter into high school and educate them about the impacts/effects of drugs and alcohol. The Summit will also feature Barnstable High School (BHS) students mentoring BIS students on what to expect at BHS. A vendor fair will take place at BIS for students to pass through and gather information from 20 BHS clubs and five youth driven organizations.
10. Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager for the Public Works Department, will provide an update on Water Resource Management planning including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.