



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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August 17, 2023

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for July 21 through August 17, 2023

1. We are proceeding with the budget action calendar for FY 2025. The action items in the budget calendar include the meetings of the School Committee held as they develop the FY 2025 proposed operating budget. We are also preparing the budget instruction for FY 2025 with planned distribution in September. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.

2. The following dates are when the Town of Barnstable will no longer have lifeguards on duty at certain locations. They are as follows:

Loop Beach as of Thursday, August 17th

Veteran's Beach as of Friday, August 18th

Kalmus Beach as of Sunday, August 20th

Dowses Beach as of Thursday, August 24th

Covell's Beach as of Monday, August 28th

We anticipate having lifeguards at Craigville Beach through Labor Day.

3. The Town Manager's Office held a second public hearing on proposed Grant of Location regulations on July 12, 2023. The regulations address procedures and standards for the placement of wireless communication facilities in the public rights of way. The full text of the proposed regulations, revised to address comments submitted in connection with the first public hearing on March 23, 2023, and a recording of the July 12th hearing is available on the Town of Barnstable website at <https://townofbarnstable.us/Departments/TownManager/Projects/Draft-Grant-of-Location-Regulations.asp>. Written public comments closed on Friday, July 28, 2023. We anticipate that final version of the regulation will be posted shortly.

4. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has issued a tentative denial of Holtec's application to modify its Massachusetts permit to discharge Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant's contaminated waters used as part of the decommissioning process into Cape Cod Bay. We have worked with the Town of Plymouth and the Association to Preserve Cape Cod to achieve this precedent-setting tentative decision Relative to the Massachusetts Ocean Sanctuaries Act and the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act. Our Legal Department is preparing comments and will be submitting them by the August 31st deadline after consulting with counsel for Plymouth and APCC. We will keep you advised of our progress on this matter.
5. On August 11, 2023 Nina Coleman, Director of Natural Resources, notified me that the Beach Management Plan for the Protection of Piping Plovers at Craigville and Covell's Beach for Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) had been submitted to the state.

Upon approval, the permit will be good for 5 years and will allow such activities as:

- i. The town could rake for seaweed/debris removal before April 1.
- ii. The town could rake for litter control bi-weekly starting July 1st.
- iii. The town could remove excessive storm wrack for "health concerns" at any time of the year.
- iv. The town could install beach amenities and host special events.

All these activities will require Natural Resources staff to monitor Piping Plovers and report to Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) at the end of the season. Director Coleman will provide a recorded update regarding the filing in the near future. Staff will also proceed with Beach Management Plans for other areas requiring MESA permits in Barnstable.

6. The Cape Cod Commission and consultants CTC Technology and Energy and Rural Innovation Strategies Inc. are collecting speed test data to capture network capacity data during the high-demand summer season. Cape-based internet users are encouraged to take the [speed test](#) as often as possible and across different devices and connection types. The speed test is part of a broader assessment of user experiences, and existing infrastructure within Barnstable County. The assessment is funded with American Recovery Plan Act funds distributed by Barnstable County. It is distinct from, but complementary to, the speed test promoted by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI). The MBI effort is part of a broader digital equity survey in support of the statewide plan.

Both are important to broadband planning efforts locally and in the state. If possible, start with the MBI test, and follow up as often as possible with the Cape-based test.

[Massachusetts Broadband Institute Survey and Speed Test](#)

Cape-Based Speed Test: capecodcommission.org/speedtest

Understanding the functionality of the region's existing internet network and potential for upgrades or expansion to increase access to high-speed broadband is important for the region. The full assessment is expected to be completed in spring 2024.

Take the speed test here: capecodcommission.org/speedtest

7. As a reminder Xfinity recently informed the Town of upcoming channel lineup changes. All Xfinity customers will receive notice of these changes but as the changes will affect our Government Access Station as well as our Public Access Station. Starting on or around August 17th the Town of Barnstable's Government access channel will no longer be found on Xfinity Channel 18. It will be on channels 8 or 1070 after August 17th. As previously reported, recent upgrades to the Town's Government Access television station programming can be found in high definition on Xfinity Channel 1072. As always, government access programming can be accessed 24/7 on the Town website via the livestream or our video on demand archives. Other changes include our Public access channel, otherwise known as the Cape Media Center, which will be able to be viewed on Xfinity channel 26 after August 17th.
8. We have had a successful launch of *My Barnstable*, a push notification mobile application powered by [GOGov](https://gogov.org). The app is a great source of information for town news, events, service interruptions and updates, and important links to the town's website. Town staff can streamline important community communications and information to citizens in more efficient ways. The addition of this app to the Town's communication tools is in direct response to requests through last winter's Communications Survey.
9. The Town of Barnstable will be hosting a 2nd Summer Celebration on Saturday, September 2nd that will begin at 5:00 PM and culminate in fireworks over Lewis Bay in Hyannis Harbor. Family activities will take place at Kalmus Beach from 5:00 to 8:30 PM and will include multicultural dance performances and dance workshops featuring local artists and produced by Movement Arts Cape Cod. Town departments and local resources will be on hand with interactive activities and valuable information. Admission and parking is free starting at 4:00 PM at Kalmus Beach. Public restrooms and the snack bar will be open until 9:30 PM. Other viewing locations for the fireworks include Veterans Park Beach and along the waterfront at Bismore Park. The CCRTA trolley shuttle will extend their service until 11:00 PM with stops convenient to Town parking lots. Accessible parking will be available at the Cape Cod Maritime Museum after 5:00 PM. The rain date is Sunday, September 3rd. For more information visit townofbarnstable.us or barnstableenews.com.