



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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October 17, 2023

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for October 6 through October 17, 2023

1. The Town has received a citizens petition pursuant to Section 8-9 of the Town Charter requesting a meeting of the voters. The citizen's petition has identified 5 topics relating to the Park City Wind and Commonwealth Wind offshore wind projects, and those will be the topics discussed at the meeting. Section 8-9. Open Meeting of the Voters states that the town council may call meetings of the voters of the town. Upon the request in writing of three hundred voters setting forth the specific purposes thereof, the town council shall call a meeting of the voters. The president of the town council or other designee of the town council shall preside and regulate the proceedings of such meetings. The president of the council shall cause the attendance of town officials and employees necessary to respond to the issues and concerns raised by petitioners. Working collaboratively with the proponents of the petition, the Town Council President, Vice President and Town Manager have agreed to hold an in person meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023, from 6:00-9:00 pm at Barnstable High School. The Town Council President is looking to identify a suitable moderator for the meeting and hopes to bring a recommendation to the Town Council for approval this Thursday. In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, we will be posting the meeting as a Special Town Council Meeting/Open Meeting of the Voters.
2. There are three separate wind power projects ongoing in the Town of Barnstable. Each project is proceeding separately from the other. The first is the Vineyard Wind project (landing at Covell's Beach) that is in the final stages of construction and expected to be completed in the near future. The second is the Park City Wind project (proposed landing at west end of Craigville Beach). The Park City Wind project is in the later stages of permitting with the state Energy Facilities Siting Board and locally before the Barnstable Conservation Commission. The Town has been informed that Park City Wind plans to terminate its Power Purchase Agreement with the intent of rebidding the purchase of power generated for the project. As previously stated, the Town has taken the change in the status of the Power Purchase Agreement along with other substantial changes under advisement for legal review and appropriate action. The third is the Commonwealth Wind project (proposed landing at Dowses Beach) that is in the mid stages of permitting and has terminated its Power Purchase Agreement

resulting in the Town ceasing any Host Community Agreement negotiations. Further, the Town Council has revoked the Town Manager's authorization to commence negotiations with Commonwealth Wind for a Host Community Agreement. Commonwealth Wind did notify the Town Manager that they intend to continue permitting for the Project, and, therefore, the Town did submit comment on permitting relative to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) filing within which the Town states that the Town does not offer its support to the current project at this time. The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs did issue a Certification on October 10, 2023, that has been taken under review by town staff relative to the Draft Environmental Impact Report filed with MEPA. We will keep you advised of our progress on this matter.

3. We are proceeding with the budget action calendar for FY 2025. The action items in the budget calendar include the meetings of the Town Council and School Committee Joint Meeting to be held on October 19, 2023. The Town Manager and School Superintendent have met and agreed to proceed with the 60/40 split as in years past for the proposed FY 2025 Operating Budget. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
4. The Local Comprehensive Planning Committee recently kicked off Phase II of the Local Comprehensive Plan. Phase II of the Local Comprehensive Plan will include development of topic-specific and location-specific land use goals and a strategic Action Plan for achieving the community's vision that will build on the Existing Conditions Plan and Vision Statement completed in Phase I. The Town is looking to diversify representation on the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee to ensure that the Committee's makeup is reflective of our community's population. The application period closed Monday October 16<sup>th</sup> and the Town received fourteen applications. To learn more about this important process and to stay up to date on meetings and community events please visit the project website: [BarnstableLCP.com](http://BarnstableLCP.com).
5. Recently, I have received questions from the public on who to send questions to regarding ongoing matters in our community. I would suggest that you send them to me at [mark.ells@town.barnstable.ma.us](mailto:mark.ells@town.barnstable.ma.us) or call my office at 508-862-4610. My staff and I will direct you to the most appropriate Department to address the question or situation that you identify to us. I am available to meet with our public individually, in small groups or large groups as needed so please do not hesitate to contact us.