



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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January 16, 2024

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for January 3, 2024 through January 16, 2024

1. We are proceeding with the budget action calendar for FY 2025. Of note is that the School Committee workshop reviewing FY 2025 budget instructions and confirming the strategic direction of the proposed School Department budget for FY 2025 is scheduled for January 24, 2024. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. In response to questions by Town Council regarding monitoring the activation of the Vineyard Wind cable landing at Covell's Beach, I have been in contact with Vineyard Wind and requested regular communication with Barnstable Officials and our public regarding such compliance. In addition, I requested informational signage at the site to illustrate location and other project information so that those who visit Covell's Beach may have access to such information. I await their response to these requests.
3. I have attached the letter sent to Kenneth Kimmell of Commonwealth Wind that requests that Commonwealth Wind cease all activities related to the Commonwealth Wind Project as the Town does not support this proposed project. We will keep you advised as this matter progresses.
4. There is an Opioid Settlement Fund workshop scheduled on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 5:30-8:30 pm Barnstable High School Jr/Sr Cafeteria 744 West Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601. The Town of Barnstable invites you to join a facilitated conversation and share your experience about how the opioid epidemic has impacted you, your family and/or the community. Barnstable residents affected by Opioid Use Disorder and professionals that serve Barnstable residents are encouraged to attend to assist in the process of identifying priority needs in Barnstable that will help guide future spending of Opioid Settlement Funds. We hope you can attend this important workshop.
5. The Town Manager serves as the Town of Barnstable's representative on the Cape Cod & Islands Water Protection Fund Board (CCIWPF). Attached is the CCIWPF 2023 Annual Report. The CCIWPF was established by the Massachusetts Legislature in 2018 to help Cape Cod and Islands towns pay for necessary wastewater infrastructure and water quality remediation projects. The CCIWPF is a dedicated

fund within the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust set up to solely benefit communities within the counties of Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket. Its source of revenue is a 2.75% excise tax on traditional lodging and short-term rentals. The fund is administered by the Clean Water Trust and overseen by a management board comprised of representatives from every member town. Since the creation of the Fund, revenue has been largely consistent with projections; however, local commitment to project implementation and eligible project costs have exceeded expectations. The 2023 Intended Use Plan (IUP) presented over \$167 million in projects, more than \$100 million above the assumed project costs and the greatest amount that we had seen for Cape Cod in a single year. On June 30, 2023, the Management Board sent a letter to Governor Healey (attached) articulating the critical need for additional revenue to the Fund to maintain a 25% subsidy. In December 2023, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issued the Draft 2024 IUP with over \$248 million in Cape projects, which once again far exceeds assumed project costs and places additional pressures on the Fund beyond those identified in the letter to the Governor. The 25% subsidy provided by the Fund has been a primary driver of long overdue progress on local wastewater projects. The certainty of the subsidy has helped garner community support for water quality project implementation and has resulted in significant action. Without significant additional revenues to the Fund, the Management Board will be forced to limit subsidies for critically needed wastewater and water quality projects on Cape Cod.

6. The Town of Barnstable invites local civic associations and non-profits to apply for a 2024 Tourism Mini-Grant. The Tourism Mini-Grant Program is designed to support the town's seven villages in promoting new or existing events and festivals to draw visitors to the Town of Barnstable. All civic associations and nonprofit organizations within the Town of Barnstable that produce and market events to visitors and/or provide visitor services are eligible to apply. Events that promote off-season visitation are encouraged. Grants are available up to a maximum of \$1,000 per applicant and require one-to-one matching funds. A total of \$9,000 is available in funding for the grant program, which is funded through a portion of the Town's rooms tax revenues. [APPLICATIONS must be submitted online on or before 11:59 pm, Thursday, February 29, 2024.](#) Applications are available through the link in the Town Manager's report, or on the Business Barnstable website under Grant Opportunities.
7. The Town of Barnstable invites you to an open house to discuss future plans for the Barnstable Adult Community Center property on **Thursday, February 1st from 1:00 to 3:00pm at the BACC**. We are developing a master plan that will explore the potential for housing development, outdoor recreation opportunities, and connections with the adjoining public school property. Please join us at this kickoff meeting to share ideas, enjoy refreshments, and discuss the future of the Adult Community Center property. More information can be found on the [Planning & Development Department website under 'Current Projects'](#).
8. The proposed Dog Control Regulations were presented at a Town Manager's Hearing on October 18, 2023. Public Comment for the proposed regulations occurred from October 18 through December 8, 2023. Eighty-three (83) comments (negative and positive) were received. The two proposed regulations with the most comments were

Dogs on Beaches (61%) and Kennel/Multiple Dog Regulations (16%). In response to comments, the following changes have been made:

- a. Reverted back to the May 15th through September 15th dog ban on Designated Bathing Beaches.
- b. Added a clause that allows Town Officials to close sections of beaches to dogs for endangered species protection.
- c. Worked with a representative of the American Kennel Club to better clarify Kennel and Multiple Dog definitions.

The second draft of the proposed Dog Control regulations was posted for 10 additional days from January 4 through January 15th. An email with the link to the second draft was sent to all 83 residents that had made comments regarding the first draft. Most of the feedback that staff received regarding the second draft was positive. The Town Manager plans to approve the second draft of the Dog Control Regulations shortly which will then be distributed to the public online and when dog licenses are purchased.

9. Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager for the Public Works Department, will provide an update on Water Resource Management planning including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.