



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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January 30, 2024

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for January 17 through January 30, 2024

1. We are proceeding with the budget action calendar for FY 2025. We are proceeding with review of the CIP Taskforce ranking on projects submitted for FY25 General Fund financing. As per the budget action calendar we plan to submit the recommended FY25 Capital Budget to Town Council on Monday, March 4, 2024. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. Information on the Healey-Driscoll Administration's FY25 budget recommendations, which was filed on January 24, 2024, can be [found here](#). For your awareness, the Governor's budget includes a section related to the septic tax credit in [Section 6 of MGL Chapter 62](#). The language of [Section 45](#) of the budget recommendations is a technical clarification – making it clear that upgrades and sewer connections pursued under the requirements of the recently promulgated Title 5/Watershed Permitting regulations are eligible for the tax credit. For more information on the Governor's FY25 budget recommendations, please visit the Commonwealth's budget page, which can be [found here](#).
3. In response to requests by Town Council and the public 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 this information. 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. They are working on informational signage to be installed by spring 2024. They are reviewing available information regarding issues of concern such as Electromagnetic Frequency (EMF) as well as other safety compliance aspects and will discuss further with us in the near future.
4. The first Opioid Settlement Funds workshop scheduled on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, from 5:30-8:30 pm at Barnstable High School. The Town of Barnstable invites residents to join a facilitated conversation to share their experience about how the opioid epidemic has impacted them, their 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 are transitioning into the next phase of determining how to use our opioid settlement funds for the community. This involved creating a “Design Team” that works closely with the consultant we brought on board to implement the public forums and focus group conversations we plan to conduct. Our consultant advised we create the smaller Design Team from members of our internal working group. The Design Team consists of: Barnstable Police Deputy Chief Jennifer Ellis; Hyannis Fire Chief Peter Burke; Cheryl Powell of the Human Services Committee; Communications Director Lynne Poyant; Mary Beth Taylor from the Barnstable Public Schools; and Jeff Carter representing Health. Deputy Chief Ellis has been assigned the role of spokesperson for the group as she has extensive knowledge of our community and she serves on the Design Team. We will keep the Town Council and public advised of our progress on this matter.

5. Kate Maldonado, Senior Planner for Planning & Development, will provide the Local Comprehensive Plan Update.

The LCP Committee is continuing their efforts to review and produce draft chapters for Land Use, Housing, Natural Resources, Facilities and Infrastructure. The Committee will hold two meeting during the months of February and March focusing on Natural Resources in February and Facilities and Infrastructure in March to be presented to the public during the month of April.

The next meeting of the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee will be held on **Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm** in person at Town Hall within the Hearing Room. A presentation will be offered to inform the Committee of current and anticipated natural resources issues and opportunities and needs as well as best practices related to state-wide natural resources initiatives and strategies. Building upon insight offered during the presentations, the Committee will engage in an initial goal setting exercise. The second meeting in February will continue discussions regarding natural resources with review of draft policies/goals and strategies in addition to review of the draft Housing chapter.

A survey question regarding new housing is accessible by clicking [HERE](#) or by visiting the project website [BarnstableLCP.com](https://BarnstableLCP.com). The survey is available through close of business tomorrow, Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Additional survey questions will be coordinated as the Committee works through subsequent chapters.

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](https://BarnstableLCP.com).