



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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March 5, 2024

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for February 14 through March 5, 2024

1. We are proceeding with the budget action calendar for FY 2025. We have completed the review of the CIP Task Force ranking on capital projects submitted for FY25. As per the budget action calendar we posted the recommended FY25 Capital Budget to the Town website on Monday, March 4, 2024. Printed copies of the proposed FY 2025 Capital Budget have been provided to the Town Council Office. Departments have prepared FY 2025 proposed changes to fiscal years fees and submitted to the Town Manager for a public hearing on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 via Zoom at 11:00 AM. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. As previously reported Governor Maura Healey [signed an Executive Order creating the Commission on Clean Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting](#) (CEISP) in an effort to meet the emissions limits outlined in the Clean Energy and Climate Plans (CECP). Massachusetts will need to site a significant amount of new energy infrastructure, including new solar and wind generation, storage, transmission, and distribution infrastructure. The CEISP is a Commission that is described as one that will bring together stakeholders to swiftly remove barriers to responsible clean energy infrastructure development. The CEISP will be tasked with reducing permitting timelines, ensuring communities have input in the siting and permitting of clean energy infrastructure, and ensuring that the benefits of the clean energy transition are shared equitably. The Commission has been instructed to make recommendations on administrative, regulatory, and legislative changes to existing permitting and siting procedures by March 31, 2024. Barnstable has requested a seat on the Commission (see attached letter), but it does not appear that we shall receive that appointment. The Commission has held two listening sessions to inform the public about the work they are conducting and to listen to public comments. The link is attached. Barnstable provided comments at the listening session and completed a survey provided by the Commission regarding its task referenced above. The survey is open for public comment through March 14, 2024. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/commission-on-energy-infrastructure-siting-and-permitting#public-comment-opportunity>. During the listening session and in the survey, I offered the direct participation by Barnstable with the Commission as Barnstable has first-hand knowledge regarding the siting and permitting of such

facilities. Committee members John Mangiaratti, Acton Town Manager and First Vice President, Massachusetts Municipal Association, and Matthew Teague, President, Reef Realty, Ltd, a resident of Barnstable, reached out to me immediately following the meeting regarding Barnstable's involvement in this process. I await further communication to determine when that opportunity may occur. We will keep you advised of our progress on this effort.

3. In response to requests by the Town Council and the public regarding monitoring the activation of the Vineyard Wind cable landing at Covell's Beach, I continue discussions with Vineyard Wind and requested regular communication with Barnstable Officials and our public regarding the safe and compliant operation of their system. Vineyard Wind is developing informational signage to be installed at the site to illustrate location and other project information so that those who visit Covell's Beach may have access to such information. The informational signage will be installed in spring 2024. They are preparing a means of public access to information regarding issues of concern such as Electromagnetic Frequency (EMF) as well as other safety compliance aspects so that the public will know that the system is functioning in a safe and compliant manner. The Town of Barnstable plans to retain an independent third-party expert to verify such safety issues. We will keep you informed of the progress on this matter.
4. On January 18, 2024 the Executive Committee of the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund (CCIWTF) Management Board voted to endorse the strategy for meeting the Fund's financial needs. Upon further discussion with the State regarding the request the CCIWTF Executive Committee plans to meet on March 6, 2024 to discuss a potential funding approach that may allow the CCIWTF to achieve the targeted 25% principal subsidy level for eligible wastewater projects. Our Finance Director and Treasurer will attend the meeting with me and share their advice as the CCIWTF Executive Committee considers a modification to the bylaws and revised modeling assumptions. Any modification to the bylaws would require the vote of the CCIWTF Management Board. We will keep you advised of our progress on this matter.
5. In response to questions regarding tax bills and assessments of property in Barnstable, Lane Patridge, Director of Assessing, has recorded a Town Talk on Residential Property Values. This is the featured video on the Town's website. Here is the Video on Demand link:
<https://streaming85.townofbarnstable.us/CablecastPublicSite/show/10969?channel=1>
and the link to YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpCUZXNH7N0&list=PLqZyj_KingzqrBigtwK_AzLTsCL0CRNcBi&t=5s We hope this answers many of your questions regarding property assessment in Barnstable.
6. It is that time of year again when the Barnstable Youth Commission rallies students who are looking for their first jobs and puts them in the same room as businesses that are eager to staff up early for the summer. Now in its 8th year, the Youth Job Fair is bigger than ever and taking place once again at the Hyannis Youth & Community Center (HYCC) on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024 from 2:30-4:30 PM**. Admission is FREE. Dozens of employers from local and national businesses are expected to

participate and they are looking for eager young workers between the ages of 14-18 to hire for both summer and year-round employment. Students can expect to find Youth Commissioners greeting them in the lobby where they can scan a QR code to sign in. [Mass-Hire of the Cape & Islands](#) and other organizations will be available to assist students who have questions about the basics of looking for a job, filling out an application, interviewing, understanding the labor laws and the procedure for getting a work permit. The Gymnasium will be transformed into an Exhibit Hall that contains tables for each business; the ones who are hiring 14/15+ will be situated on one side of the room and 16-18+ on the other side for efficiency. Employers will be ready to offer applications and answer questions. The [Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority](#) has a “Plan Your Route” app on their website that students can use to get to the Youth Job Fair and to many of the business locations represented. [The League of Women Voters](#) will be on hand to offer information to parents and students who are age 16 and up. For those who cannot attend, information about the participating employers can be found on the Youth Job Board. Here is the link: <https://businessbarnstable.com/youth-job-board/>

7. Kate Maldonado, Senior Planner for the Planning & Development Department, provides the following Local Comprehensive Plan Update:

The Local Comprehensive Planning Committee (LCPC) is continuing efforts to review and produce draft chapters for Land Use, Housing, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure and Facilities. The Committee will hold two meetings during the month of March, Thursday March 14th and Thursday March 28th, at which the LCPC will focus on Infrastructure and Facilities.

The next LCP Committee meeting will be held **Thursday March 14, 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 Infrastructure and Facilities issues and opportunities and needs as well as regional best practices for initiatives and strategies related to Infrastructure and Facilities. The second meeting in March will continue discussions regarding Infrastructure and Facilities with review of draft policies/goals and strategies.

A survey question for the Natural Resources chapter pertaining to prioritization of use for public land is currently live on the LCP project website BarnstableLCP.com. The survey question is available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese and is open through Sunday March 31st.

The LCP Committee will dedicate the month of April to outreach to present draft chapters for Land Use, Housing, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure and Facilities seeking community feedback with a meeting scheduled in each of the Town’s villages. Each of the community meetings will be defined on the LCP project website BarnstableLCP.com via the Calendar tab as well as the Town’s calendar.

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.