



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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July 16, 2024

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for June 26 through July 16, 2024

1. The Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Plan for Fiscal Year 2025 have been approved by the Town Council. The new fiscal year began on July 1, 2024. A budget calendar for the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Plan will be prepared and issued by the end of August. We begin Capital and Operating Budget preparation discussions in September. The Town Council Strategic Plan is a fundamental part of the basic assumptions and will be used as policy guidance in staff's development in the FY 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets.
2. Town staff has developed a body of information that will be connected to a QR code or link to be added to the signs installed in May at Covell's Beach. People will be able to find more detailed information about the cables, the project and links to magnetic frequency information through the use of this QR code. This QR code or link will be added shortly. It is Town controlled and we will determine what is made available to the public at this site. After completing the baseline magnetic frequency measurements when the wind farm was off-line on May 24, 2024, Avangrid took magnetic frequency readings on June 14, 2024. Chris Long from the company Gradient, did the testing for Avangrid. Officials from the Town, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities were there to observe the process. According to Avangrid, three wind turbines were spinning offshore producing close to 35 Megawatts of electricity during the test period. They will post the data report on their website when it is available to them. Future plans for testing include repeating this monitoring as they reach 25% installation, 50% installation 75% installation and full installation of the Vineyard Wind project. If there are indications that the testing needs to be more frequent based on actual measurements, we will discuss a different plan with Avangrid. Avangrid plans to have 50% of the wind turbines up in early fall and full installation in early 2025. As noted previously, the Town of Barnstable has retained a third-party

independent expert (Elexana of New York) to verify readings and data if and when needed. We will continue to keep you informed of the progress on this matter.

3. As part of first connections for the completed Strawberry Hill Road Sewer Expansion Project, 217 property owners were sent Notice of Sewer Hookup letters from the Barnstable Health Division prompting their responsibility to connect their homes/buildings to the newly expanded municipal sewer system. Order letters were sent following the official project closeout notifications distributed by the Department of Public Works. Properties currently eligible for sewer connection include portions of Craigville Beach Road, Strawberry Hill Road, West Main Street, Phinney's Lane, Wequaquet Lane, and several adjacent secondary roads. As of the date of this report, more than 50% of the notified property owners have signed their Certified Mail receipt, acknowledging the need to connect to municipal sewer. All of these property owners were ordered to connect to public sewer within six (6) months. The Health Division in collaboration with the Department of Public Works will continue to keep the community updated on sewer connection progress and upcoming sewer expansion construction.
4. Celebrating Unity in our Community. People of Action, the Barnstable Police Department and the Town of Barnstable are proud to announce the 8th Annual Barnstable Unity Day Celebration on the Hyannis Village Green on Friday, August 2, 2024, from 4:00-7:00 PM. The event is intended to welcome and engage the community and local police together in a fun, inclusive, and memorable celebration. Come show everyone that Barnstable is a special and unique place with strong and caring community bonds. We are excited that the Breakaway X-GRILL will be on hand again this year to cook up burgers and hot dogs. The event is free and open to all and will include food, ice cream, music, dancing, and fun activities for all ages. Please bring your own chairs and blankets and join us for a beautiful summer evening on the Hyannis Village Green.
5. Beach Operations & Update. On Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Barnstable began staffing Hathaway's Pond with lifeguards and other support staff. The Recreation Division has also provided lifeguards at Sandy Neck and will do our best to keep both of these locations and others operational as long as possible as we manage staff throughout the remainder of the season. We now have full staffing, including lifeguards, at the following beaches: Craigville Beach, Dowses Beach, Covell's Beach, Kalmus Beach, Veteran's Beach, Loop Beach, Sandy Neck, and Hathaway's Pond. Please help us keep our beaches clean, pack in / pack out or use proper receptacles.
6. The Barnstable Adult Community Center has secured a lease for an all-electric 6-passenger van through the generosity of Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority. This new electric van will replace one of the current aging vans that the BACC utilizes for

their transportation program and other day trips for Barnstable residents. We anticipate delivery in late July and are currently working to replace and update the current chargers.

7. We encourage residents and visitors to download the MyBarnstable app from the Apple or Google Play store. The app provides updates on a wide range of information in Town including traffic advisories, beach updates, Sandy Neck off-road availability, and more.
8. Every Friday during the summer, the Boston 25 team is on the road visiting a different "zip code" in Massachusetts. This Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, the Zip Trip will be visiting 02601 on Aselton Park in Hyannis. The 6:00-10:00 AM broadcast will showcase some of our local residents, businesses, attractions, and more. Residents are invited to attend and watch the broadcast and be part of the live audience.
9. James Kupfer, Interim Director of Planning and Development Department, will provide updates on the Housing Production Plan, Marstons Mills Former School Site Master Plan, and Local Comprehensive Plan.