



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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September 17, 2024

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for September 3 through September 17, 2024

1. A budget calendar for the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Plan was provided in the September 3, 2024 Town Manager communication. We have begun our Capital and Operating Budget preparation with budget instruction scheduled issued to staff on September 17, 2024. Town Council is scheduled to conduct a joint meeting with the School Committee at the second Town Council meeting in October in accordance with the Town Charter to review financial conditions and financial policies of the Town.
2. We continue to closely monitor our beaches and waterways for any signs of debris resulting from the Vineyard Wind turbine incident. Marine Environmental Affairs and Community Services personnel are prepared to respond accordingly. We urge any member of the public that spots any debris in the water or onshore to report it to the Debris Reporting Hotline 781-831-1134.
3. On September 10, 2024 I sent two letters regarding the recent Vineyard Wind turbine blade failure. One letter was sent to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) expressing concern about the impacts of the turbine failure on the marine environment and the lack of information provided to date on the impacts by regulatory agencies overseeing the project (attached). The other letter was sent to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) asking questions regarding many areas of concern including state jurisdiction on the matter to public safety risk on our beaches (attached). I did receive a call from the Secretary of EOEEA office on Saturday, September 14, 2024 and had a subsequent discuss with the Secretary's Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary for Government Affairs on Monday, September 16, 2024 regarding my letter to the Secretary. I do anticipate more discussion in the future. I will keep you advised as this matter progresses.

4. I serve on the Cape & Islands Bridges Coalition (CIBC). The CIBC held its 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. If you are interested in the newsletter from CIBC you can access it at <https://conta.cc/3LLseMh>. The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce provided a summary of its efforts which included updates on federal, state, and local engagement, current timelines, estimated cost and funding for bridge replacement. Cape Cod Commission staff provided an economic impact of the canal bridges. The Massachusetts Director of Federal Funds & Infrastructure, Quentin Palfrey, was the guest speaker for this meeting. Quentin and his team have been instrumental in securing crucial federal funds toward construction of the Sagamore and Bourne Bridges and provided an update on their most recent federal funding requests. The Cape Cod Chamber has created a Bridges Impact Survey designed to collect information on how the condition of the Cape Bridges impacts business/organization/industry areas. You may complete this quick survey here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/g2bPJLW>. I will keep you advised as this important effort continues.
5. 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, public health advisories, Transfer Station updates, and more.
6. The Town of Barnstable, in partnership with the Barnstable Adult Community Center, Friends of the Barnstable Council on Aging, Barnstable Police Department, and the five Village Fire Districts, invites residents to the 3rd Annual Community Safety Day on Wednesday, September 25, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Barnstable Adult Community Center. Community Safety Day brings together Barnstable's public safety resources to provide residents with vital tools for staying safe. This free event offers fun, educational, and safety resources all in one convenient location. Residents will have the opportunity to learn real-world safety tips and gather helpful information to ensure their safety at home, online, and in the community.
7. Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager for the Public Works Department, will provide an update on Water Resource Management planning including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.