



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601

Office: 508.862.4610

Fax: 508.790.6226

www.townofbarnstable.us

Citizens' Resource Line: 508.862.4925

Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

mark.ells@town.barnstable.ma.us

M. Andrew Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager

andy.clyburn@town.barnstable.ma.us

December 10, 2024

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for December 4 through December 10, 2024

1. We continue with the preparation of the Capital and Operating Budget for FY 2026. FY 2026 budget action calendar has been updated and is attached for review. We are accepting comments on the November 12, 2024 Town Manager fee hearing for Calendar Year 2025 fees through December 11, 2024. All comments will be taken under advisement and calendar year rates will be approved as proposed, approved for an amount less than the proposed rate or not approved and remain at current rates. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) has issued a Notice of Public Hearing and draft regulations for implementing the Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA), now referred to by EEA as the Open Space Act (attached). The PLPA and these draft regulations concern process and mitigation for the disposition or change in use of land or interests in land protected under Article 97 of the Amendments to the State Constitution. EEA now has posted an announcement on their website, found here: <https://www.mass.gov/event/december-17-2024-notice-of-public-hearing-opportunity-to-submit-comments-12-17-2024>. In this announcement, EEA provided notice that the public hearing date will remain unchanged for December 17, 2024, but the written comment deadline is being extended from December 23, 2024, to 5:00 PM on January 22, 2025. The Town Attorney's Office is preparing draft comments on the draft regulation for timely submission within the comment period. The Town Attorney's Office has registered for remotely attending the public hearing via Zoom. We will keep you advised as this matter progresses.
3. As previously reported, on December 3, 2024, the Cape & Islands Bridge Coalition (CIBC) held its quarterly meeting. The meeting included an update from the Chairs of the CIBC, a Regional Transportation Planning Update from the

Cape Cod Commission, and a discussion with our federal delegation staff on funding for the projects (attached). Progress continues to be made on permitting and securing funding for the projects. As part of the Cape Cod Commission staff update, they referenced the release of the draft Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendment 2 to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025-2029 TIP for a 21-day public comment period.

Amendment 2 included a proposal as follows: Cape Cod Bridges Program Phase 1 (Sagamore Bridge) \$365,420,000 to be programmed in FFY 2025-2029 utilizing Federal Bridge Investment Program (BIP) grant funds with a state match.

[FFY 2025-2029 TIP Amendment 2 Handout](#)

Written comments regarding TIP Amendment 2 were submitted on December 9, 2024 (attached). A virtual public meeting of the Cape Cod MPO is scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2024 at 1:00 PM to hear additional public comments and consider endorsement of FFY 2025-2029 TIP Amendment 2.

The representatives from our federal delegation addressed their understanding of the status of the federal funding for the Sagamore bridge project. The funding is identified but has not been contracted to the project. They were cautiously optimistic that the funds will be available to proceed with the Sagamore Bridge project. The next CIBC meeting scheduled in March 2025.

4. As you may recall, the Town, through Sean Hogan, our Environmental and Sustainability Manager, partnered with the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) for this grant through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Transmission Siting and Economic Development (TSED) grant program. Projects through this grant are to be funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.

The microgrid, as proposed, will include Barnstable High School, the Intermediate School and Barnstable Adult Community Center and would allow this campus to operate independently of the grid in the case of a regional power failure. The Intermediate School is our emergency shelter for the Town and the central region of the Cape and this supports that important role. This project, when implemented, is expected to significantly lower energy costs, improve indoor air quality and Strengthen Climate Resilience for these Town assets.

Sean Hogan and David Anthony met with Sara Ahern (Superintendent), Chris Dwelley (School Finance Director) and Doug Boulanger (Director of School Facilities) from the schools last week to discuss the status and information regarding the project. An important part of the early stages of project design involves the schools and the town working together to identify what other school capital projects are funded or planned that might impact or duplicate the efforts of the microgrid grant. The careful coordination at this stage is critical as we prepare for the official efforts to prepare a preliminary design for the microgrid. There will be follow up coordination meetings after the first of the year.

It is important to note that the proposed Federal Microgrid grant relies heavily on certain key events. Specifically, there needs to be a 5% constructed transmission project in Town. In addition, there is an expectation that the Microgrid project needs to be studied more deeply to justify the costs and available technologies to support the proposed outcomes. Once we get the go ahead from the granting agency, we will have four years to design, construct and commission the microgrid. We will keep you advised as this project progresses.

5. Our Barnstable Harbormaster received the “2024 Boaters Choice Award” from Dockwa, an organization that facilitates communication between boaters and marina operators. The transient mooring program was established to allow boaters access to moorings while visiting Barnstable. It allows residents / visitors access to a mooring on a temporary basis. Last year, we booked 194 total days on all transient moorings for recreational users. We currently have two transient moorings in Cotuit Bay. These moorings were selected as one of the 2024 Boaters’ Choice Award winners from Dockwa. This recognition honors programs that go above and beyond to deliver exceptional experiences for boaters.
6. Chris Gadd, Communications Assistant for the Department of Public Works, will provide an update on Water Resource Management Planning including the Comprehensive Water Management Plan.