



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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January 30, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for January 8, 2025, through January 28, 2025

1. We continue with the preparation of the Capital and Operating Budget for FY 2026. On February 6, 2025 the Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee will present at Town Council its Analysis of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan funding model (attached). For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. The Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which oversees the performance of federal agencies and administers the federal budget, has placed a temporary pause on all federal grants and loans, effective at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28. This pause is intended to give federal departments time to evaluate recent executive orders. The pause excludes Social Security, Medicare, and direct individual assistance but will likely impact funding for public programs, nonprofit support, and local projects. It includes the awarding of new grants and the disbursement of funds from existing federal awards. We have sufficient short-term cash flow to ensure there will be no immediate disruptions to local services. Departments are assessing affected programs and will prepare contingency plans if needed. We are closely monitoring developments and will keep you advised as additional information becomes available.
3. The Town is proceeding with a short-term license for the Town-owned parking lot at 30 Ocean Street in Hyannis. The parking area does not currently have access and a user must cross the abutting property to utilize the parking lot. The abutter has requested that the Town grant a short-term license for use of the property as a parking lot. This license arrangement will provide the Town time to develop a strategy for retention or disposal of this property. The Town put this property out for disposal through lease or sale in 2023, and the Town Council ultimately did not approve of the recommended sale of this asset to the aforementioned abutter. A short-term license allows for continued parking lot use of this property while

various concepts for the property are developed and a long-term use is determined. When the Great Streets program moves forward with the implementation of two-way traffic in that area, this parcel may provide a long-term use for pedestrian connectivity in that area, and Town Council may choose to repurpose the property at that time. We will keep you advised of the progress on this matter.

4. As previously reported, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) 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. The Town Attorney's Office has submitted comments on the draft regulation and the comment letter is attached. We will keep you advised as this matter progresses.
5. I met with Sanjana Paul from the MIT Renewable Energy Facility Siting Clinic regarding their fall semester clinic report. They are interested in continuing with the stakeholder assessment and in having a discussion with the Town as to next efforts that would benefit public engagement and the Town. I agreed to discuss the attached report with staff and Town Council and get back to them. I am supportive of a continued relationship for spring semester 2025.
6. Earlier today, the Town of Barnstable hosted the Cape Cod Association of Public Procurement Officials for their monthly meeting. Inspector General Jeffrey Shapiro was in attendance. The Inspector General's Office is an independent oversight agency that promotes good government by preventing and detecting the misuse of public funds and public property. They conduct confidential investigations, improve transparency in government, help government run more effectively, and educate government employees and the public to help government operate efficiently and use public funds appropriately. I had an opportunity to meet with the Inspector General Shapiro and he commented on the outstanding job Barnstable's professional staff does and he said he looks forward to continuing to provide support to Barnstable and Cape Cod. I want to thank Amber Patterson, Barnstable's Chief Procurement Officer, on a job well done.
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.