



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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April 1, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for March 4, 2025, through April 1, 2025

1. We continue with the preparation of the Capital and Operating Budgets for FY 2026. We continue to follow the updated budget action calendar. Submittal of the recommended FY 2026 Capital Budget to Town Council is planned for a first reading on April 3, 2025, followed by hearings planned for the April 17 and May 1 Town Council meetings. The Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement Plan is available on the Town's website at the link provided below and printed copies have been provided to the Town Council. [FY2026-2030 Capital Plan](#) The School Committee will meet on April 2, 2025 to review and approve the [FY 2026 School Operating Budget](#). The Town Manager Fiscal Year 2026 proposed fee hearing was conducted on March 18, 2025. The proposed FY 2026 fees are posted on the Town Manager webpage and the proposed fees have been taken under review for 30 days. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. On Monday March 3, 2025, I provided written and oral testimony at the draft 2025 Intended Use Plan (IUP) hearing. In my testimony I expressed concerns regarding the draft 2025 IUP. Communication has continued with DEP regarding the draft IUP, and further discussions have ensued regarding the proposed changes. I asked the DEP to proceed with approval of the 2025 IUP without the proposed changes and then to convene discussions with communities on a long-term strategy to maintain the viability of this critical funding mechanism. I will keep the Town Council and public advised as this matter progresses.
3. On March 3, 2025, I sent a letter on behalf of the Town of Barnstable to Governor Healey requesting that the next Environmental Bond includes \$500 million to be used by the Clean Water Trust Fund to expand its borrowing limitations to meet the increasing capital requests of eligible communities utilizing the State Revolving Fund (SRF). The Governor's Chief of Staff did respond upon receipt of the letter and additional discussion is anticipated during the development of the Environmental Bond bill. By expanding the capacity of the SRF to meet the demands for Clean Water State Revolving Fund projects such funding will allow the SRF to meet its current obligations and provide a viable funding mechanism to

allow Barnstable to continue advancing its approved Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP). We will keep you advised as this matter progresses.

4. On March 6, 2025, I attended a series of meetings with legislators and administrative staff in Boston regarding the status of the Sagamore and Bourne Bridge projects. The Cape & Islands Bridge Coalition (CIBC) State House visit included meetings with members of the state legislature and administration, including Senate Chair of Transportation Brendan Crighton; House Chair of Economic Development Carole Fiola; Undersecretary for the Executive Office of Economic Development Ashley Stolba; Director of Federal Funds & Infrastructure Quentin Palfrey; and Senior Policy Advisor for the Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities Gina McLaughlin. These connections are critical for raising awareness of the CIBC as a resource for state decision-makers and for reinforcing the critical importance of the bridge replacement for our region. I have attached the CIBC Quarterly Bridge presentation and MassDOT's presentation on management of bridge projects. Future updates will be provided as these critical infrastructure projects advance.
5. On March 27, 2025, I was invited and attended the ResilientMass Summit hosted by Governor Maura T. Healey, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, and UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. This was a convening of leaders focused on climate resilience, mitigation, adaptation, and social transformation. The ResilientMass Summit brought together a diverse coalition of state officials, mayors, community leaders, researchers, Indigenous leaders, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs to engage in crucial discussions about the significant impacts of climate change on our communities and our efforts to build resilience. The Town of Barnstable is designated by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs as a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Community.  
<https://www.town.barnstable.ma.us/Departments/planninganddevelopment/Projects/Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-Update.asp> We plan to continue to work in partnership with our community and beyond to advance climate resilience. We will keep the community advised of this important effort.
6. The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth is closed and is in the process of being decommissioned. The facility is owned by Holtec Pilgrim, LLC and operated by Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC ("Holtec"). As part of the decommissioning process in 2023, Holtec sought a modified Surface Water Discharge permit under the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("MassDEP") to allow the discharge of pollutants (i.e., the spent fuel pool water) to Cape Cod Bay, which is a protected ocean sanctuary under state law. In July 2024, MassDEP's Division of Watershed Management issued a final determination denying Holtec the requested permit modification. Holtec then appealed that final determination by requesting an adjudicatory hearing at MassDEP's Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution ("MassDEP/OADR"). In the meantime, while Holtec appeals the denial of the permit modification, Holtec continues the ongoing evaporation of radioactive water at the facility; and MassDEP does not believe a state permit is needed for this evaporation activity. Late last year, the Town, through the Town Attorney's

Office, along with the Town of Plymouth and the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), successfully intervened in the discharge permit adjudicatory proceeding before MassDEP/OADR. Last Monday, March 24, APCC, the Town of Plymouth and the Town of Barnstable jointly filed with MassDEP/OADR their Pre-Hearing Memorandum of Law, along with pre-filed testimony and other exhibits to be used in the upcoming hearing at MassDEP/OADR. The hearing in this adjudicatory proceeding before MassDEP/OADR is scheduled for mid-June. We will keep you advised as this matter progresses.

7. On April 9, 2025, I will be participating as a panelist for a webinar offered by the Massachusetts Municipal Association covering strategies to help municipal leaders launch and run a citizen's academy. Citizen Academies are educational programs designed to help residents gain better understanding of the daily operations of local government. The Academies can foster greater community involvement, encourage participation on local boards and commissions, and strengthen relationships and understanding between residents and local government. Barnstable's Inside Town of Barnstable Government has held 29 sessions commencing in 2003, graduating over 1,000 participants. Barnstable is one of the Commonwealth's longest standing and most successful citizen academies. We look forward to sharing our experience with other municipal leaders across the Commonwealth. At last count there are almost 500 individuals signed up for the webinar. Thank you, Sue French, for being one of the founding coordinators of this academy and remaining involved for all sessions to date.
8. Staff continues to meet with the MIT Renewable Energy Facility Siting Clinic team. The Clinic reported on March 27, 2025, that the pilot zoom drop-in office hours launched successfully on Friday, March 21 reporting several community members attending. The Clinic team is conducting research on the onshore impacts of offshore wind in Barnstable to understand the full spectrum of community perspectives. Their office hours are:
  - Every Friday from 2:00-3:00 PM, beginning March 21st
  - Format: 1-hour Zoom drop-in sessions, broken into 15-minute slots
  - Registration: Community members can sign up for slots using this form: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBgHGWmUe8cZPpp\\_sawzVisoXsb45D-0wPISLglNoLuT2dkmg/viewform?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBgHGWmUe8cZPpp_sawzVisoXsb45D-0wPISLglNoLuT2dkmg/viewform?usp=sharing)
  - Session Structure: 15-minute time slots for individual community members
  - Eligibility: Open to all Barnstable residents and stakeholders (18+ only)

Their ground rules are as follows:

- All perspectives are welcome and valued
- Conversations will remain confidential
- All comments will be completely anonymized in our final report. This means no statement will be linked to any individual participant, and there will be no way for readers to identify who said what. We ensure that participants' identities are fully protected, and their specific comments

cannot be traced back to them. We maintain a neutral position – not advocating for or against the project

- Focus will be on personal experiences and concerns
- We are here to listen and understand, not debate

The Clinical team views their role as students to listen and learn, not to advocate for any particular outcome. They approach this work with neutrality and genuine curiosity. They are not affiliated with the developer or any advocacy group and have no financial or political interest in the project's outcome. Their goal is simply to understand different viewpoints and accurately represent them in their research.

9. Kate Maldonado, Senior Planner, will provide an update on the Local Comprehensive Plan and other major efforts.

### **Town Manager Communications: Local Comprehensive Plan**

The Town of Barnstable is currently working to update the Town's Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) which is a long-term vision and growth policy that will guide Barnstable's future over the next ten years. A full draft of the Local Comprehensive Plan is available for review and comment. The draft Plan is accessible from the project website [BarnstableLCP.com](http://BarnstableLCP.com) via the [Document Library page](#). Hard copies of the draft Plan are available at each of the Town's libraries and the Barnstable Adult Community Center. The public comment period is open through Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Comments can be submitted online via the project website or dropped off or mailed to: Planning & Development, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, 02601. The comments will be distributed to the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee for review and consideration.

Town staff, together with members of the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee, invite the public to attend one of the upcoming community meetings. Each meeting will include an overview of the draft Local Comprehensive Plan, followed by an open house. Light refreshments will be provided.

- **Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at the West Barnstable Community Center
- **Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at Liberty Hall
- **Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at the Osterville Library *\*Virtual participation will be provided for this meeting\**

The final town-wide community meeting will be held at the Barnstable High School within the Performing Arts Center. Live Portuguese and Spanish interpretation will be available. Additionally, in partnership with Barnstable Recreation, childcare services will be provided for children ages kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade including pizza and arts and crafts activities. Please email Kate Maldonado [kaitlyn.maldonado@town.barnstable.ma.us](mailto:kaitlyn.maldonado@town.barnstable.ma.us) to register for childcare.

- **Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at the Barnstable High School Performing Arts Center (744 West Main Street in Hyannis)

### **Town Manager Communications: Housing Production Plan**

The Town of Barnstable is in the process of updating its [Housing Production Plan](#). A Housing Production Plan (HPP) establishes a strategic plan for production of

affordable and mixed-income housing in a community that is based on a [comprehensive needs assessment](#). A draft Housing Production Plan has been published and can be accessed from the Town's website via the Planning and Development Department webpage under "Current Projects".

The Town will be hosting two upcoming public meetings to solicit feedback on this plan:

- **Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at Barnstable Town Hall within the Hearing Room
- **Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at the COMM Fire District Building

Public feedback is also encouraged by submitting comments through the Town's [Housing Production Plan webpage](#) or by emailing Jim Kupfer at [james.kupfer@town.barnstable.ma.us](mailto:james.kupfer@town.barnstable.ma.us) before Thursday May 1, 2025.

### **Town Manager Communications: Digital Equity**

The Cape Cod Commission, in partnership with the Town of Barnstable, has published the **Barnstable Municipal Digital Equity Plan** for public review.

The Town of Barnstable Municipal Digital Equity Plan assesses the digital divide in Barnstable and identifies opportunities to advance digital equity. The plan considers topics such as the availability and affordability of internet service, device access, online safety, and digital skills required for meaningful digital engagement.

A copy of the draft plan, as well as an opportunity to submit public comments by Wednesday April 30<sup>th</sup>, are available at the link included in the full Town Manager's report. ([cccom.link/barnstable-de](#))

### **Town Manager Communications: Community Development Block Grant**

The **Town of Barnstable's Draft Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program** is available for review on the Town's website. ([www.townofbarnstable.us/cdbg](http://www.townofbarnstable.us/cdbg)). The plan can be accessed from the Town's website via the Planning and Development Department webpage under "Programs".

The plan will serve as the planning and strategic documents for the Town's CDBG Program, which supports projects that provide housing, economic opportunities and a suitable living environment for low- and moderate-income persons. The range of eligible activities may include affordable housing, economic development, public facility improvements and public services.

Comments will be accepted through Monday May 5<sup>th</sup>.