



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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May 13, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for April 30, 2025 through May 13, 2025

1. The Town Council will commence a first reading of the proposed FY 2026 Operating Budget on May 15, 2025 and public hearings are scheduled for June 5, 2025. The proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget will be available on the Town's webpage beginning May 14, 2025 with printed copies to Town Council shortly thereafter. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. Sean O'Brien, Barnstable Town Treasurer/Collector, announced that the Town received competitive bids from bond underwriters on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, for a \$5.4M, 20-year general obligation bond issue. FHN Financial Capital Markets was the winning bidder on the Bonds with an average interest rate of 3.662%. The Town received a total of eight (8) bids on the Bonds ranging from 3.771% to the winning bid of 3.662%. Bond proceeds will be used to finance various municipal and school projects. Prior to the sale, S&P Global Ratings, a municipal bond credit rating agency, affirmed the Town's AAA bond rating, the highest rating attainable. The rating agency cited the Town's robust tax base growth and economic development, long history of surplus financial results and strong budgetary performance as positive credit factors.
3. The Community Services Department reports that the Recreation Division has processed over 13,000 2025 Resident Parking Permits to date. We encourage all residents to apply as soon as they can to avoid delays. Beach Parking Permit Applications can be filled out: online, mailed in, or dropped off at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center, 141 Bassett Lane, Hyannis. If you need assistance, please contact the Parking Permit Hotline at 508-790-6345 x145. Town of Barnstable staff will begin verifying permits at beach parking lots starting Saturday, May 24th. Beginning Saturday, June 21st, Town of Barnstable beaches, ponds, and lakes will be open seven days a week through Labor Day. All beaches will be open daily from 9AM through 9PM. Similar to last season, we are

experiencing significant lifeguard shortages again this summer, which will impact our ability to have lifeguard coverage at all locations. Ensuring public safety is our top priority. The Recreation Division is working to provide lifeguard staff at as many sites as possible. However, we advise the public that due to limited staffing, some sites may not have lifeguard coverage and swimmers will be at their own risk. Currently, we anticipate having full staff, including lifeguards, at Craigville Beach, Dowses Beach, Covell's Beach, Kalmus Beach, and Veteran's Beach. We are hopeful to potentially provide lifeguard staffing at additional locations. To assist the public with their summer plans, we will continue to communicate our staffing operations as we approach June 21st.

4. The Council on Aging will now be managing the Senior/Veteran's Tax Work Off Program for the Town. Open enrollment is from May 1st to June 30th and the program is capped at 20 participants. If more than 20 applications are received, participants will be chosen by lottery. To date we have a total of 13 applications, 2 of which are from Veterans. Interested residents can get program guidelines, information and applications on the Town's website or by calling the Council on Aging at 508-862-4750.
5. In February 2024, the Town Council appropriated funds to cover the costs of the creation of internal Police Department working groups. These working groups were tasked with developing new policies and procedures to replace the rules and regulations of Massachusetts Civil Service. The working groups have completed their task, and both Police Unions have ratified memorandums of agreement. The next step in the process is to seek a vote of the Town Council (first read schedule for May 15, 2025) since, under state law, the way to get out of civil service is the same way you got in. The regular police force of the Town was brought under civil service by vote of Town Meeting, which was the legislative body of the Town in 1937. As the Town Council is now the Town's legislative body, a vote of the Council is needed to rescind the Town's acceptance of the provisions of law that placed the police force under civil service.
6. The Cape Cod Commission is updating the Regional Policy Plan (RPP), a document that provides regional planning policies, goals and objectives to guide development and protect the region's resources. The Regional Policy Plan serves as a blueprint for Cape Cod's future, outlining strategies to direct growth to appropriate locations, protect natural resources, and promote economic resilience. Since the first edition in 1991, the RPP has undergone several updates, including major revisions in 2009 and 2018. The current review and update process offers a chance to assess the impact of the significant changes in the region over the last five years, and ensure the Cape's unique challenges such as housing, climate change, infrastructure, water quality and economic sustainability, among others—are effectively addressed and reflected in regional policies and goals. The Commission will be holding three in-person subregional stakeholder meetings and one virtual meeting to gather feedback on proposed changes, additions, and

recommendations of the new RPP. **For further information please visit www.capecodcommission.org/rpp-update**

7. Kelly Collopy, Department of Public Works Communications Manager, will provide an update on Water Resources including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.
8. Kate Maldonado, Senior Planner, will provide an update on Greening the Gateway Cities Program: Trees Planted at the Dog Park; Tree City Designation: Arbor Day Ceremony at Centerville Elementary School; and the Local Comprehensive Plan.

Greening the Gateway Cities Program: Trees Planted at the Dog Park

On Monday May 12th, the Town held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the planting of 18 trees at the Barnstable Dog Park. The planting was a collaborative effort between Planning & Development staff, the Town's Tree Warden, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and AmeriCorps Cape Cod. The trees were secured through funding from the Town's [Greening the Gateway Cities Program](#). The objective of the grant program is to increase new tree canopy within the Town's defined [Planting Zone](#) which includes the greater Hyannis area.

All properties within the Planting Zone, including private property owners, are eligible to sign up for free trees. To date, a total of 250 trees have been planted including 62 on public property and 188 on private property. Benefits of increasing tree canopy include beautification of our neighborhoods, schools and public places, improved air quality, increased wildlife habitat, reduced noise, and increased shade which will maximize energy savings.

To learn more about this opportunity and to confirm if your property is within the Planting Zone, please visit GreeningHyannis.com. For specific questions please contact the project email: GreeningHyannis@town.barnstable.ma.us.

Tree City Designation: Arbor Day Ceremony at Centerville Elementary School

On Friday May, 2nd the Town held its annual Arbor Day celebration at the Centerville Elementary School among Town Council leadership, Planning & Development staff, the Town's Tree Warden and students and staff. Each Spring, the Town holds an Arbor Day celebration to maintain Barnstable's designation as a Tree City. The school campus was improved with a Dogwood tree near the main entrance which will produce white flowers every spring. Together, students, staff and visitors of the school can watch as the tree grows stronger and taller each year offering shade and seasonal color for generations to enjoy. Special thank you to Town Council President, Craig Tamash, and Vice President, Kris Clark for participating in the Arbor Day Ceremony.

Local Comprehensive Plan

The Local Comprehensive Planning Committee will hold their next meeting **Tuesday May 20th in person at Town Hall** within the Hearing Room. The Committee will review and discuss public comments received for the draft Local Comprehensive Plan. Ultimately, the Committee will vote on each of the chapters within the Local Comprehensive Plan and then the final Plan will be presented to the Planning Board and Town Council.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Kate Maldonado, Senior Planner, by email at Kaitlyn.maldonado@town.barnstable.ma.us or by phone at 508-862-4791. To stay up to date on upcoming meetings and events, and to learn more about how to get involved, please visit BarnstableLCP.com.