



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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June 24, 2025


To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for June 4, 2025, through June 24, 2025

1. The Town Council has commenced public hearings on the proposed FY 2026 Operating Budget that shall continue on June 26, 2025. The proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget is available on the Town's website and printed copies have been provided to Town Council. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. Preliminary tax bills for Fiscal Year 2026 will be mailed out at the end of June. Due dates for the first and second bill are August 1, 2025, and November 3, 2025. The Town's Lockbox provider for the processing of the Town's tax payments has changed their mailing address. An insert will be provided with the tax bills informing taxpayers of the new address to mail payments.
3. With tax title reform taking effect on November 1, 2024, one of the significant changes was the issuance of demand bills. Demand bills fall under MGL chapter 60 section 16 and are in place to incentivize payment of past due bills. It also reduces the burden of interest accruals of 14% for past due real estate taxes with prompt payment. The Town's current demand fee is \$15 and is in line with many other communities. The new legislation requires demand bills to go out with an insert (see attached) that provides taxpayers with the notice of demand in addition to the bill. The notice is in the seven (7) most common languages in the state and provides high-level guidance to pay the bill(s) and is required as part of the "tax taking" process. Both the Assessor's and Tax offices are aware of these changes and will work with residents and taxpayers if there are questions.
4. The Town has received an initial payment from 3M Company for the PFAS settlement in the amount of \$763,378.89. These funds cannot be expended without appropriation. We are proposing to appropriate these funds to offset the additional funding for the new Straightway Water Facility requested under Town Council order 2025-194.
5. The Recreation Division has processed over twenty thousand Resident Parking Permits to date. We are currently up to date with applications and encourage all residents to apply as soon as they can to avoid potential 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.

6. On Saturday, June 21st, Town of Barnstable beaches, ponds, and lakes officially opened for the season and will be operational 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 13 locations. Currently, we have full staff, including lifeguards, at the following beaches: Craigville Beach, Dowses Beach, Covell's Beach, Kalmus Beach, Veteran's Beach, Loop's Beach and Sandy Neck. To assist the public with their plans, we will continue to communicate our staffing operations via the MyBarnstable app as needed. Ensuring public safety is our top priority. Please be advised some sites may not have lifeguard coverage and swimmers will do so at their own risk.
7. The quarterly meeting of the Cape & Islands Bridges Coalition was held on June 3, 2025. A link to the full meeting slide deck and several action items can be found below.
 - a. **Meeting slides:**  [CIBC Quarterly Meeting Presentation - June 3 2025.pdf](#)
 - b. **Earmark Support:** The Chamber has successfully secured an earmark in the Senate budget to support the CIBC's work. The Chamber has requested that all members consider sending a letter of support to the Conference Committee, as they evaluate which earmarks/amendments to retain in the state's final budget
 - c. **Utilities Public Comment:** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is accepting public comment on the bridges-related utilities relocation work. To subscribe to updates on the project, or to submit a comment, visit FERC's online portal [here](#) and enter docket number **PF25-4-000** for the Cape Cod Canal Pipeline Relocation project. You can also find instructions on how to submit a comment [here](#).
 - d. **Transportation Management Association Sessions:** The Cape Cod Commission plans to host stakeholder group meetings to discuss the possible formation of a Transportation Management Association.
8. The Affordable Housing Growth and Development Trust Fund Board has a vacancy on the five-member committee. The positions that serve are: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Finance Director, a citizen representing Housing, and a citizen representing Economic Development. The Economic Development representative is currently vacant. This is a Town Manager Appointment but is ratified by the Town Council. People interested in the position should send a letter of interest and their resume to the Town Manager's office.
9. Kate Maldonado, Senior Planner for Planning & Development, will provide an update on Flow Neutral and the Local Comprehensive Plan (see below item #9).

10. Kelly Collopy, Department of Public Works Communications Manager, will provide an update on Water Resources including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

Flow Neutral

On Thursday, June 26, the Town Council will have on the agenda for a first read a proposed amendment to the Town Code, which would amend Chapter 184 (Sewers and Water) to add a new article that would establish a land use control for flow neutral wastewater management in coordination with the Town's 30-year Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP). The objective of the amendment is to allow the Town to be eligible for a loan of financial assistance from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) with a more favorable interest rate equal to zero percent for eligible sewer projects. Establishing the land use control would allow the Town to be eligible for loans and financial assistance for water pollution abatement projects to remediate or prevent nutrient enrichment of a surface water body or a source of water supply to comply with effluent limitations or to comply with an EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The goal of the land use control is to demonstrate that overall wastewater flow in the sewered watershed will not increase as a result of the project for which a zero rate of interest is sought. The proposed ordinance was reviewed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Local Comprehensive Plan

Additionally, on Thursday, June 26, the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee will present the Draft Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) to the Town Council for a first read. The Local Comprehensive Plan is a long-term vision and growth policy that will guide Barnstable's future over the next ten years with topic and location specific goals and actions. The LCP was coordinated through a collaborative public process that identified a community vision, defined key issues and opportunities and developed actionable actions. The draft Plan is accessible for review from the project website BarnstableLCP.com via the Document Library tab.