



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

July 16, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for June 25 through July 16, 2025

1. The Town Council concluded their public hearings on the proposed FY 2026 Operating Budget on June 26, 2025. The approved Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget is available on the Town's website and printed copies have been provided to Town Council. The Town Manager will issue instructions to municipal departments for FY 2027 operating and capital budgets in mid-September. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. On July 16, 2025, I sent a letter to the Massachusetts Commissioner Public Health (attached) requesting that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) take additional proactive steps to address the growing public health concerns related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Given the widespread exposure to PFAS in drinking water, consumer products, and the environment, I urged DPH to initiate an effort to educate health care providers and insurers in the Commonwealth about the risks associated with PFAS, as well as the clinical and public health importance of addressing these risks in medical settings. I also emphasized the need to work with relevant state agencies and insurers to recognize PFAS testing and treatment as eligible and necessary medical expenses. This includes ensuring insurance coverage for blood testing and other diagnostic measures, as well as treatment or mitigation strategies. I will keep our community advised of progress on this matter.
3. As of June 30, 2025 the Town has received \$1,026,404.02 in Opioid Abatement Funds. Total expenditures as of this date from the abatement funds are \$336,898.69. This includes \$332,827 in grant distributions to 7 organizations from the RIZE and Round I grant rounds, and \$4,071.69 for expenses associated with conducting public forums on the use of the funds and other administrative expenses. Round II grant awards total \$20,000 and will be distributed soon. Applications for Round III grant awards were due on June 30, 2025, and are under review. The town is expecting to

receive an additional \$2,207,480.03 of abatement funds through fiscal year 2039. The town is looking to hire an independent contractor to assist with the administration of the funds including the grant application management and monitoring.

4. The Centerville Playground and Parking Lot Project has completed the public bid process, and the construction contract has been awarded to DANDEL Construction, Inc. A kick-off meeting was held onsite earlier this week with Town staff and the contractor to discuss the site and anticipated activity. Additionally, playground equipment is scheduled to be delivered by the end of this month and will be accepted and stored by the contractor until installation. The contractor anticipates mobilizing at the site as early as next week. Throughout construction access to the Centerville Recreation Building facilities will be limited – while the physical building itself will remain open and accessible for scheduled programming, staging will take place in the back parking lot, and as a result the lot will be closed to the public. DPW staff are preparing a media release and pertinent communication materials as it relates to upcoming construction activities. The project remains on the previously communicated schedule, with completion anticipated by early Spring 2026.
5. On July 9, 2025 the Cape Light Compact (CLC) Governing Board elected David Anthony, the Town's representative to that board, to become its next chair. A vacancy in this position was created when the former chair stepped down and left the board last month. This is an important juncture for the Compact as the Cape Light Compact Board is currently in the midst of seeking a new compact administrator as Maggie Downey has announced her retirement this coming spring 2026 after nearly 30 years. David has represented the Town's ratepayers, businesses and the Town's energy interests on the governing board since his appointment in 2006. He has served on the executive board as the CLC's secretary for over 10 years. The Cape Light Compact, manages a successful energy efficiency program for the residents of Cape Cod saving millions of dollars in energy costs, provides competitive Power Supply Contracts for over 200,000 resident ratepayers and plays a critical role in advocacy for its members and Cape residents on energy issues.
6. The 9th Annual Unity Day presented by People of Action, Barnstable Police Department and Town of Barnstable will be held on the Hyannis Village Green on Friday, August 1, 2025 4:00-7:00 PM. The event is intended to welcome and engage the community and local police together in a fun, inclusive, and memorable celebration that shows the Town of Barnstable is a special and unique place with strong and caring community bonds. We are excited that the Breakaway X-GRILL will be on hand again this year to cook up burgers and hot dogs. The event is free and open to all and will include food (and ice cream!), music, dancing, and fun activities for all ages. Residents and visitors are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets and join us for a beautiful summer evening on the Hyannis Village Green.

7. Andy Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager, and Communications Director Lynne Poyant will provide an Enforcement Update.
8. Kate Maldonado, Planning & Development Department Senior Planner, will provide an update on Flow Neutral and the Local Comprehensive Plan.
9. Kelly Collopy, Department of Public Works Communications Manager, will provide an update on Water Resources including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

Planning & Development Department's Items for Town Manager Communications

Flow Neutral

On Thursday, July 17th, the Town Council will review 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, July 17th, the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee will present the Draft Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) to the Town Council. 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.