



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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**Mark S. Ells, Town Manager**

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August 19, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for July 17 through August 19, 2025

1. 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. As our beach staff continue to leave for college and back to school, we must reduce locations with staff to maintain their safety and the safety of visitors. Staff has reviewed the end of season staffing schedules and resulting in the following:

No guards at Covell's starting on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

No guards at Dowses starting on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>

Craigville Beach will maintain lifeguards, and we will keep you updated on the remainder of the season.

Additionally, the following sites will no longer have gate attendants:

Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>: Loop, Joshua's, Wequaquet Lake, Hamblin's Pond

Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>: Millway Beach

3. On July 16, 2025, I sent a letter to the Massachusetts Commissioner Public Health 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). Senator Cyr responded offering to reach out to DPH and suggested that we forward the letter to the Division of Insurance, MassHealth and reminded me that he had filed the Mass PFAS Act again this session. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD2403> I will keep our community advised of progress on this matter.

4. On Friday, August 8, 2025, the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Funds Executive Committee met to discuss the wastewater and water quality project costs obtained from Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund (the Fund) member communities, including projected annual costs for calendar years 2026-2030. Executive Committee members discuss appropriate assumptions for projected project costs to be included in the Fund financial model. This information will be shared with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for future planning for financial support through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) for eligible projects. As previously discussed, SRF has financial constraints that could impact future funding of wastewater and water supply projects. We also received an update on communications regarding pathways for innovative/alternative (I/A) septic system financing and the potential for the Fund to provide subsidies to member communities for I/A projects. We will keep you informed as these matters advance through discussion.
5. On February 20, 2025, I sent an email on behalf of the Town and its residents to Secretary Tepper of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), with a copy to Director Greene from the Energy Facilities Siting Board, to express concerns and the public's interest in electromagnetic field (EMF) readings from electric transmission cables under Covell's Beach in Centerville. In that correspondence, I inquired regarding the possibility of whether the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) could implement a routine monitoring protocol so that the public and the Town could understand what is, or is not, happening at Covell's Beach. The Town hoped that a review by EEA and its agencies would allow for a response to the residents' concerns, which would be in everyone's interest for assuring the safe use and enjoyment of Covell's Beach. Because I did not receive a response to that correspondence, I have sent a letter to the same requesting a response to the earlier correspondence. I will continue to communicate regarding this matter until we receive an adequate response.
6. Assistant Town Manager Andy Clyburn will provide an update on the Quality of Life workgroup. (*see report below*)
7. Kate Maldonado, Planning & Development Department Senior Planner, will provide an update. (*see report below*)
8. Kelly Collopy, Department of Public Works Communications Manager, will provide an update on Water Resources including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

### **Update on the Quality-of-Life workgroup**

The Quality-of-Life workgroup was established to look at enforcement efforts across all Town Departments. We have been meeting twice a month to put forward several updates to rules, regulations, ordinances, fee structures, and technology to better support our residents.

Three items are on the August Town Council agenda for referrals to public hearings. Those three are the draft Home Occupation and Commercial Vehicle Ordinances as well as a proposed revision to zoning violation fines. The two draft ordinances, Home Occupation and Commercial Vehicle, are to be referred by the Town Council to the Planning Board for a public hearing. If referred at the August meeting, the Planning Board shall hold a public hearing on these two items on **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. The hearing will be open to the public and the Board shall provide time for comment.

The revision to zoning fines is on the August Town Council agenda as a first read and referral to a public hearing on **September 4<sup>th</sup>**. The hearing will be open to the public and the Council shall provide time for comment.

Concurrently the Inspectional Services Department is proposing the establishment of a Home Occupation Licensing Program with ID card and annual renewal that includes a suspension and revocation hearing process; organizational changes to the Department including proposed changes to the Town Code, long overdue fee schedule adjustments and public hearings to support the necessary resources.

We anticipate bringing this forward in September. Our hope is that by moving the ordinances and licensing program concurrently both will reach Town Council at the same time later this fall; thereby allowing Town Council to approve enforcement resources at the same meeting that they consider adopting the new ordinances.

That concludes today's update. Thank you.

### **Downtown Hyannis Great Streets**

The Town of Barnstable is excited to announce and present 75% construction drawings for the **Hyannis Main Street "Great Streets" Transportation Network and Streetscape Project**.

A community meeting will be held **Wednesday August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in person at Barnstable Town Hall** addressed 367 Main Street, Hyannis within the Hearing Room located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Live interpretation will be available in Portuguese and Spanish. Attendees will have the opportunity to review the design plans with representatives from DPW and Planning & Development, learn more about upcoming improvements, and ask questions.

To learn more about this project, please visit the project website accessible from the Town's website, Planning & Development Department webpage listed under "Current Projects" as "Great Streets Downtown Hyannis" or click [HERE](#).

### **Open Space & Recreation Plan**

The Town of Barnstable is currently updating its **Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)**. An Open Space and Recreation Plan is a tool through which a community plans for the future of its conservation and recreation resources.

A community meeting will be held **Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in person at Barnstable Town Hall** addressed 367 Main Street, Hyannis within the Hearing Room located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Live interpretation will be available in Portuguese and Spanish. The objective of the meeting is to obtain insight for issues and opportunities related to the Town's open space and recreation resources.

To learn more about this project, please visit the project website accessible from the Town's website, Planning & Development Department webpage listed under "Current Projects" as "Open Space and Recreation Plan Update" or click [HERE](#).