



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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March 24, 2026

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for March 12, 2026, through March 24, 2026

1. We have commenced review of the FY 2027 Capital Budget and continue with the preparation of the Operating Budget for FY 2027. We are on schedule with the budget action calendar. Town Council hearings on the recommended FY 2027 Capital Budget commence March 26, 2026. The [Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Improvement Plan](#) is available on the Town's website at the link provided and printed copies have been provided to the Town Council. The School Committee is scheduled to meet on April 1, 2026 to adopt the proposed FY2027 School Operating Budget. Once adopted by the School Committee, the proposed operating budget shall be included in the Town Manager proposed FY 2027 Operating Budget scheduled to be submitted to Town Council on May 13, 2026. The Town Manager Fiscal Year 2027 proposed fee hearing was conducted on March 17, 2026. The proposed FY 2027 fees are posted on the Town Manager's website. Comments may be submitted by Thursday, April 16th. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. The [Barnstable Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee \(CFAC\) has prepared its financial overview of the Town's revenues, expenditures, and capital spending for Fiscal Year 2027](#) and shall present the financial overview to Town Council on March 26, 2026. The report is available on the Town website home page.
3. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) released the draft Final 2026 Intended Use Plans (IUPs) detailing the projects, borrowers, and amounts that will be offered financing through the Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Fund loan programs for this year's financing cycle. I provided testimony on behalf of the Town of Barnstable on the draft 2026 IUP and the importance of this funding source to advance drinking water and wastewater projects. [2026 Final SRF Intended Use Plans | Mass.gov](#) This funding commitment

keeps those projects eligible for the principal subsidy from the Cape Cod & Islands Wastewater Trust Fund. MassDEP continues to identify funding concerns and flagged that there are limited additional funds to address increased costs. Barnstable has continued to actively participate in discussions with MassDEP regarding strategies to maintain the State Revolving Fund as a financially viable resource in the future. I will keep the Town Council and public advised as this matter progresses.

4. On February 5, 2026, [the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs \(EEOEA\) responded to the Town's January 11, 2026 communication regarding safety and compliance of the Vineyard Wind project and its cable landing at Covell's Beach](#). On March 23, 2026, I submitted a [follow-up letter requesting that EEOEA remain engaged on this matter due to public health and safety concerns expressed by Town residents](#). The Town specifically requested that EEOEA continue to review and provide written updates to the Town and the public as this project proceeds. I will keep you advised of their response to this request.
5. Kyle Pedicini, Assistant Director of Planning and Development, will provide an update on significant Planning & Development Department efforts:

#### **Tourism Mini Grants**

The Town of Barnstable is pleased to announce the recipients of the annual Tourism Mini-Grant program, with a total of \$19,000 being awarded to 26 local civic and non-profit organizations. These grant awards will support programming and promotional efforts that attract visitors to the Town of Barnstable. The Tourism Mini-Grant program is funded through a portion of the Town's rooms tax revenue. Each year, civic associations and non-profit organizations offering programming and visitor services in Barnstable are encouraged to apply for funding through this initiative. Preference for this year's program was given to events related to [MA-250 celebrations](#), or events taking place during the shoulder season.

#### **Rain Barrel Program**

The Town of Barnstable has partnered with [The Great American Rain Barrel Company](#) to offer an opportunity for residents to purchase re-purposed rain barrels. Rain barrels allow residents to collect and reuse rainwater from roofs to provide a clean, untreated water source for gardening and a reduction of water bills. The rain barrels are available for \$80-\$89, depending on color. To purchase a rain barrel, please visit [The Great American Rain Barrel Company](#) website and click on the "Community Programs" tab to search for Barnstable. Orders must be placed by the end of the day on **Sunday, April 12, 2026**. To learn more about this opportunity please visit the Town's [Rain Barrel Program](#) project webpage.

#### **Floating Garden**

The Town of Barnstable partnered with the Barnstable Land Trust and local high school St. John Paul II to construct and install a Floating Garden at Eagle Pond in Cotuit. The Floating Garden project was launched in June 2025 and

offered local students an opportunity to practice what they learn in the classroom with real world, tangible, green infrastructure systems. The Town also partnered with Barnstable Government Access to create an informative video highlighting the project's goals, construction, and community impact. The garden was floated 8 feet from the pond edge to help mitigate and cleanse pollutants, nitrogen and phosphorus, from the pond. For a period of 14 weeks through the summer, students performed weekly water testing. This work was then catalogued and reported to the Cape Cod Commission as part of their Cape Cod Freshwater Initiative. In October 2025, the garden was removed for the winter. The Town is currently coordinating permitting efforts to enable a second year of this student-led program for enhanced data and environmental restoration.

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

The Town's [2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan \(OSRP\)](#) will be presented to Town Council at their upcoming meeting to be held Thursday, March 26th. After a year of public input this has been reviewed and recommended by the Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission and the Planning Board. Town Council approval of the plan is the final step before submitting to the State for compliance. The OSRP provides a blueprint to guide the Town's plans, investments, policies and regulations in support of protecting and enhancing open space and recreation resources. An approved plan is necessary to maintain the Town's eligibility for state funding assistance for open space and recreation purchases and improvements. The 2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan is accessible for review from the Town's website by visiting the Planning & Development department webpage by clicking on "Open Space and Recreation Plan Update" listed under "Current Projects".