



# Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Date: Monday, March 25, 2024, at 5:00PM**

*This meeting of the Barnstable Infrastructure & Energy Committee is being recorded and will be posted for future viewing on the Town of Barnstable website. Under MGL Chapter 30A Section 20, anyone else desiring to make such a recording or transmission must notify the Chair.*

### *Remote Participation Instructions*

*The Infrastructure and Energy Committee's Public Hearing will be held by remote participation methods. Real-time public comment can be addressed to the Infrastructure & Energy Committee utilizing the Zoom link and access code for remote access below:*

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://townofbarnstable-us.zoom.us/j/81185779775?pwd=IWwpaqEVRQXL3rbEwApX5INmtAB6b.1>

Meeting ID: 811 8577 9775

Passcode: 568500

### **Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)**

Barry Sheingold, Chair; Peter Doyle, Vice Chair; John Solomon; Rob Wilson; Jane Ward

### **Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members absent:**

### **Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)**

Kristin Terkelsen, Town Councilor; Gordon Starr, Town Councilor; Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager Department of Public Works

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### **Agenda:**

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Approval of March 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Old Business**
  - 3 a. Food Waste
    - i. Continued discussion from March 13, 2023
- 4. New Business**
  - 4a. New Committee Candidates

- i. Update from Councilor Terkelsen on applications and interviews
- 4 b. Discuss agenda for next meeting

## **5. Motion to Adjourn**

### **Call to Order:**

Barry Sheingold, Chair, called the March 25, 2024, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:00 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely.

Before the day's agenda commenced, Sheingold opens up discussion regarding recording and publicly posting the meeting recordings to the Town of Barnstable website. Committee members share varying viewpoints both for and against posting the Zoom recordings. Councilor Kristin Terkelsen encourages following best practices for public participation and communications transparency.

After continued discussion, the Committee agrees to move forward with recording each meeting via Zoom and will post meeting recordings to the Town of Barnstable website accordingly. Committee Staff Support, Kelly Collopy, reads the recording disclosure:

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### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Barry Sheingold, Chair, moves to discuss the March 13, 2024, meeting minutes. Rob Wilson points out a spelling error under the Stretch Code section, with that correction he makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Peter Doyle seconds the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 13, 2024, meeting minutes.

### **Old Business**

#### **a. Food Waste**

John Solomon, Food Waste sub-committee, continues the discussion from the March 13, 2024, meeting. Discussion focuses on continued benefits of supporting and expanding the food composting program, highlighting that 'there is a tremendous amount to gain with little effort', this program does not have to be cost prohibitive, it's an easy way to make a larger impact on the environment, and is certainly an initiative that is within the purview of a Town government.

Solomon identifies next steps for ways to bolster the program

- Currently getting less than 1% of the total food waste at the Transfer Station
  - o We need better signage, more proactive locations, not just tacked on at the end
  - o Utilize Town social media more to promote the program
  - o Leverage Sticker Renewal to communicate the program during a peak time of engagement
- Collaboration with local businesses; specifically local restaurants
  - o MassDEP regulations ban disposal of food and other organic wastes from businesses and institutions that generate more than one-half ton of these materials per week
  - o How do we communicate this to food-related businesses to encourage them to get aligned with the Commercial Food Material Disposal Ban?

Solomon shares thoughts on how we proceed; opening discussion amongst Committee members to discuss how the Committee further engages the Town Council and appropriate Town Departments (i.e. Department of Public Works).

Councilor Kristin Terkelsen inquires about what this process would look like for a commercial entity – what are the resources; who are the vendors (private haulers); what are the costs; etc. Discussion is had about the communication resources that would be needed to educate commercial entities about food waste disposal.

Jane Ward adds her insight, stating that the Committee operates in an advisory capacity, the Committee doesn't deploy this program. Our role as a Committee would be to re-engage and educate the Town Council while also being transparent about the work support this would take. Ward shares details on how the Town of Falmouth is implementing food composting on a broader scale, by hiring a contractor to manage the program and engage with schools/commercial entities. Rob Wilson agrees, feels the Committee should provide information on who the available vendors are, the benefits (saving methane, trucking, etc.), and not take on the role of trying to implement the program.

Solomon states there are two major companies who do this – Recycle Works and Black Earth. Ward adds that if the Town decides to make this a priority, DPW would likely issue a request for proposal (RFP) that could help to outline which vendors can do this work within the Town.

Peter Doyle circles back on Town Department support, he feels a priority action item is having a conversation with the Department of Public Works to determine what the appetite is for expanding and further promoting the food waste program.

Solomon urges the Committee to remain focused on the its ultimate role. 'Our role is to advise Town Council, our role is not to tell how Town employees to do their jobs...we have to give our advice to the Town Council, and if the Town Council agrees with that than we develop a plan to move that forward with the mandate to take action from Town Council'.

Sheingold adds that there is another step in the process; 'one needs to get more facts on the ground before we go to Town Council'. Having discussions with DPW about commercial food waste, conversations with the Health Department, etc. Councilor Terkelsen agrees with this approach and encourages a conversation with the Town of Falmouth to learn more about their process, so that we can learn from their success.

Solomon is in favor of sitting down with the Health Division and Board of Health to better understand the relationship with commercial entities, such as restaurants. Councilor Terkelsen feels we need to determine an 'entry point', a conversation about logistically what would this take, is this doable, what manpower is needed, etc. At the end of the day, it's all about time, money, and effort, so we need to evaluate how implementing this program would impact the Town and its resources.

Discussion continues about funding, potential grants, etc. to assist the Town with starting an initiative as large as commercial food waste. Ward encourages pursuing a pilot program but ensuring there is someone (in Town) to run it. We are not the implementors, we are the advisors.

Sheingold summarizes by encouraging John to invite the Board of Health to a future Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) meeting to discuss feasibility further. Sheingold also encourages Ward to discuss with her Falmouth contact(s) further to learn more about how the Town initiated their program.

### **New Business**

#### **a. New Committee Candidates**

The Appointments Committee, which Councilor Terkelsen is a part of, has interviewed several potential Committee candidates. Councilor Terkelsen believes this coming Friday there will be a vote on candidates for the IEC (approximately 3-4 candidates). Following the vote, a first read will be brought to the Town Council, followed by a second read/public hearing/approval. It likely will take a month or so to conclude on Committee appointments. More updates to come.

Sheingold does brief the Committee on some public comments made by one potential Committee member; calls attention to factually incorrect information stated. Councilor Terkelsen adds that she has already followed up with Avangrid's Patrick Johnson to clarify the discussed public comment(s).

#### **b. Miscellaneous Discussion Items**

Sheingold provides a brief follow-up to the Green Communities Designation discussion; appreciated the comprehensive presentation from Town Asset Manager, David Anthony. Has continued conversations with Anthony on a variety of topics, looking forward to continued collaboration.

Additionally, Sheingold circles back on the Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting public survey. Discussion is had about a preliminary draft to comments from the Commission, Councilor Terkelsen believes the final draft of comments from the Commission will be shared publicly.

Barry Sheingold, Chair, makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peter Doyle seconds, the Committee voted unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 6:06PM.

Next Meeting: April 17, 2024, at 5:00PM

### DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for April 17, 2024

1. Call to order
2. Approval of March 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
  - 3 a. Green Communities
    - i. Relevant updates
  - 3 b. Food Waste
    - i. Updates regarding the Town of Falmouth Food Waste Program
    - ii. Updates from John Solomon regarding contacts with Board of Health, Transfer Station, etc.
  - 3 c. Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting
    - i. Relevant updates
    - ii. Final Commission recommendations can be reviewed here:  
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/recommendations-to-governor-maura-healey-on-clean-energy-infrastructure-siting-and-permitting-reform>

4. New Business
  - 4a. Additional updates from Committee Chair
  - 4 b. Discuss agenda for next meeting
5. Motion to Adjourn

**Respectfully submitted by Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager, Barnstable Department of Public Works.**