



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 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)

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

Agenda:

- 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

Call to Order:

Barry Sheingold, Chair, called the April 17, 2024, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:03 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Barry Sheingold, Chair, moves to discuss the March 25, 2024, meeting minutes. Jane Ward makes the motion to approve, Sheingold seconds. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 25, 2024, meeting minutes.

Old Business

- a. Green Communities
Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens discussion regarding the next steps for Green Communities designation; he's reached out to David Anthony, Director of Asset Management, and will continue to stay in touch. Based on discussions this is going to take time and direction from Town leadership.

John Solomon notes that David Anthony has done a lot of work to satisfy all but one of the requirements needed for the designation – the Stretch Code provision being the hurdle. Solomon suggests that the Committee advise and recommend Stretch Code approval to assist Anthony in his work. Sheingold adds that the 20% energy reduction plan is another piece Anthony is working on, that will require significant bandwidth and employee resources (will take time).

Peter Doyle adds Anthony's direction was to address the bandwidth questions presented by Town Manager Mark Ells. Councilor Starr adds that passing the Stretch Code will need to be tackled by Town Council – this is new Council, there will need to be education, and not much we can do without passing the Stretch Code. But it is important to balance timing, as Town Council is currently in prime budgeting season. As a Committee it's important to keep these various directives/needs in mind. Sheingold brings the discussion full circle by stating he will stay in communication with Anthony about next steps and how the Committee can support his efforts and the work needed to be done.

Discussion continues about how the Committee can be of value throughout this process – ideas discussed include a Green Communities Workshop to brief Town Council, research and prepare educational materials regarding Stretch Code, coordinate with experts who can participate in Stretch Code conversations, etc. Staff Support, Kelly Collopy, refers to meeting minutes from March 13, 2024, where Anthony provides a broad timeline for next steps, which includes planning an update to the Committee in June.

b. Food Waste

Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens discussion referring to Jane Ward's comments about Falmouth's food waste program. No significant updates on Falmouth, however Ward shares insight about related work happening in the community. Care for the Cape & Islands, reduce takeout plastic waste from restaurants across Cape Cod; program will focus on working towards restaurateurs to adopt compostable take-out containers. Synergies with other advocacy groups that are also discussing food composting opportunities across the Cape, with vendors like Black Earth.

John Solomon reviewed materials related to Falmouth's food waste program; one thing the town is doing that he felt was very effective is that Falmouth is setting up central food waste collection locations for residents. This method does not require a Falmouth resident to have a Transfer Station sticker; Solomon feels this would be hard to implement in Barnstable, but the general concept is worth discussing as part of our mission to 'collect more food waste from the people going to Barnstable's Transfer Station' – there's an opportunity there to capitalize on. Solomon adds that Falmouth has also engaged their schools, which is an opportunity we can mimic here in Barnstable. Jane Ward refers the Committee to Councilor Betty Ludtke's previous comments about how it would be a great idea to better engage the schools here in Barnstable – Councilor Starr believes the program has been growing and that by the end of the school year he believes all Barnstable Elementary Schools will also be composting.

Solomon shares his recommendations for increasing food waste at the Transfer Station. Solomon feels to gain traction we need some direction through Town Council and/or leadership to the Transfer Station identifying the need/priority for more education:

- Capitalize on Permit Renewal, provide education at point of purchase/renewal
- Increased signage, visible at the recycling area
- Utilize Town social media profiles to provide educational content
- Utilize Transfer Station webpage on Town website to provide educational content
- Set a goal so the Committee and Transfer Station can monitor progress (i.e. by X-date, work towards capturing 50% of food waste passing through the Transfer Station)

Councilor Starr suggests the Committee makes their recommendations concise and clear; present them to Town Councilor leadership to be discussed with Town Manager. Solomon to document these recommendations in a more formal write up, to present to leadership. Next steps include requesting a meeting with Department of Public Works (DPW) Director, Dan Santos, and Solid Waste Division Supervisor, Tracy Regazio, to discuss collaboration. MassDEP has set the goal of getting all food waste out of the municipal trash/transfer station program(s) by 2030 – which is an ambitious goal – discuss this with DPW. When appropriate, engage the Board of Health for further discussion.

c. Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting

Barry Sheingold, Chair, provides a brief overview of the Commissions recommendations, following the public survey. Recommendations tailored to Non-EFSB Jurisdictional and EFSB Jurisdictional project review. Recommendations include:

- Changes to EFSB Jurisdictional Permitting Process (Consolidated Permit)
- Changes to Local Permitting Process for Non-EFSB Jurisdictional Projects (Consolidated Local Permit)

The goal behind these recommendations is to allow State and localities/municipalities to collaborate in tandem during permitting, rather than separately. Recommendations also point to wanting more opportunity for public feedback during the permitting process – although it's unclear what that will look like at this juncture. It is unclear how this will affect Barnstable's proposed Wind Projects, that would depend on the Transition Rules. Could potentially impact the Commonwealth Wind project, but likely not Park City Wind. Town of Barnstable and Massachusetts Municipal Association did not appear to be in favor or agreement with these Commission recommendations.

New Business

a. Additional Updates from Committee Chair

Jane Ward shares updates on Cape Cod Commission's hearings, to gain stakeholder feedback for improvements to the region's bike trails (County wide). Additionally, the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee is seeking public feedback for long-term infrastructure, hosting a series of Village meetings (Town wide).

Rob Wilson shares that MassDOT is hosting a virtual seminar on 4/25 regarding the Cape Cod Canal bridges; will share information for Committee review.

b. Discuss Next Meeting Agenda

Barry Sheingold, Chair, to take on follow-ups with Director Anthony (Green Communities) and with Director Santos (Food Waste). Jane Ward to follow up on guest speaker to discuss Green Communities and pursuing Stretch Code approval. Ward will also continue research on Food Waste Programs and compostable dinnerware.

Barry Sheingold, Chair, prepares to adjourn the meeting. Jane Ward makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, Peter Doyle seconds. The Committee voted unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 6:14PM.

Next Meeting: April 29, 2024, at 5:00PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for April 29, 2024

1. Call to order
2. Approval of April 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - 3 a. Green Communities
 - i. Relevant updates
 - 3 b. Food Waste
 - i. Relevant updates
 - ii. Updates regarding contacts with Department of Public Works
4. New Business
 - 4 a. Additional updates from Committee Chair
 - 4 b. Status of New Member Appointments
 - i. First read on April 25, 2024, Town Council Meeting
 - 4 c. Discuss agenda for next meeting
5. Motion to Adjourn

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