



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, July 15, 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; Rob Wilson; John Solomon; Jane Ward

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members absent:

Chris Gloninger, William Beal

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager Department of Public Works

Agenda:

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Approval of June 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Old Business**
 - 3 a. Green Communities
 - i. Summary of meeting with Director of Inspectional Services, Brian Florence
 - ii. Relevant updates
 - 3 b. Food Waste

- i. Initial review of proposed communications plan
- ii. Relevant updates
- 3 c. Climate Change and Climate Science
 - i. Relevant updates

4. New Business

- 4 a. Additional updates from Committee Chair
- 4 b. Discuss agenda for next meeting

5. Motion to Adjourn

Call to Order:

Barry Sheingold, Chair, called the July 15, 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 June 25, 2024, meeting minutes, has no suggested edits. John Solomon moves to approve the minutes, Sheingold seconds. The Committee unanimously approves the June 25, 2024, meeting minutes.

Old Business

a. Green Communities Designation

Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens the discussion by referring to the recent meeting held with Director of Inspectional Services, Brian Florence; turns the discussion over to Jane Ward to summarize. Jane recaps that Director Florence has not previously been a supporter of the Stretch Code. After today's meeting he had mentioned this was one of the best conversations/meetings he has had on this topic. Ward felt that the Committee met their goal of having a productive, positive conversation with Director Florence, which can pave a way forward towards adoption. While Director Florence still does not appear to be in support of the Stretch Code, as he feels it's going to put pure burden on the builders and building owners, he was open to the dialogue and appreciative that this Committee has taken the time to hear his thoughts and opinions on the matter. Director Florence was asked that if the Committee was to hold a workshop for the Town Council, who else would he recommend we engage with to present different perspectives; he is going to get back to us with some recommendations, likely folks from the builders' community.

John Solomon adds that his additional takeaway from the meeting with Director Florence is that if we want Town Council to adopt the Stretch Code, we as a Committee have to do a very careful job of articulating exactly what the benefits would be. While showing that those benefits are much greater than any costs associated with it. Director Florence also encouraged citing unbiased data and information. Overall, this conversation was a very good start and sets the Committee up with the goal of quantifying the savings that would come with building a house that meets the Stretch Code instead of just the current code.

Sheingold agrees, stating that, 'my takeaway is that if we're going to advance this, we really need to look carefully at the costs and the benefits'. Sheingold also confirms he has reached out to Lisa Sullivan, the regional representative for the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), who provided a summary of the economic analysis that was done by a DOER consultant when they adopted the Stretch Code.

Jane Ward added to the conversation by reflecting back to the previous Committee discussion with Alison Alessi of A3 Architects, where HERS raters have played a significant role in communicating the benefits for meeting green building standards, and how working with the HERS raters have saved projects and their owners money throughout the design and operating process. Ward also reminds the Committee about the need to engage with Rob Brennan, a local developer with a focus on climate, affordable housing, green building, etc.

Sheingold also discusses the approach to bringing the Green Communities discussion to Town Council. Encourages the Committee to focus on building support throughout the community, Town department leadership, etc. – would like to see the Committee bring this topic to Town Council with a ‘reasonable feeling that there is support’ behind pursuing the designation. Focusing more on the factual, economical benefits, and less on the anecdotal. Green Community Designation has been voted down a number of times already, there needs to be more research, outreach, and education to fully brief Town Council. Solomon and Ward both volunteer to contribute to seeking additional research that can help quantify the benefits and justify the costs associated with pursuing Green Community Designation.

b. Food Waste

Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens the discussion with notes from the meeting with Director Florence, which also included food waste discussions. Director Florence referred commercial food waste initiatives and questions to Tom McKean, Director of Barnstable Health Division. The Committee hopes to engage with Director McKean to learn more about commercial business adherence to food waste guidelines and regulations.

John Solomon also refers back to the work being done by Kari Parcell, waste reduction coordinator with the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, and Mary Ryther from the Falmouth Department of Public Works, stating there seems to be a growing focus on establishing a regional composting facility. The Committee is eager to see how this will play out and support sustainability efforts here in Barnstable.

Kelly Collopy, Department of Communications Manager, shares an initial look at draft proposed communications plan to help support food waste and composting. The plan starts with a look at the various audiences the Committee and ultimately the Town can be engaging including Transfer Station annual permit holders, per visit users, and ideally all residents and visitors within Barnstable. The goal of this communications plan would be to revisit what marketing materials have been utilized previously and improve upon the educational content available to the public to help communicate the impact composting via the Transfer Station, or independently at home, can have in reaching sustainability goals. Collopy highlights areas where communications can be bolstered including revising content on the Transfer Station webpage, additional signage at the Transfer Station, and more robust, consistent use of Town channels (e-News, social media, mobile app, Barnstable Government Access) to convey messages about food waste and composting. Overall, the initial plan will focus on two main messaging points – (1) the availability of composting and food waste services at the Barnstable Transfer Station and (2) how individuals can compost at home, including the benefits. This draft plan will undergo additional revisions and review, with next steps being prioritizing which communications tactics can be executed relatively quickly to have an immediate impact (i.e. webpage updates, social media, etc.).

Committee members share thoughts, including Jane Ward who circles back on the ‘biggest bang for the buck’ is to engage with and go after the commercial producers. Ward would like to see the

Committee target those generating 1,000+ pounds of food waste a week or utilize the schools to increase outreach and education. Ward states that, 'our biggest return on investment for our time and energy should be the bigger producers and trying to make it easy for them.'

c. Climate Change and Climate Science

Chris Gloninger not present, no additional updates at this time. Jane Ward adds her feedback in regard to her appreciation of Chris' experience and role, feels that a 'climate emergency' really insists there is urgency. Ward looks forward to seeing how Chris' expertise can be utilized to communicate with the community and ultimately Town Council. Barry Sheingold, Chair, agrees, and would like climate change to be a part of any future Town Council workshop(s). Request for Chris to provide slides or graphs from previous presentation to share with the larger Committee so those not present can review the data he shared. Sheingold to ask Chris if he is interested in presenting to the group again.

New Business

a. Additional updates from Committee Chair and Committee Members

- Jane Ward discusses her upcoming participation in the Commission's Citizen Feedback Group, which will meet quarterly starting in August. Discussion will include how to meet the goal of zero fatalities for any road user, including drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, etc.
- Barry Sheingold, Chair, updates Committee on Park City Wind advancements in regard to Town-owned property easements. Town negotiated a better deal to support the collaboration, including additional compensation. Jane Ward also adds that the State has responded to public concerns regarding safety of substations and dielectric fluid; well managed and does not present a public health problem. Kelly Collopy also provided updates on the related sewer expansion construction that will begin this Fall.

b. Discuss Next Meeting Agenda

- Next meeting to be held on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 5:00PM.
- Plan to introduce DPW staff support, who will oversee meeting management, agenda setting, and meeting minutes while Kelly Collopy is out on maternity leave.
- Follow up on Green Communities research
- Follow up on discussions with Tom McKean
- Presentation and updated climate data from Chris Gloninger

Jane Ward makes a motion to adjourn the meeting; Rob Wilson seconds. The Committee voted unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 6:09.

Next Meeting: August 12, 2024, at 5:00PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for August 12, 2024

1. Call to order
2. Approval of July 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Introduction of interim Staff Support liaison
4. Old Business
 - 4 a. Green Communities
 - i. Relevant updates
 - ii. Review draft presentation regarding Stretch Code and Green Community Designation

- 4 b. Food Waste
 - i. Relevant updates
- 4 c. Climate Change and Climate Science
 - i. Relevant updates
- 5. New Business
 - 5 a. Additional updates from Committee Chair
 - 5 b. Discuss agenda for next meeting, September 9, 2024
- 6. Motion to Adjourn

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