



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 28, 2025, 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=IWwpaqeEVrQXL3rbEwApX5INmtAB6b.1>

Meeting ID: 811 8577 9775

Passcode: 568500

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members Present: (On Zoom)

Barry Sheingold, Chair; Chris Gloninger, Vice Chair; Jane Ward; John Solomon; Rob Wilson; Ron Ruggiero

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members Absent:

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Chris Gadd, Communications Assistant, Barnstable DPW

Agenda:

Call to Order

Chair Barry Sheingold called the April 28, 2025 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee to order at 5:05 PM.

Approval of February 18, 2025 and March 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The committee discussed the minutes from the February 18th and March 10th meetings. Chair Barry Sheingold pointed out a typo in the February 18th minutes and suggested a correction. In regard to the March 10th minutes, Sheingold requests an edit to the typo found on page 3 under the Air Quality section, "*Ward adds that the point **worth** making is...*", this change is made. Additionally,

Sheingold and Jane Ward discuss minor edits to the wording of that paragraph as a whole, and the context of the ventilation requirements. Minor edits are made. The committee voted to approve the February 18th minutes (via a motion made by Rob Wilson) and with minor edits made, voted to approve the March 10th minutes (via a motion made by Jane Ward).

Old Business

a) Green Communities

Chair Barry Sheingold kicks off the Green Communities discussion by sharing that he has put in a call with one of the town councilors to determine next steps from what felt like a *“rather inconclusive discussion”* on how to move forward with the Stretch Code and Green Community Designation. Sheingold acknowledges that Town Council is currently in the middle of its budget hearings which is drawing councilors’ full attention. Overall, Sheingold hopes to get a sense of whether they (Town Council) will support the Stretch Code, as staff won't move forward without direction from the Town Council. Discussion continues in regard to the effort and work that went into the workshop and a desire for more feedback or a clearer direction as to how the committee should proceed.

Jane Ward also emphasizes the need for Town leadership to provide feedback, especially considering potential economic uncertainties. Jane adds that essentially, *“there's going to need to be a Plan A, Plan B, Plan C, depending on what happens with inflation or recession...”* and she relates this to the conversations about affordability that are currently happening now as part of the CWMP Ad Hoc Committee. Ward expands on this thought adding, *“can we do things that are less expensive and make some headway? I think that should be looked at in all projects of the town, and that the town is budgeting for, including the Green Community...”*

Sheingold and Ward Jane agree to have a follow-up conversation to coordinate their efforts in engaging with town councilors.

b) Food Waste

John Solomon provides an update on the recent outreach and survey initiative that took place at the Barnstable Transfer Station. John, Ron, and Barry spent time at the Transfer Station distributing countertop compost buckets and educating users about food waste and the environmental benefits of composting. They found that most people had a positive view of composting but were unaware they could bring food waste to the Transfer Station. Additionally, concerns about odors and attracting pests were common, when discussing backyard composting as a means to recycling food scraps at home. Sheingold felt the *“biggest takeaway was— the best way to communicate with people about this is talking to them.”* Overall, the initiative seemed very effective. The team plans to provide feedback to the Transfer Station staff and potentially repeat the outreach effort to gather further feedback that ultimately will be used to strengthen marketing/communications efforts.

The committee also discussed visiting Watts Farm to learn more about their composting capacity and economics. Solomon also references a talk he and Barry attended by Mary Ryther, Recycling and Solid Waste Coordinator for the Town of Falmouth. The group compared Barnstable's food waste program to Falmouth's, noting differences in remote drop-off locations and accessibility. Additionally, Falmouth residents can participate in the food waste program without being a ‘customer’ of the transfer station – all of these considerations seem to be factoring into the success of Falmouth’s program. Sheingold

suggests seeing if the committee can get some data from Falmouth.

Composting Facility at Joint Base

The discussion continued and naturally progressed to include the potential for a regional composting facility, currently proposed at the Joint Base. Sheingold discussed the potential for a composting facility at the joint base, with a study expected to be completed in the near future (within the next month). Solomon adds that the most recent update from Kari Parcell, Waste Reduction Coordinator for the County, indicated that until the study is complete, there likely won't be much more additional detail regarding the proposal for this facility. Ultimately the completed study would be the catalyst for further public discussion. Currently the discussion and initial planning includes Bourne, Mashpee, and Sandwich – Barnstable has not formally been included. Solomon has indicated to Parcell that Barnstable would be interested in participating and feels the next step would be to review the study, once complete, see what is proposed and determine if there's a way for Barnstable to get involved.

Jane Ward circles back on previous conversations regarding enforcement with the Town's commercial entities, specifically restaurants. She inquires about any further conversation or update(s) from Barnstable Health Director, Tom McKean. Ward also highlights what she feels is a potential opportunity with the organic farm located on 6A, between Cummaquid and Barnstable Village. The lease is up this year; if Barnstable were to facilitate a composting site, and potentially subcontract Black Earth, this local site could prove beneficial, especially if there was collaboration from mid-Cape towns. Sheingold agrees to discuss this concept with Director of Asset Management, David Anthony.

c) Climate Change and Climate Science

Chris Gloninger does not have any major updates this evening but does pose the idea of considering a climate science outreach/education event, similarly to the survey recently completed at the Transfer Station. Gloninger refers to the walking tours hosted in Boston to learn about the impact of the King Tides. Jane Ward suggested using Sandy Neck as a location for the tour, highlighting the impact of erosion and the current coastal resiliency project (that will soon be under construction). Chair Barry Sheingold agreed to the idea and suggested starting the tour on the marsh side before moving to the beach. The committee continued to brainstorm and proposed to plan the tour for the summer, with July or August being the prime time.

d) Air Quality Monitoring

Jane Ward does not have any specific updates this evening but does note that she personally connected with the superintendent of the school system to discuss mold and air quality in the school buildings. Ward also notes her displeasure that the \$42 million dollar grant to the schools is on hold, and how that was going to facilitate a tremendous amount of improvement in renewable energy as well as indoor air quality. At this juncture she doesn't know where that stands.

e) Technology and Infrastructure

Ron Ruggiero provided an update on from the most recent meeting of the Cape Cod

Technology Council Infrastructure Committee. A presentation was made which discussed the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program and the Digital Equity Act, which is set to provide and has been providing up to \$42 billion dollars to expand high speed Internet access in all 50 States and US Territories. Ruggiero notes that the program does have fiber-based Internet preference, but the current administration is pushing for satellite-based Internet (Starlink). Ruggiero did a bit of research and found that only about 2% of Cape Cod has access to fiber-based internet. The committee discussed the differences between fiber and cable Internet services (i.e. Comcast, Verizon). Rob Wilson adds his personal insight regarding work in his neighborhood in which their local system was upgraded to 10 gigabit capacity on copper. As the discussion continues, Chair Barry Sheingold asks Ruggiero if he could prepare an update with a bit more clarification on the money/funding available for people who cannot afford Internet access (i.e. additional details on how to utilize the Digital Equity Act within a community).

New Business

- a) Additional updates from Committee Chair and Committee Members
 - Sheingold notes that he will be traveling during the scheduled June 16th meeting; he inquires with the committee about the ability to move this meeting to the following week, June 24th – members agree
 - Rob Wilson, long time committee member, will be leaving at the end of June, Sheingold suggests an in-person meeting as a send-off. Potentially the June 24th meeting?
- b) Discuss Agenda for Next Meeting, May 12, 2025

Assigned Tasks

- Barry Sheingold – follow up with David Anthony; coordinate with Jane re: Town Council feedback from Green Community Workshop
- Jane Ward – coordinate with Barry re: Town Council feedback from Green Community Workshop
- John Solomon – prepare summary of findings from survey outreach to send to Tracy Regazio (Solid Waste Division)

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn is made, so moved by Jane Ward, the Committee votes unanimously. The April 28, 2025, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee is adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for May 12, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of April 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - a. Green Communities
 - i. Relevant Updates and Next Steps
 - b. Food Waste

- i. Relevant Updates
 - c. Climate Change and Climate Science
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - d. Air Quality Monitoring
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - e. Technology and Infrastructure
 - i. Relevant Updates
- 4. New Business
 - a. Additional updates from Committee Chair
 - b. Discuss agenda for next meeting, May 27, 2025
 - c. Assigned Tasks
- 5. Motion to Adjourn

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