



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, January 27, 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=IWwpqaeEVrQXL3rbEwApx5INmtAB6b.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; Rob Wilson; John Solomon; Ron Ruggiero; Kristin Terkelsen, Town Council

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members Absent:

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager, Barnstable Department of Public Works; David Anthony, Barnstable Director of Asset Management; Sean Hogan, Barnstable Sustainability Manager; April Merrill (citizen)

Agenda:

Call to Order

Barry Sheingold, Chair, called the January 27, 2025, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee to order at 5:05 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely.

Approval of December 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Jane Ward requests an additional edit to the Food Waste discussion (Old Business – Section B), to reflect that what was transcribed in the minutes read as if all schools create twice as much food waste, when the national average is something like 30 to 35% per entity that consumes food. Ward suggests this portion of the minutes be amended to state that the Falmouth program’s data point is closer to 60%. With that comment amended, motion to approve the December 9, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Ward. Seconded by Barry Sheingold, Chair. The committee votes unanimously to approve the December 9, 2024, meeting minutes.

Approval of January 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Barry Sheingold, Chair, requests one edit to a typo within the Green Communities discussion (Old Business – Section A). The minutes will be amended to correct Mass Aid to Mass Save®. Motion to approve the January 13, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Sheingold. Seconded by Rob Wilson. The committee votes unanimously to approve the January 13, 2025, meeting minutes.

Presentation from Cape Light Compact – Mass Save® Program

Maggie Downey, Chief Administrative Officer for Cape Light Compact, had an unplanned meeting conflict. Downey and Chair Barry Sheingold will coordinate rescheduling her presentation to the Committee at a later date. Downey is on the February 6, 2025 Town Council meeting agenda and will provide a brief presentation to the Council in regard to Barnstable’s participation in the program and the associated affordable energy resources available to our community.

Old Business

a) Green Communities

Town Council Workshop

Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens the discussion by reviewing the current planning status of the proposed Green Community/Stretch Code Town Council Workshop. With David Anthony, Barnstable Director of Asset Management and Sean Hogan, Barnstable Sustainability Manager, present, Sheingold discusses possible meeting dates for the proposed Town Council Workshop. Sheingold has actively been communicating with Barnstable Town Manager Mark Ells, Town Council President Craig Tamash and the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) in regard to the desire to host this workshop. DOER is willing to make their Stretch Code consultant available for this meeting.

Director Anthony feels confident his team can be present, and given this workshop will be centered around discussing the Stretch Code, urges the Committee to ensure the Building Commissioner (Director Brian Florence) is available to attend as well. Director Anthony also asks about the objective – a single-issue workshop versus a more comprehensive run at Green Community designation. Sheingold agrees that this workshop would be more of the latter, being cognizant that the Stretch Code has proven to be a sticking point and barrier to pursuing the greater Green Communities designation in the past. Sheingold shares his thoughts on format, which include someone from the DOER to discuss the program from the State perspective, including the criteria, while Director Anthony and his team could discuss what the Town would need to do to satisfy the criteria, costs associated and how monies could be used for Town energy efficiency projects. Director Anthony expounds, sharing that the Town has several elements of the criteria ready, just in need of update(s) – this includes the green vehicle program and energy reduction plan. In regard to energy reduction,

Director Anthony shares how ‘...we went through an extensive process of evaluating close to 60 different facilities the last time and coming up with energy conservation measures that exceeded 20% rather easily...’ Director Anthony then discussed how this could be implemented, the anticipated timeline(s) associated and an overall desire to discuss this process in more detail to develop content for the proposed workshop. Conversation continues, touching upon items such as weather adjustments for the energy reduction plan and associated data.

Sheingold circles back on the scheduling aspect of this workshop in which Councilor Terkelsen suggested the Committee recommend a date that works best and submit that to the Council for consideration. Councilor Terkelsen shares upcoming Town Council Agenda setting meeting dates and again recommends the Committee select a date they wish to propose to Town Council; Councilor Terkelsen also advises to be conscious of the Spring budget season and availability of Council.

Workshop discussions continue, as Sheingold shares that he’s reached out to Bob Ryley from Habitat for Humanity; the organization builds according to the Stretch Code so Ryley’s experience and expertise is valuable to the conversations happening here in Barnstable. Ryley recommended Chris Mazzola, a home energy rater (HERs) who may be able to provide additional insight and expertise for the workshop. In regard to finding ‘practical’ experts who are willing to speak publicly, Jane Ward suggests reaching out to Falmouth’s sustainability expert (Stephanie), who was hired to manage their Green Community program; Ward was impressed with how busy Falmouth is now that new opportunities through the Green Community program are available to the community. Sean Hogan, Barnstable Sustainability Manager, agrees that Stephanie is a relatively new asset for Falmouth and is very good at speaking about the program, he feels she would be a great addition to the workshop if she has the time/bandwidth. Ward encourages the Committee to consider soliciting speakers who can share positive outcomes and that have a good track record with the Green Community program.

Director Anthony circles back on the common theme that the last time the Green Community discussion was broached, there “was this narrative that it was going to cost so much more for builders...that meant that it was going to cost so much more for housing.” Anthony suggests having someone address this by discussing the upfront costs and the energy savings afforded in 3-5 years. Sheingold and Director Anthony continue to discuss how to address and present energy savings information and practical use cases in the form of the Town Council workshop.

Sheingold brings the conversation full circle by discussing the skill set(s) of Committee members and how they can add to the workshop discussion. Sheingold suggests Vice Chair Chris Gloninger, as a climate scientist, can speak about where we are in respect to climate change and the science behind what we are trying to do to mitigate the effects of climate change by pursuing the Green Community designation. From there, Sheingold also suggests Jane Ward can speak about air quality, the related health impacts, and how the Stretch Code is really pushing people towards electrification and away from gas. Ward adds a reminder – by way of Councilor Terkelsen’s previous recommendations – that the Committee should be prepared to answer frequently asked questions at the workshop. One example is being prepared to speak to the DOER’s updated economic analysis and assumptions made about rebates via the Mass Saves Program.

The discussion wraps up with a summary of previous efforts, to help educate new member, Ron Ruggiero, about the Committee's past attempt to pursue the Green Community designation. Both Sheingold and Ward provide background on the obstacles and objections potential Strech Code adoption faced previously. Ward also reinforces that it wasn't overwhelming pushback from Council, but rather a tie vote with one absent or abstaining, with the question being, should the Town spend the effort at that time?'

Sustainability Updates

During staff introductions, Sean Hogan, Barnstable Sustainability Manager, discusses a federal grant he created a project application for – a micro grid at the Town's high school and middle school complex. The project would focus on energy generation, like solar. "We'd create a standalone system that withstand an emergency, and also key to it, was electrifying the HVAC system and giving it year-round climate control to really improve the internal air quality a little bit." The project was projected to cost \$42.3 million; a conditional award letter was granted, and Hogan is eager to see the project develop.

Additionally, Hogan has been working on electric vehicle procurement and EV charger infrastructure. The EV infrastructure project is a \$1.5 million project thereabouts that's mostly funded by the States and Eversource. The Town is looking at 65 or so new ports coming this Spring/Summer; there have been some delays because of Eversource's backlog on electrical infrastructure. These charging stations are proposed to be installed at multiple sites around Hyannis, including the high school, middle school, the Youth Center, Town Hall, the airport and a few sites along North Street.

b) Food Waste

Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens the discussion by asking John Solomon to update the Committee in regard to his most recent tasks. Solomon has been working on communications messaging and drafting potential survey questions; both of which have been circulating with Sheingold and DPW Communications Manager, Kelly Collopy. Collopy will take another look before sending around a clean draft of both documents for Committee review and consideration. This content will be used to prepare for the Committee's visit to the Transfer Station, to engage with users as a way of better understanding their knowledge of the Food Waste program.

Ruggiero added to the conversation a recent article he read regarding restaurant food waste and the opportunity to better educate the community about this issue, he stated, "...as a caterer if I had 50% waste, I'm losing a ton of money. But you know, just to see that number. I was astonished by it. So, I think that this is definitely a great important topic that probably a lot of people aren't aware of how much they're actually throwing away". Sheingold echoed this sentiment, adding that from an environmental standpoint, putting this waste into the landfill just creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Ward also adds that the Yacht Club has a successful composting program; Black Earth picks up their materials. She will continue to engage with them to see if someone would be willing to speak about their experience with the Committee.

c) Climate Change and Climate Science

Vice Chair Chris Gloninger provides the Committee with a climate update, sharing that although the weather currently is cold, 2025 is off to the warmest start ever, which is pretty remarkable globally. “Just because North America's cold, the Arctic Antarctic, Europe, Africa, are very much well above average, and yes, last year was the warmest year on record after 2023, which was the warmest year on record.”

Additionally, Gloninger will be a featured speaker at the Cape Cod Technology Council on February 7th at Cape Cod Community College, 7:30AM. (Meeting information can be found here: <https://cctechcouncil.org/events/>)

d) Air Quality Monitoring

Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens the discussion by asking Jane for her thoughts on whether this topic should remain on the Committee’s agenda. Ward agrees she hasn’t had any significant updates as of late. Ward does share that her contact is preparing for the ASHRAE Meeting, a conference hosted by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, which sets the standards for all air quality.

New Business

a) Introduction of New Committee Member, Ron Ruggiero

Ron Ruggiero introduces himself and provides a brief summary of his background, experience and interest. Ruggiero has been in public safety for 18 years on the Cape for 9 in the town of Harwich, has lived in Barnstable for 6 years, and operates 2 businesses as well, in catering and real estate. Ruggiero shares his passion for community service and giving back to the community where he lives – which drove him to get involved with the Infrastructure and Energy Committee. Committee members, Councilor Terkelsen, and Town staff then took a moment to introduce themselves to Ruggiero.

b) Additional updates from Committee Chair and Committee Members

Rob Wilson

Department of Public Utilities Hearing Regarding National Grid’s Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program. The Department of Public Utilities public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2025, beginning at 3:00PM. The hearing will be held virtually via Zoom and is accessible via this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87660410767> Attendees can also dial in at (646) 931-3860 (not toll free) and then enter the Meeting ID# 876 6041 0767. DPW is seeking public comment in regard to National Grid’s petition for Phase II of their Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program

Chair Barry Sheingold

Provides new member, Ron Ruggiero, to pick an area/concept/initiative that he is passionate about. Ruggiero shares that prior to public safety, his background was in electrical. Additionally, his father-in-law is the retired chief of the wastewater sector for the county. Ruggiero also notes that he sees a lot of people in the community frustrated with the Cape’s Internet access/options. “The Cape is very limited as to our options when it comes to Internet. I would love to see Open Cape expand...”

Committee Discussion Re: In-Person Meetings

Ward also brings up the concept of in-person meetings, inquiring about the ability to meet in the DPW Conference Room, perhaps on a quarterly basis. The Committee discusses the possibilities and limitations, including the desire to have meetings recorded for public consumption.

c) Discuss Agenda for Next Meeting, February 10, 2025

Chair Barry Sheingold feels a similar agenda can be utilized for the next scheduled meeting in which the Committee will cover:

- Presentation from Maggie Downey, Cape Light Compact – if available
- Green Communities – discussing next steps/scheduling of the Town Council Workshop
- Continuance of Food Waste discussion
- Continuance of Climate Change discussion
- Continuance of Air Quality discussion

Assigned Tasks

- Barry Sheingold, Chair
 - Connect with Maggie Downey, Cape Light Compact, to reschedule her presentation
 - Touchbase with Kelly to discuss possibilities and limitations to in-person and hybrid meeting formats
 - Follow-up with Town Manager Mark Ells and Town Council President Craig Tamash re: Stretch Code Workshop and confirming a date on the Town Council Agenda
- Kelly Collopy
 - Review latest round of edits to Food Waste messaging/survey questions and circulate with larger Committee

Motion to Adjourn

With no quorum reached, the meeting is informally adjourned at 6:33 PM. Chris motioned, Barry seconded.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for February 10, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of January 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes
3. *Presentation from Cape Light Compact – Mass Save® Program (TENTATIVE)*
4. Old Business
 - a. Green Communities
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - b. Food Waste
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - c. Climate Change and Climate Science

- i. Relevant Updates
 - d. Air Quality Monitoring
 - i. Relevant Updates
- 5. New Business
 - a. Additional updates from Committee Chair
 - b. Discuss agenda for next meeting, February 18, 2025
 - c. Assigned Tasks
- 6. Motion to Adjourn

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