



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 7, 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=IWwpaqeEVrQXL3rbEwApX5INmtAB6b.1>

Meeting ID: 811 8577 9775

Passcode: 568500

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)

Barry Sheingold, Chair; Peter Doyle, Vice Chair; Jane Ward; Chris Gloninger

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members absent:

John Solomon; Rob Wilson

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager Department of Public Works

Agenda:

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Approval of April 29, 2024, Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Old Business**
 - 3 a. New Member Appointments
 - i. New Member Introductions
 - ii. Overview of current committee initiatives
 - iii. New member thoughts/ideas

- 3 b. Food Waste
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - ii. Summary and updates from meeting with Department of Public Works
- 3 c. Green Communities
 - 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 May 7, 2024, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:08 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Barry Sheingold, Chair, moves to discuss the April 29, 2024, meeting minutes. Jane Ward moves the motion to approve the April 29, 2024, meeting minutes, Peter Doyle seconds. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the April 29, 2024, meeting minutes.

Old Business

a. New Member Appointments

Town Council voted unanimously on May 2, 2024, to approve new member appointments to the Infrastructure and Energy Committee. Member appointments include Chris Gloninger and William Beal.

Chris Gloninger was previously a meteorologist with NBC, has an academic background as climate scientist, and currently works with Woods Hole Group. Happy to be settling down in Barnstable and had a strong desire to be involved with the community via a committee. With a background in climate science, Chris sees the importance of advancing climate messaging and climate change. Hopes to bring value with his experience and add a new perspective to the energy and infrastructure initiatives.

Current members, Vice Chair, Peter Doyle, Jane Ward, and Chair, Barry Sheingold, introduce themselves and provide insight into their professional and academic backgrounds, as well as their passion for this Committee. Kelly Collopy, Department of Public Works Communications Manager, provides a brief overview of her role at the DPW and as the Committee staff support.

Chair, Barry Sheingold, opens a discussion about the Committee's current initiatives.

- Sheingold begins with an overview of the Green Communities program. Barnstable is the only Town on Cape Cod that does not currently hold this designation. There are (5) criteria for designation as summarized in the DOER (linked here: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/becoming-a-designated-green-community>)
- The Committee has also been pursuing the growth and development of the Town's Food Waste and composting program. Discussions have occurred with the Department of Public Works to help expand awareness and user adoption.
- The Committee has also continued to provide advisory support to Town leadership regarding the Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting, including

contributing to Town-generated comments as part of the Commission's most recent public feedback survey.

Gloninger adds his interest in working on the public outreach and communications aspects of these Committee initiatives.

b. Food Waste

Chair, Barry Sheingold, transitions to discuss the status of the Food Waste program and conversations with Department of Public Works leadership. Both Sheingold and Committee member, John Solomon, met with DPW Director, Dan Santos, and Solid Waste Division Supervisor, Tracy Regazio, to illicit recommendations and insight on how best to take advantage of this 'low hanging fruit' – there's a lot of opportunity to make an impact by increasing awareness and adoption of composting both through the Barnstable Transfer Station as well as commercially. Currently, no goal set by DPW/Transfer Station for food waste, however user adoption has been steadily increasing over the last two years that the program has been in place.

Committee asked for better signage at the Transfer Station, more public awareness of the program, and educational resources. The hope is that better awareness of the program will increase activity. Program is currently funded through a State grant that is good for a total of (5) years – program is currently in year two. Education around the funding, and what can/cannot be composted, are topics suggested for communications materials. Director Santos agreed to allow the Committee to leverage DPW Communications Manager, Kelly Collopy, to assist with a promotional campaign and updates to current outreach materials.

Sheingold and Solomon also asked Director Santos and Regazio about other opportunities to reduce food waste – collection of food waste at other satellite locations; requiring/incentivizing private trash collectors to provide food waste collection; collaboration with schools. Director Santos identified the Barnstable Health Division (via Inspectional Services) as the governing authority for private haulers and commercial regulations. The discussion also included the 2021 Cape Cod Commission study regarding organics management.

Jane Ward adds that she feels there is a breakdown in communication between the Cape Cod Commission and municipalities/ the Town; the Commission study clearly states that anything that can be composted, should be composted, but we are not seeing that same systematic effort happening from a local government perspective. We need to know our current baseline – how many people are composting at home, how many are not, how many are utilizing the food waste program at the Transfer Station, etc. Ward adds that she recently had the opportunity to discuss with Steven Tupper Cape Cod Commission Deputy Director, who didn't believe the Commission has had any specific dialogue with individual municipalities.

c. Green Community Designation

Chair, Barry Sheingold, moved the discussion to the Green Communities Program, providing new member Chris Gloninger with a brief history of how the Committee has worked to pursue the designation via Town leadership and Town Council over the last several years. Previous opposition was centered around the impact to builders and the frequency in which building code(s) tend to be revised. This new Town Council has shown interest in revisiting this initiative. Since then, the Committee has hosted Town Asset Manager, David Anthony, who spoke about the criteria and his

role in data collection and planning. Conversations with representatives from the Green Communities program have also commenced. Jane Ward adds that Allison Alessi, a local green architect, and previous Committee member, is willing to join a future Committee meeting to share her perspective on the process and her experience. Alessi is also willing to assist the Committee in tackling education around the Stretch Code, to hopefully impact adoption. Alessi noted to Ward that ‘Barnstable not being a Green Community is actually hurting the builders’. Alessi also suggested that the Committee should recommend a Town Council Workshop dedicated to the Green Community Designation and Stretch Code, as this is a lot of information for councilors to process in one sitting. Sheingold suggests targeting one of the Committee’s June meetings to have Alessi address the group. Sheingold also confirms that Lisa Sullivan AICP, Regional Coordinator for Green Communities, is willing to speak to the Committee, and will work to schedule that after Alessi.

New Business

a. Additional Updates from Committee Chair

- Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting
 - Barry Sheingold, Chair, to follow-up with Councilor Kristin Terkelsen, regarding getting a copy of the Town’s public survey comments circulated.

b. Discuss Next Meeting Agenda

Should new member William Beal be sworn in and joins the next meeting, agenda will include a brief introduction and opportunity for Beal to share his thoughts on goals/initiatives in the energy, climate, infrastructure space. Continued updates on current initiatives.

Peter Doyle makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jane Ward seconds. The Committee voted unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 6:18PM.

Next Meeting: May 28, 2024, at 5:00PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for May 28, 2024

1. Call to order
2. Approval of May 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - 3 a. New Member Appointments
 - i. William Beal introduction
 - ii. Review of current committee initiatives
 - iii. New member thoughts/ideas
 - 3 b. Food Waste
 - i. Relevant updates
 - 3 c. Green Communities
 - i. Relevant updates
4. New Business
 - 4 a. Additional updates from Committee Chair
 - 4 b. Scheduling of remaining 2024 Committee meetings
 - 4 c. Discuss agenda for next meeting
5. Motion to Adjourn

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