



# Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Date: Monday, August 12, 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; John Solomon; Jane Ward; Chris Gloninger; William Beal

### **Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members absent:**

Rob Wilson

### **Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)**

Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager Department of Public Works; Michelle Trask, Executive Assistant Department of Public Works; Kristin Terkelsen, Town Council; Gordon Starr, Town Council

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### **Agenda:**

- 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**

##### **Call to Order:**

Barry Sheingold, Chair, called the August 12, 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 July 15, 2024, meeting minutes, has no suggested edits. Jane Ward moves to approve the minutes, John Solomon seconds. The Committee unanimously approves the July 15, 2024, meeting minutes.

##### **New Business**

Kelly Collopy, staff support (DPW Communications Manager) introduced interim staff support, Michelle Trask (DPW Executive Assistant).

Additionally, new member, William Beal introduces himself and provides a bit of context on his background and desire to join the Committee. Beal has a background in respiratory therapy, which piqued his interest in environmental conditions. Having experience working with children who had severe asthma, coupled with the world's COVID-19 outbreak, Beal has always been interested in air quality and how environmental conditions contribute to various health concerns. Beal also has experience working with a company that manufactures air purification devices, as well as had worked independently with respiratory equipment. Beal's introduction then segues into the first order of business which is an update on the Green Communities Designation process.

##### **Old Business**

- a. Green Communities Designation
  - Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens the meeting with a presentation summarizing the status of Barnstable's quest towards becoming a designated Green Community. Sheingold begins with a background on the Stretch Code and its previous introduction to Barnstable Town Council in 2021, which resulted in a tie vote, not passing. Earlier attempts to obtain Town support in 2008 and again in 2012-2013 did not advance either. Barnstable is the only town on Cape Cod that has not adopted the Stretch Code nor received Green Community designation. Sandwich most recently applied, and it is highly anticipated that its application will be accepted.

Sheingold then walks through current progress to date on the various criteria required for a Green Community designation application. Current work includes, but is not limited to:

- An Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) currently being managed by Town Asset Management Director, David Anthony

- Specifically related to that, an energy baseline and 20% reduction plan that includes municipal buildings/schools, vehicles, municipally owned street and traffic lights, as well as water and wastewater facilities and the airport
- Meeting with the Building Inspector (Town Director of Inspectional Services, Brian Florence) regarding the Stretch Code
- Conversations with the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and a review of DOER materials such as program benefits, environmental benefits, etc. that can be used to educate the community and Town leadership

Sheingold then goes on to discuss the major difference from 2021, when this was last brought before Barnstable Town Council. There have been changes and adaptations to how new construction and major additions/remodels are handled in regard to the Stretch Code. The presentation continues to include a closer look at the current iteration of the Stretch Code and its costs/benefits for new construction as well as a look at how the Stretch Code impacts additions and remodels.

Sheingold then presents next steps for the Committee to consider, as they advance the Stretch Code and overall Green Communities discussion. Sheingold encourages continued Committee review and self-education, including engagement with a DOER representative who can present to the Committee and provide additional insight into the Green Community process as well as the Stretch Code. While there are potential changes coming to the Stretch Code, Sheingold also addresses how the Town and/or the Committee can participate in the public comment submission process. Upon additional review and education, Sheingold presents the next Committee goal, which would include organizing a Town Council workshop to present the Stretch Code for consideration once again. Discussion continues with how a proposed workshop should be managed, which speakers/experts should be present, and how to address concerns from previous iterations of this discussion (i.e. 2021 Town Council).

Jane Ward reflects on previous Town Council engagement and voting. Her recollection of previous voting was that the vote was really centered around, 'should the Town spend the money and invest the Town staff to consider/pursue the Green Communities' designation. This eventually boiled down to a discussion about whether or not the Town should be for or against the adoption of the Stretch Code. Ward recommends that the Committee holds any future briefings to Town Council until the DOER 'settles down' and finalizes any changes to building standards. (per Sheingold's presentation, "DOER has recently proposed making these standards more lenient—HERS ratings loosened from 52-58 to 65-75; written comments due on 9/17/2024 + public hearing week of 9/16/2024.") Ward also circles back on the recommendation to have a representative from Habitat for Humanity address the Committee.

Councilor Gordon Starr questions the upfront costs of building within the Stretch Code, and questions the role of rebates, which Sheingold expands on. Sheingold provides a brief overview of the various rebates and tax credits that come into play that can help lower building and remodeling costs under the Stretch Code.

The discussion circles back on the DOER public comment period in September; how do we as a Committee want to promote the public comment period and/or participate? Councilors Starr and Terkelsen provide some feedback and recommendations to perhaps prepare content to share with Town Council leadership and the Town Manager. There may be potential for the Town to submit a

comment via the Committee, but additionally, all private citizens are welcome to comment as they see fit, individually at their leisure. Sheingold takes on the action of following up with the Town Manager and Town Attorney on how best to proceed with sharing this information publicly.

Councilor Terkelsen reiterates that this topic is so complex, it takes a high level of detail and information/education. Terkelsen encourages the Committee to really educate the Council, with comprehensive information, not just simplified talking points. The Stretch Code will impact various entities and roles within Town, as well as property owners and builders, it is important to continue to provide this level of detail and information. Terkelsen also recommends finding a builder or two, who are currently working in towns with the Stretch Code, to speak about their experience. Use this as a case study to share the perspective of what the reality is for the 'average builder in town'.

To close this discussion, Sheingold summarizes the overall group feedback:

- Sheingold to follow up with the Town Manager and Town Attorney regarding submitting comments
- Committee as a whole to continue to self-educate and engage with builders, HERS raters, etc.
- Target a Town Council Workshop for early next year
- Continue to coordinate with Asset Management Director, David Anthony regarding his role in the Green Community application process

b. Food Waste

John Solomon provided an update in regard to his conversation with Kari Parcell, where he reached out to see how she was doing and progressing on the exciting initiative of a regional composting facility. Parcell confirmed that they (Cape Cod Cooperative Extension) has hired a consultant to advance this project further.

At this moment, no additional follow-up from Health Division Director, Tom McKean. Solomon recommends the Committee circle back with McKean in September in regard to how to engage with commercial entities on the topic of commercial food waste disposal.

c. Climate Change and Climate Science

Chris Gloninger opens the discussion with a recent graph sharing '*U.S. 2024 Billion-Dollar Climate Disasters*', which segues into a look at daily sea surface temperatures, pointing to the fact that there is a lot of energy atmospherically and meteorologically that lends itself to these climate disasters.

So, what does this mean to the Committee? It's about planning and communications. Looking at these stats, Gloninger feels there's the potential for a billion-dollar climate disaster in the Northeast before the end of this calendar year.

The conversation transitions to the insurance industry, and how these climate disasters pose such high risk to the business of insurance. For us here on Cape Cod, flooding and wind pose high risk. Jane Ward adds that climate change is the number one health risk, the number one security risk, reinforcing that this is a real issue that needs to be addressed and properly communicated to the community. Sheingold adds that having climate change as part of a future Green Community Workshop would be beneficial.

**New Business**

- a. Additional updates from Committee Chair and Committee Members
  - Barry Sheingold, Chair, shares an update on the Vineyard Wind turbine incident; reported to be a manufacturing issue from GE. Two pieces of litigation that Sheingold is aware of, including the local litigation in regard to Open Meeting regulations and the Barnstable Town Council. At the next Town Council meeting (Thursday, August 15, 2024) there is going to be a discussion/mini workshop summarizing where we as a Town currently are in regard to wind projects, permitting, etc. Discussion to be led by Town legal staff (Tom LaRosa).
- b. Discuss Next Meeting Agenda
  - Next meeting to be held on Monday, September 9, at 5:00PM.
  - Continued discussion on Green Community status, food waste update, climate science update
  - Target having a representative from Habitat for Humanity present, if possible/schedule allows

Jane Ward makes a motion to adjourn the meeting; Chris Gloninger seconds. The Committee voted unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Next Meeting: September 9, 2024, at 5:00PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for September 9, 2024

1. Call to order
2. Approval of August 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
  - 3 a. Green Communities
    - i. Relevant updates
    - ii. TENTATIVE – Presentation/discussion led by Habitat for Humanity representative(s)
  - 3 b. Food Waste
    - i. 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, September 23, 2024
5. Motion to Adjourn

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