



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 23, 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; John Solomon; Rob Wilson; Jane Ward

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members absent:

William Beal; Chris Gloninger

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Chris Gadd, Communications Assistant Department of Public Works; Michelle Trask, Executive Assistant Department of Public Works

Agenda:

Call to order

Barry Sheingold, Chair, called the September 23, 2024, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:09 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Barry Sheingold, Chair, moves to discuss the September 9, 2024, meeting minutes. Sheingold requests three edits:

Page 2-Green Communities Designation update second paragraph to read, “This is a unique opportunity to suggest changes to the Stretch Code, rather than just adopting or not adopting the Stretch Code as is. DOER had proposed incorporating various comments from the Massachusetts Builders Association, regional building inspectors, etc. Sheingold transitions to review and discuss the draft comments, which specifically boils down to the following proposed stance:”

Page 3-New Business change first bulleted update to read, “The DOER announced last week that the projects selected for the most recent offshore wind procurement; Massachusetts selected 3 projects (includes Park City Wind Project); Rhode Island selected a portion of one project; Connecticut has not selected any projects at this juncture. Over the next few months, utility contracts will be negotiated and will pursue filing with the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). The Commonwealth Wind Project was not selected.”

Page 3-New Business change third bulleted update to read, “At the 9/5/24 Town Council meeting a workshop was hosted by Town Legal staff to explain how permitting works and what legal rights the Town has throughout this process. There is both a Federal and State-level review and approval process. There are provisions where the state can effectively overrule local decisions. This information was meant to educate the Town Council and Town residents about how these offshore wind projects have evolved and how the State can ultimately propel forward projects that are seen as in the State’s overall best interest.”

Barry Sheingold, Chair, motions to approve the September 9, 2024, meeting minutes with the requested edits. John Solomon seconds the motion. Committee votes unanimously to approve the September 9, 2024, meeting minutes with the requested edits.

Old Business

a. Green Community Designation

Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens the discussion by providing an update on draft suggested comments to be filed by the town, proposing changes to the Stretch code. Barry reports these comments were circulated to the Town Manager (Mark Ellis) and Town Building Inspector (Brian Florence) who met with Barry and had generally positive feedback. Upon further review some changes were proposed by Brian, which he and Barry addressed. Two concerns that arose from this interaction is the ability of DOER (Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources) to address the cost of home remodeling projects and that the threshold for the Stretch code review and HERS (Home Energy Rating System) rating be increased from 1,000 square foot projects to 1,250 square foot projects. These changes were sent to Mark for review and were sent out under his signature.

Barry notes he intends to follow up with Lisa Sullivan from the DOER, inquiring about the timing for their action on the proposed rules. Barry notes that once DOER takes action, he will ask Town

Council for a workshop which the committee will help to create and organize. Barry anticipates the DOER enacting changes by the end of 2024 or early 2025.

John Solomon asks what can be done while waiting for the amendments to be approved. Barry responds that there is not much else that can be done but will reach out to Lisa Sullivan to potentially speak at a future meeting.

Jane notes previous discussions and stresses the importance of clarifying the Return on Investment (ROI) for both the building owner and the builder. Jane recalls previous discussions where complaints of needing to “jump through hoops” were expressed. Jane advocates for carefulness regarding where in the write up to discuss building and operation costs. Barry expresses agreement and notes that there are many factors affecting cost including the size of the project and necessary equipment.

Barry and Jane both note a health benefit as a result of developing green communities, especially pertaining to increased ventilation. Barry notes that with Jane and Bill’s background in health, it would be worthwhile for them to investigate the differences in ventilation between the Stretch code and the existing code, and what health impacts may exist.

Barry notes that the Town council meeting planned for last Thursday, 9/19/2024, was rescheduled for this coming Thursday, 9/26/2024. During the 9/26 meeting there will be a presentation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Renewable Energy Clinic. They will be presenting as a neutral third party discussing the applicability of renewable energy to the Town of Barnstable, offshore wind projects, and solar projects.

b. Food Waste

Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens the discussion by asking for updates from John Solomon regarding the Food Waste program. John responds by inquiring if the Department of Public Works has hired a Communications Assistant. Chris Gadd, DPW Communications Assistant, introduces himself as the new Communications Assistant for the Department of Public Works, having started the previous Friday. John inquires if Chris had received any information on the Food Waste initiative, to which Chris responds he had not. John provides a quick explanation of the initiative and that he was working with Kelly Collopy, DPW Communications Manager, on a communications plan and signage. Chris responds that he will follow up with Kelly and look for existing information on signage. Chris will also reach out to John after the meeting to arrange a time to discuss the project in greater detail and what is needed.

John Solomon also poses the question asking if anyone from the committee has reached out to Thomas McKeen, Health Division Director, to discuss the commercial aspect of the Food Waste initiative. Barry responds that nobody had and recommends that John take the lead on that, and to draft an email to Thomas and run it by Barry. John Agrees.

c. Climate Change and Climate Science

Barry opens up the discussion, noting that Committee Member Chris Gloninger normally reports on this topic but is absent. Jane Ward notes there is a large climate leadership meeting occurring this week in New York City. Chris, responding to an earlier message from Barry, notes he is currently on the way to Climate Week NYC, the meeting Jane had brought up. Jane indicates it would be excellent if Chris shares some information from the conference at the next meeting. Barry agrees and will reach out to confirm this with Chris.

New Business

a. Additional Updates from Committee Chair

No additional updates are shared.

b. Discuss next meeting agenda

- Next meeting to be held on Monday, October 7, 2024
- Barry will invite Lisa Sullivan to the meeting, or at least request answers as noted in the minutes.
- Jane and Rob will look into specifics on ventilation and health issues as they relate to standard and Stretch building codes.
- Barry will request updates from Chris Gloninger about the Climate Week NYC conference and request to share them with the committee.

Motion to Adjourn

Jane Ward makes a motion to adjourn the meeting; Barry Sheingold, Chair, seconds. The committee voted unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Next Meeting: October 7, 2024, at 5:00 PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for October 7, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of September 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - a. Green Communities
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - b. Food Waste
 - i. Relevant Updates
 - c. Climate Change and Climate Science
 - i. Chris Gloninger to provide updates and learnings from Climate Week conference.
 - ii. Relevant Updates
4. New Business
 - a. Additional updates from Committee Chair
 - b. Discuss agenda for next meeting, October 21, 2024

5. Motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Christopher Gadd, Communications Assistant, Barnstable Department of Public Works.