



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, May 12, 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; John Solomon; Rob Wilson; Ron Ruggiero; and Jane Ward (who joined at 5:14PM)

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members Absent:

Chris Gloninger, Vice Chair

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager, Barnstable DPW

Agenda:

Call to Order

Chair Barry Sheingold called the May 12, 2025 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee to order at 5:02 PM.

Approval of April 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The committee discussed the minutes from the April 28th meeting. John Solomon moves the motion to approve; the committee votes unanimously to approve the April 28th meeting minutes.

Old Business

a) Green Communities

Chair Barry Sheingold led the Green Communities discussion with a brief update regarding some discussions and communications both he and Jane Ward have had with some town councilors. Overall, Town Council's focus in the short term is on budgeting, by end of June or early July there seems to be an interest in revisiting the Green Community Designation and bringing the Stretch Code to a vote. While Sheingold is unsure how that vote would go at this point, he feels the committee has gotten the issue a good deal of attention. Sheingold believes any proposed Stretch Code vote would need to go through two readings once placed on the Town Council agenda.

b) Food Waste

John Solomon provided an update on the food waste initiative, first by asking committee staff support, Kelly Collopy, to circulate a copy of the email he sent Transfer Station Supervisor, Tracy Regazio, which summarized their survey outreach and thanked him for his help in coordinating. Solomon feels the next step is to learn a bit more about Watts Farm, specifically how much more food waste the farm would be able to accept as well as if we (the town) were to increase our food waste, would the cost to process the waste go down? "Is there some economy of scale?" Ultimately, Solomon posed both of these questions to Supervisor Regazio who preferred to remain the point of contact with the farm and will facilitate future conversations. Solomon also suggested that some committee members may be interested in visiting the farm to see how the food waste is actually processed (i.e. turkey feed vs direct compost).

An additional action item remains the need for improved signage at the Transfer Station. That was one of the takeaways from the interviews committee members conducted as part of their outreach event – when handing out the countertop compost buckets some people didn't know that this program was available and specifically did not know where the food waste/compost shed was located. Solomon hopes that deploying some additional signage is a relatively easy next step to educating Transfer Station users about the benefits of collecting food waste.

Chair Barry Sheingold agrees that what the committee did, in talking face to face with people at the Transfer Station, was very effective, and suggests it's something they can do again. Solomon adds that he is still waiting to hear more about the composting project at the Joint Base and is hopeful the report and public comment period will be available soon, allowing the committee to learn more about what's being proposed. Ontha note, Sheingold confirms that he put a call into Asset Management Director, David Anthony regarding Town-owned land that could potentially be useful for a collaborative composting facility.

c) Climate Change and Climate Science

Chris Gloninger was absent, thus no significant updates this evening.

d) Air Quality Monitoring

Jane Ward shared with the committee that Town Council voted in a fairly sizable package of HVAC upgrades for the school district at the last meeting. It references improving indoor air quality, which Ward encourages the committee to remember is an important benefit of advancing the Green Community Designation and Stretch Code – reminding Town Council that when the discussion of voting comes up, some of these HVAC initiatives currently being

supported could be paid for by the Green Community status in the future.

e) Technology and Infrastructure

Ron Ruggiero provided an update on the Cape Cod Technology Council Infrastructure Committee; specifically, his introduction to Steve Smith, former chair who also formerly worked for OpenCape and Comcast. Steve Smith was a good person to speak with and gave Ruggiero a bit of a background as to where we're at as far as Internet progress goes on the Cape. He provided Ruggiero with a lot of contacts and resources, both at the local and state level.

Ruggiero also reported that Verizon is planning on bringing residential access, fiber access to seven Cape Towns, Barnstable being one. It sounds as though they're going to start in Hyannis and Centerville. Ruggiero noted that Comcast actually has a ton of fiber cable on the Cape, however, they only provide it to businesses currently. And that's the same for OpenCape. In exploring OpenCape more, Ruggiero recaps that at one point the company received \$100 million of grant money. With that OpenCape was able to run 500 miles of cyber cable – they have it in Buzzards Bay, Hyannis, and Chatham – it's all been commercial. However, Ruggiero adds that OpenCape has expanded into some apartments above the commercial spaces on the Main Street (Hyannis), but as of late they haven't received any more waves of funding. Current employees are limited to maintaining their current network. Ruggiero then introduced the committee to GoNetSpeed, an Alabama-based company that has expanded into Massachusetts. GoNetSpeed just announced last month, April 7th, that they have an \$8.5 million dollar project to bring fiber internet to the town of Yarmouth, by the third quarter of 2026. Overall, Ruggiero notes that (the Cape) is miles ahead of where we (the internet infrastructure) were even just a year ago, and we should start to see things over the next few months to a year really starting to change as far as Internet service providers go.

Chair Barry Sheingold inquires about Verizon's entry into the Town of Barnstable, to which Ruggiero notes that a lot of the current Internet structure/upgrades were from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). Those funds are starting to dwindle. When a company wants to come and expand like Verizon does on the Cape, they have to submit a proposal and a plan. And Verizon seems to be the front runner in that now. But it does sound like some of that work remains federally funded. Ruggiero adds that there is another way to develop the internet infrastructure, and that is through private investors, similar to what a portion of Falmouth has done. Sheingold mentions he has a contact at the Falmouth Energy Committee that he can reach out to, to learn more. The committee further discussed additional thought leaders within the Internet and technology space who have had an impact on advancing infrastructure on Cape Cod.

New Business

a) Additional updates from Committee Chair and Committee Members

- John Solomon reports he will be unable to attend the next meeting, scheduled for May 27th.
- In-person meeting at the end of June to serve two purposes; allow for face-to-face conversation but also provide an opportunity to give longtime committee member, Rob Wilson, a proper send-off.
 - Currently this meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24th, however Jane Ward notes that is the same night as the Cape Cod Tech Council Annual

Meeting and Dinner; the committee discusses and pushes the meeting to Wednesday, June 25th, to be hosted in-person at the DPW.

- b) Discuss Agenda for Next Meeting, Tuesday, May 27, 2025
 - Discuss possibility of hosting a Solar SUNday to educate and encourage local residents to consider how they can generate clean renewable energy.

Assigned Tasks

- Barry Sheingold – continued follow-up with town councilors and David Anthony as needed
- Jane Ward –
- John Solomon –

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn is made, so moved by John Solomon, the Committee votes unanimously. The May 12, 2025, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee is adjourned at 5:31 PM.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2025, at 5:00 PM

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for May 27, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of May 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes
3. 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
 - e. Technology and Infrastructure
 - i. Relevant Updates
4. New Business
 - a. Solar SUNday
 - i. Discuss possibility of coordinating an outreach/educational event
 - ii. Example for discussion purposes: <https://solar-living.org/solar-sunday-february/>
 - b. Additional updates from Committee Chair
 - c. Discuss agenda for next meeting, June 25, 2025
 - i. In-person, hosted at DPW (382 Falmouth Road, Hyannis)
 - d. Assigned Tasks
5. Motion to Adjourn

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