



# Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Date: Monday, January 13, 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=IWwpaqeEVrQXL3rbEwApx5INmtAB6b.1>

Meeting ID: 811 8577 9775

Passcode: 568500

### **Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members Present: (On Zoom)**

Barry Sheingold, Chair; John Solomon; Rob Wilson; Kristin Terkelsen, Town Council

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

Jane Ward; Chris Gloninger, Vice Chair

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

Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager, Department of Public Works

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### **Agenda:**

#### **Call to Order**

Barry Sheingold, Chair, called the January 13, 2025, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee to order at 5:11 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely. As of 5:11PM, a quorum was not reached. As a result, the Committee continued with the meeting as scheduled but deferred all voting to the next scheduled meeting on January 27, 2025.

#### **Approval of December 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

With no quorum, the Committee deferred voting on the December 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes to the

next scheduled meeting on January 27, 2025. In preparation for future voting, Chair Barry Sheingold requested the following edit:

*(Page 5) Additional updates from Committee Chair – “Side Agreement” Petition*

Sheingold requests the minutes be amended to reflect that the November 21, 2024 Town Council Meeting vote, held for Item# 2025-047, was actually a tie vote, resulting in non-approval. Thus, the agreement will not be reconsidered. Kelly Collopy to edit the meeting minutes as appropriate and resend to Committee members for review in anticipation of a vote to approve at the upcoming January 27, 2025 meeting.

## **Old Business**

### a) Green Communities

#### DOER Proposed Amendments to the Stretch Code

Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens the discussion by providing a status update on recent conversations and forward movement by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to amend the Stretch Code. About a week ago, Sheingold spoke with Lisa Sullivan, the DOER Regional Representative for Southeastern Massachusetts, who relayed that the DOER had finalized proposed amendments to the Stretch Code. These amendments are subject to review by the legislative Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. Some of the things that DOER does, including things that Sheingold has experience working on from his time as a consultant in the renewable energy space, had to go through this committee. Lisa indicated they (DOER) are expecting these proposed amendments to pass the review, which will allow DOER to issue the final Stretch Code regulations in mid-February. From an operational standpoint, Sheingold feels it's pretty good to assume that those final regs will likely stand. The whole purpose of these revised regulations were to really address issues that were raised by home builders, building inspectors, and others regarding the Stretch Code rules pertaining to major additions. So generally, they made the rules more lenient, easier to both. It is probably less likely that the homeowners will need to actually go through the process but these proposed amendments to the regulations also make the rules more lenient. There were also a variety of comments that were submitted. And some of the changes really were in response to those comments. Upon review, it didn't seem to Sheingold that there was anything in there that seemed terribly controversial.

#### Town Participation

And, as you may recall, the Town of Barnstable submitted comments that generally supported the proposed rules and made a few other suggestions. The request was also made to DOER to update its economic analysis. DOER acknowledged that they did update the analysis, and it didn't really change the conclusions. For example, if you are installing heat pumps, for a number of reasons, it actually turns out to be less costly than just doing gas under the base code that has to do with Mass Save® rebates, and it also has to do with the greater flexibility that a builder or homeowner would have and because it's a performance standard, not a prescriptive standard like the base code is. The analysis also shows that while they're meeting the performance standard, they can do that with putting in less energy, efficient and less costly windows as one example.

Sheingold stopped there to allow present Committee members to bring forth any questions or comments.

### Committee Discussion

John Solomon stated that he felt the examples given by DOER in the updated analysis were helpful, but he still found that he had existing questions about how it all works. Solomon suggests a discussion with a code expert would be beneficial to help himself and Committee members better understand technical aspects of the code. Sheingold agrees, adding that there are a couple of different areas where they (DOER) could be more explicit about their assumptions.

#### *Cape Light Compact*

Sheingold adds that the other key initiative is the Cape Light Compact, because they are in the process of finalizing their new program effective for 2025, 2026 and 2027. Sheingold tasks himself with engaging with Cape Light Compact to gauge interest and availability in a representative presenting to the Committee. Sheingold attended a presentation on the 3 Year Plan; the sole focus at this point is on electrification. They no longer give rebates, for example, to high efficiency gas furnaces. They (Cape Light Compact) are focused on outreach, and they've amended their program to be more attractive for middle income and low-income people. Overall, another area to learn more about and consider as part of this larger Stretch Code and Green Communities discussion.

#### *Town Council Workshop*

Discussion then shifts to the proposed Town Council Workshop and possibility of an interim update on what the Infrastructure and Energy Committee has been doing most recently. Sheingold adds that the Stretch Code is a complex enough topic that a dedicated workshop with Town Council warranted, and that is something we (the Committee) will want to do in a way that's the most efficient use of staff time. Sheingold asks Councilor Terkelsen for her recommendation on how best to proceed. Councilor Terkelsen recommends having questions prepared prior to meeting with staff and also providing an outline/draft plan for how the workshop would be handled – i.e. how many people will be presenting (Town staff, Committee members, outside experts, etc.); will the workshop be co-hosted; outline where the expertise lies in the overall presentation. Sheingold agrees and mentions the need to have David Anthony, Director of Asset Management, play a role. Sheingold discusses a preliminary workshop agenda, including items such as: what is the Green Communities Program; what are the five criteria for a Green Community; what are the potential benefits for the Town; what is the magnitude (i.e. dollars available to assist with Town projects); how does the program really work – beyond just the Stretch Code and Specialized Code. Sheingold also reinforces that should the Town adopt the Stretch Code and decide at a later date it is not working; the Town could revert back to the Base Code and no longer be a designated Green Community.

At this juncture, discussion regarding workshop content and presenters continued to evolve. Sheingold revisits his thoughts on the Mass Save® Program, feedback from the Homebuilders Association of America, and the intent to have Committee Vice Chair, Chris Gloninger, to provide a short presentation on the focus to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the importance of this for our climate, and provide a practical view as it applies to home builders. Sheingold adds that he has a conversation with Bob Riley, of Habitat for Humanity, set up to discuss his experience with the Stretch Code and practical applications. There is also an interest

in covering the health aspect as part of this workshop, in which Sheingold has asked Committee member, Jane Ward, to take the lead in communicating the public health benefits.

Councilor Terkelsen reinforces that Barnstable is the only Town on the Cape that does not follow these rules (Stretch Code), in which she assumes there must be an impact to the Town as far as building codes and regulations. Barnstable is not a guinea pig here, if anything we are the late adopters. With the new regulations anticipated to be set by DOER in February, Sheingold would like to target March or early April for a Town Council Workshop; he tasks himself with laying the groundwork via conversations with Town Manager Mark Ells and Town Council President, Craig Tamash. Discussion also includes a review of scheduling and process, in which Councilor Terkelsen shares her thoughts on a presentation, discussion and a resolve to be brought to Town Council – she suggests adding this to Sheingold’s discussions with Town staff and Council President Tamash. After discussion schedule, Sheingold and Councilor Terkelsen agree that targeting the March 20 or April 3, 2025 Town Council meeting(s) would be ideal.

#### b) Food Waste

Barry Sheingold, Chair, opens the discussion by asking John Solomon for any updates. Solomon reviews next steps, which includes a visit to the Transfer Station as an opportunity to talk with users in the recycling area to get their thoughts about food waste, trying to understand if there are any impediments or reasons that people are not doing this, that we (the Committee) might be able to address through the development of a communications plan. Sheingold and Solomon discuss the preference for better, warmer weather, when it will be more conducive to engaging with Transfer Station users. Sheingold and Solomon also discussed process and intent for the visit, as well as summarized the dialogue with Transfer Station Supervisor, Tracy Regazio – the goal is promotion of the program, by way of explaining the composting process, handing out green bins/compostable bags, and engaging via strategic ‘survey’ questions. Solomon notes that a draft survey was in progress, but overall, the consensus was that engaging with users in person would be more beneficial.

#### *Communications and Education*

Councilor Terkelsen mentioned a recent funding appropriation, which generated questions from Town Council about the program and process (i.e. where it goes / a local turkey farm, how is it used, etc.) – Terkelsen noted this as an opportunity for broader education for both composting adopters and non-users alike. This segued into a communications discussion where Kelly Collopy revisited the desire for video communications and the opportunity to educate the community in regard to the composting program via Barnstable Government Access’s Town Talk programming. Collopy has pitched a food waste/composting segment to Station Manager Sarah Beal, with a recommendation to have Transfer Station Supervisor Tracy Regazio join Committee member John Solomon to speak about the program and its benefits. Scheduling TBD. Additionally, the need for enhanced signage at the Transfer Station is revisited. Solomon tasked himself with drafting potential survey questions and messaging points for signage and additional

communications tactics.

*Joint Base Composting Facility*

Solomon provided an update in regard to the proposed composting facility to be sited at the Joint Base Cape Cod. Per an email with Kari Parcell, the Waste Reduction Coordinator from Barnstable County Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Solomon learned that the County has gotten funding and retained a consultant to do a feasibility study which was expected to come out this month. Solomon feels this will provide good guidance for a countywide effort to promote food waste collection.

c) Climate Change and Climate Science

Chris Gloninger was not present; climate discussion was deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

d) Air Quality Monitoring

Jane Ward was not present; air quality discussion was deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

**New Business**

a) Additional updates from Committee Chair

No additional updates at this time.

b) Discuss Agenda for Next Meeting, January 27, 2025

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

- Green Communities – discussing the layout of a Town Council Workshop and the status of DOER recommendations to amend the Stretch Code
- Continuance of Food Waste discussion
- Continuance of Climate Change discussion
- Continuance of Air Quality discussion

**Assigned Tasks**

• Barry Sheingold, Chair

- Engage with Bob Riley re: Stretch Code
- Contact the Cape Light Compact re: interest and availability to present to Committee at the upcoming January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Follow-up with Town Manager Mark Ells and Town Council President Craig Tamash re: Stretch Code Workshop (will copy Councilor Terkelsen)

Workshop Planning and Content:

- Engage with DOER re: Stretch Code content and specialists
- Follow-up with Brian Florence, Director of Inspectional Services & Building Commissioner and David Anthony, Director of Asset Management
- Follow-up with Committee members Jane Ward and Chris Gloninger re: their expertise (health, climate)

- John Solomon
  - Draft proposed survey questions re: food waste and composting
  - Draft proposed messaging for composting signage (to also be used to guide social media and e-News content)
- Kelly Collopy
  - Connect with Sarah Beal, Barnstable Government Access Station Manager re: proposed food waste and composting Town Talk segment
  - Leverage drafted food waste messaging points to craft social media and e-News content for submission to Town Communications Team

**Motion to Adjourn**

With no quorum reached, the meeting is informally adjourned at 6:10 PM.

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

DRAFT Upcoming Agenda for January 27, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of December 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of January 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes
4. *Presentation from Cape Light Compact – Mass Save® Program (TENTATIVE)*
5. 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
6. New Business
  - a. Additional updates from Committee Chair
  - b. Discuss agenda for next meeting, February 10, 2025
  - c. Assigned Tasks
7. Motion to Adjourn

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