



# The Town of Barnstable

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 9, 2021**

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Citizen Forums will Discuss Proposed Sewer Assessment Ordinance**

#### **Background:**

The health of Barnstable's coastal waters that is so vital to the Town's quality of life and local economy is at risk. Five of Barnstable's seven coastal embayments are designated as "impaired waters" in violation of water quality standards under the federal Clean Water Act. Numerous freshwater ponds have experienced algal anoxic conditions and outbreaks of cyanobacteria. Septic systems are a primary source of the nitrogen pollution.

Like other Cape towns, Barnstable is required to reduce nitrogen pollution in estuaries to meet federal water quality standards. To meet this regulatory requirement, the Town has put forward a plan to expand sewer service to an estimated 11,800 properties over the next thirty years, and implement a number of other alternative approaches to wastewater treatment. Construction on the first phase of the plan is scheduled to begin this year.

The Town has identified existing revenues to cover more than half of the cost needed to implement the plan. A Sewer Assessment Ordinance is being proposed to finance a portion of the remaining cost.

Town officials seek public engagement and input so that residents are fully informed in advance about the Town's plans to cover the cost for the new system.

**What:** A proposal for a Sewer Assessment Ordinance to finance a portion of the cost to construct the sewer expansion will be presented for community discussion at a series of virtual public forums.

**Who:** Mark Ells, Barnstable Town Manager, will present the proposed sewer assessment ordinance; along with Daniel Santos, Director, Department of Public Works; and Mark Milne, Finance Director.

#### **When and How to Participate:**

Thursday, March 25 10:00 AM 2:00 PM 7:00 PM

To participate via computer use the following link for all three meetings:

<https://zoom.us/j/92047771927> Webinar ID 920 4777 1927 or join by phone **888-475-4499** using the **Webinar ID: 920 4777 1927**.

All meetings will also be live-streamed on Channel 18 and the Town of Barnstable Facebook page. All sessions will be recorded and posted to the Town of Barnstable website or [www.barnstablewaterresources.com](http://www.barnstablewaterresources.com) for later viewing.

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