



Town of Barnstable Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 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; Peter Doyle, Vice Chair; John Solomon; Rob Wilson

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members absent:

Jane Ward

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Kristin Terkelsen, Town Councilor; Gordon Starr, Town Councilor; Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager; William Beal, local citizen

Agenda:

- (1) Call to order
- (2) Approval of January 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes
- (3) Old Business
 - 3 a. Review of Infrastructure and Energy Committee Proposed Areas of Activity
- (4) New Business
 - 4 a. For Proposed Areas of Activity, discuss next steps, assignments, and action items

- 4 b. Establish 2024-2025 meeting schedule
- (5) Motion to Adjourn

Call to Order:

Barry Sheingold, Chair, called the February 12, 2024, meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:11 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

John Solomon, made a motion to approve the January 22, 2024, meeting minutes. Peter Doyle, Vice Chair seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

- a. Review of Infrastructure and Energy Committee Proposed Areas of Activity

Barry Sheingold, Chair, recaps where the Committee stands with Proposed Areas of Activity. The goal is to finalize a list of action items, or top priorities to bring forward to Town Council.

Town Councilor, Kristin Terkelsen, asks about the process for bringing these items to Town Council leadership. Welcomes the opportunity to initiate a conversation on behalf of the Committee with Town Council President and Vice President. Peter Doyle asks about the need for an education primer on some of the listed issues (i.e. Green Community). Councilor Terkelsen agrees that education is key to helping make informed decisions. Information can also be shared with Cynthia Lovell who can then distribute educational/background information to the Town Council.

Barry Sheingold positions this as a threshold initiative; recommends that we as a Committee gauge the appetite for pursuing some of these Proposed Areas of Activity, determine if Town Council wants the Committee to re-present and pursue. Suggests the Committee spend this time reviewing our Proposed Areas of Activity; first up:

Green Community – Each town on Cape Cod is a Green Community except for Barnstable. The Town Council deadlocked on a vote to apply to be a Green Community in 2021.

Peter Doyle provides recommendations on what may need to be re-presented to Town Council; there is a lot to cover from building code to energy efficiency. It's complex, "I can see why the building community has backed away from it".

John Solomon urges Committee to simplify – not get into the details of Stretch Code – but rather highlight the big items such as other towns' status, grant money available to Town for things like renewable energy, electric vehicles, energy efficiencies, etc. The Committee shouldn't be looking to make a recommendation, but simply ask Town Council if they would like the Committee to further pursue the Commonwealth's Green Communities program.

Councilor Terkelsen and Councilor Gordon Starr discuss past Town Council position on the Commonwealth's Green Communities program, what the previous political roadblocks were, etc. John Solomon also recaps push back from Building Commissioner; suggests that a detailed presentation needs to be compiled to help educate and advocate. Barry Sheingold recommends

that if this is brought forward again, the Committee must engage the Building Commissioner. Councilor Starr reminds the Committee that ultimately this is a Town Council decision, believes we could be successful with or without Building support.

To close out the Green Community conversation, John Solomon suggests some more detailed edits to the Infrastructure and Energy Committee Proposed Areas of Activity document, before presenting it to Town Council leadership (i.e. more explanation on the grant funds potentially available to the Town). Asks if this document is a work in progress or a final document, we are ready to adopt? A slight revision was requested of Section 1c. regarding 'grant money available', revision was adopted.

Food Waste – Follow up presentation was made to Town Council on April 6, 2023. The Committee would like to pursue dialog with DPW and Town Council regarding communications tactics to help increase food waste recycling at the Transfer Station. Suggestions include working with the schools on education/outreach.

Wind and Renewable Energy – Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting; if Town participates, should the Committee provide input? Advise Town Council and/or provide public information of factual nature regarding clean energy development and regulatory process. Councilor Starr adds that Town Manager Mark Ells has been trying to get in front of this new Commission, however these meetings have not been made public. Councilor Terkelsen suggests the Committee perhaps take the angle of providing feedback on areas where perhaps the Town may have a blind spot or could use additional feedback/information. Town Manager Ells can speak to most of this, but perhaps this Committee can bring some additional perspective.

Barry Sheingold shares his experience working in the energy regulatory field, how he's seen other towns participate and advise. Rob Wilson shares his opinion, unsure why the State is not talking to Barnstable more since the Town is involved in such a large wind project (i.e. Avangrid), feels the Town should be given an opportunity to share how things could be handled better, how things have worked to-date, etc. Barnstable certainly has insight to offer this Commission. Councilor Starr agrees, and adds that the State should step up during conversations of concerns (i.e. electromagnetic field, landing site locations, containment of fluids, etc.) – State should speak on these concerns/issues. Peter Doyle states that Barry is certainly an expert in this field, questions if the Town knows this, and that this knowledge is available through the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC). Councilor Terkelsen agrees, will bring this information to Town Manager Ells and suggest Barry/IEC be available to provide guidance on these siting, permitting, and procurement issues.

Improving Biking Across Community – Barnstable has plans to extend the Cape Cod bike trail, Rob Wilson feels this is a really good start but also suggests that there are other areas of the Town that could use some 'bicycle TLC'. Councilor Starr suggests this could be its own separate Committee (or sub-committee) that could address things like after sewer construction do we expand bike-friendly, pedestrian facilities.

To summarize the conversation, Barry asks the group if they are comfortable with providing this document as talking points to address Town Council leadership; the Committee agrees.

New Business Item 4b. (Establish 2024-2025 Meeting Schedule) is held, moved to next meeting's agenda for February 26, 2024.

John Solomon motions to adjourn the meeting. Peter Doyle, Vice Chair, seconds. The Committee votes unanimously in favor, the meeting is adjourned at 6:03PM

Next Meeting: February 26, 2024, at 5:00PM

Upcoming Agenda for February 26, 2024

1. Call to order
2. Approval of February 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - 3 a. Establish 2024-2025 meeting schedule
 - 3 i. Proposed date for discussion purposes: (generally, for the next few months, meetings will be scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month; *for exceptions)

March 11, 25
April 15, 29
May 7*, May 28*
June 10, June 25*
Revisit remaining dates at April 29 meeting
4. New Business
 - 4 a. Green Communities – Discuss next steps
 - 4 b. Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting – Potential role of IEC
 - 4 i. Public Comment Period Open Through March 1 (first deadline) and March 15 (final deadline)
 - 4 c. Discuss agenda for next meeting
5. Motion to Adjourn

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