

## Letters: Beware of 'shenan-agains

A funny thing is happening to the recent Barnstable Town Manager's recommendations for his nominees to the Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) committee on the way to the Barnstable Town Council for approval.

Following the Town Council mandate with consent of two councilors, Town Manager Ells winnowed 54 applicants down to 17 recommended members of this important committee. The Town sent letters to them to let them know they were being recommended, and that the Town Council would ratify the recommendations on April 28, 2022.

The Town posted the Town Manager's recommended members on its website. The very next day, that list was removed. Those who have closely watched the Council operate over the past few years will find this seemingly innocuous action as a sign that the behind-the-scenes shenanigans have just begun.

Last year, a highly qualified Centerville resident expressed interest in serving on the Planning Board and was interviewed. The Town Council's Appointments Committee voted to recommend him. Town Hall sent him a congratulatory letter letting him know that, and that the Town Council would vote soon, per Town Council rules. That never happened. The maneuvering to scuttle him happened mostly out of public sight.

By all accounts, and the Town Manager's judgment, the LCP candidates recommended by our Town Manager fit the skills and experience criteria. Many have applicable public or private sector experience and professional or other backgrounds heavy in the expertise our town sought. Why has the LCP slate run into a roadblock with Council leadership? Did the whole Council delegate LCP recommendation review to leadership? (Maybe, I missed that vote.)

Why did the Town remove the Town Manager's recommendations from its website? Why was there not an LCP update at the April 28, 2022 Town Council meeting, when the vote was to happen? Why isn't discussion about the delay, and what's causing it, happening in the light of day, by the whole Council?

The voting public best keep a keen eye on what is again happening out of sight at Town Hall. Because what happens at the LCP will affect the future of every one of our neighborhoods and villages.

**John Crow, Osterville**