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CAPE COD
COMMISSION

THE REPORTER

CAPE COD REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY, CCC COLLABORATION:

Design of Bicycle Route/Wayfinding Signs Standardized for Cape Cod

After an assessment of bicycle route signs across the Cape last year found great variation in their style, presentation, and placement, the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) launched a project to develop standardized sign design guidelines. The project received funding from a federal transit enhancement grant administered by the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA). The resulting guidelines, when implemented, will help bicyclists safely follow routes that navigate the many bike trail and road segments around the region.

The final report issued by the Commission in November 2012 explains that the assessment of current conditions “*revealed the incongruous nature of bicycle signage on Cape Cod.*” In other words, one sees signs of too many styles, sizes, and colors; wide variation in information and symbols; many differences in their placement; and not enough signs in some locations.

To begin the project, the Commission held stakeholder meetings last spring and summer with representatives from each of the 15 Cape towns and the Old King’s Highway Regional Historic District Commission, and individually with town managers. As work on the project concluded,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE, CCC COLLABORATION:

Integrated Bicycle Plan Receives Massachusetts APA Award

The *Cape Cod National Seashore Bicycle Feasibility Study: Integrated Bicycle Plan for Cape Cod*, developed through a partnership of the National Park Service/Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) and the Cape Cod Commission (CCC), received the 2012 Planning Project Award from the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). The award honors a specific project, bylaw, ordinance, or document of unusually high merit.

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the staff prepared the 50-plus-page report. It reviews several recommended types (confirmation, turn, decision, share-the-road, and regulatory signs) and styles of standardized signs and discusses their proposed placement and implementation.

CCRTA is in the process of reviewing bids for the fabrication and installation of approximately 250 of the recommended signs Capewide. More information can be obtained from Cape Cod Commission Special Projects Coordinator Tabitha

Harkin, and the design guidelines report can be downloaded from the “Initiatives” section of the Commission’s web site:

www.capecodcommission.org/initiatives/bikeped

AWARD, FROM PAGE 1

The Massachusetts Chapter honors planning professionals by recognizing outstanding comprehensive plans, planning programs and initiatives, public education efforts, and individuals for their leadership on efforts that help create communities and neighborhoods of lasting value throughout Massachusetts.

CCNS funded the plan that Massachusetts APA honored, and collaborated not only with the Cape Cod Commission, but also with the 15 Cape towns, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and MassBike, a nonprofit, bicycling advocacy group.

- a seasonal, weekend bicycle shuttle bus service, which launched on the Outer Cape last summer;
- safety and “rules of the road” brochures published by several towns;
- “Cape Cod Regional Bicycle Wayfinding Design Guidelines,” the unified signage standards described in the above article; and
- the “Provincetown, Truro, and Wellfleet Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.”



Many of these resources and the bike plan honored by Massachusetts APA are available from the Resource Center of the Commission’s web site:

www.capecodcommission.org/resourcecenter

Once on the page, use the “Topic” tab card and select “Bicycling and Bike Trails.”

The award-winning plan inspired a number of other bicycle initiatives, some of which are ongoing:

- local bicycle plans in six towns
- detailed planning for a Capewide network in all 15 towns;
- Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) installation of bicycle racks at shelters and destinations;
- a brochure distributed by CCRTA: “Getting To and Through Cape Cod: A Guide to Public Transportation and Bike Route Options on Cape Cod”;



Integrated Bicycle Plan award recipients pose at the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) 2012 award ceremony (from left to right): Town of Barnstable Steering Committee Chair Lindsey Counsell; Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB, a consulting firm) Senior Transportation Engineer Joe Magni; National Park Service/Cape Cod National Seashore Chief of Facilities and Maintenance Karst Hoogetboom; Cape Cod Commission Transportation Engineer PE Clay Schofield; VHB Project Manager Chris DeWitt; and Massachusetts APA Vice President for Chapter Affairs Jonathan Church.

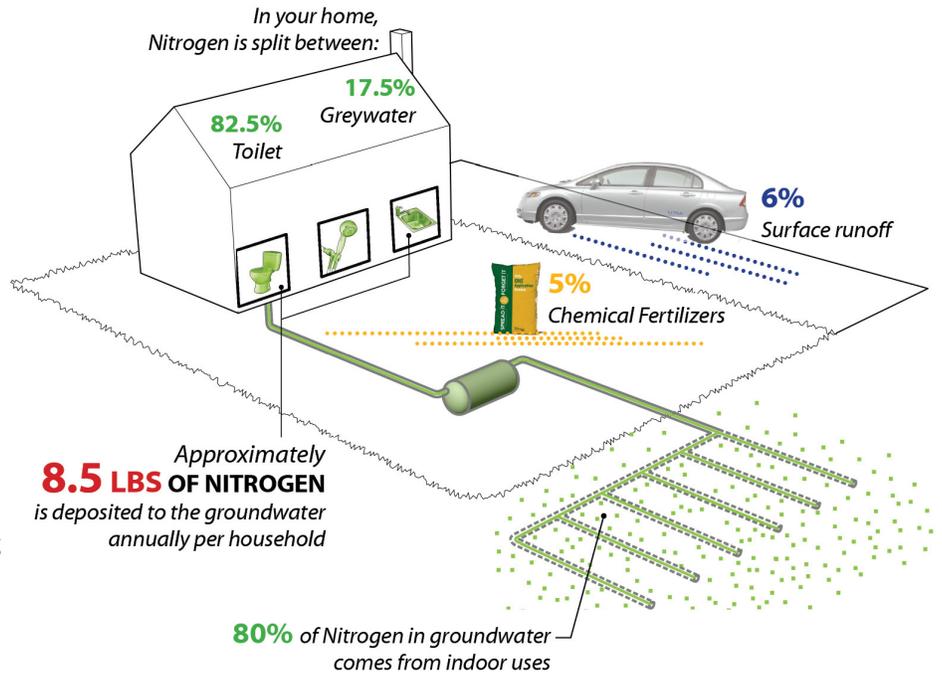
Wastewater Management Planning Takes Another Step Forward

For the last several years, Cape Cod Commission, Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative, and Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment staff, Barnstable County officials and associates, and technical consultants and experts have wrestled with the issue of effective and affordable wastewater management for Cape Cod. The simply stated problem—excess nitrogen from wastewater entering into groundwater primarily from residential septic systems—does not have a simply stated, or implemented, solution. But hope is getting higher.

With the online release of “a framework and a set of tools” on December 31, 2012, the Commission has reached a milestone in its efforts toward compilation of a Regional Wastewater Management Plan. (See www.capecodcommission.org/RWMP.)

The agency’s efforts during 2012 were extensive—public outreach sessions in every town; many meetings, presentations, and discussions with federal, state, regional, and local officials; compilation and analysis of vast quantities of data; and development of a digital tool to help communities analyze conditions and explore various treatment options for improvement to watershed-based water quality, and, yet, the wrestling match has really only just begun.

The new year started out well, however, with the announcement of a large grant from the state for the Commission to continue its work and move Cape communities closer to decision making and action on watershed-based wastewater

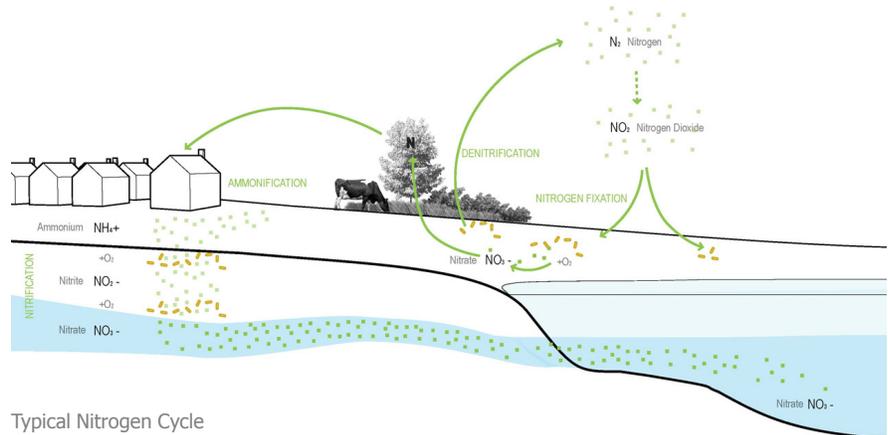


The remaining 9% of Nitrogen found in groundwater is attributed to natural surfaces and water bodies.

planning. The Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust approved a \$3.35-million grant under Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will administer the grant, once approved and a contract developed between the state and the Commission/Barnstable County.

According to Commission Executive Director Paul Niedzwiecki, work during 2013 will lead to a Regional Wastewater Management Plan that pursues watershed-by-watershed wastewater management solutions as a top priority. The work this year will involve not only further data analysis and interpretation, but also

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Typical Nitrogen Cycle

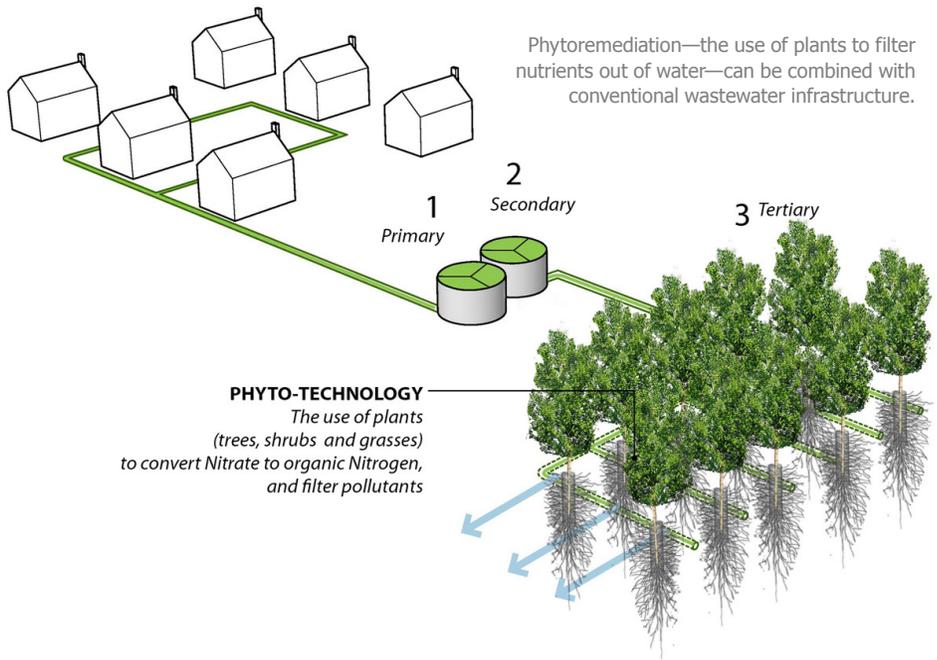
“amplified” engineering and community and stakeholder outreach efforts.

The *Regional Wastewater Management Plan Overview* document (www.capecodcommission.org/resources/RWMP/RWMP_overview.pdf) lays out the next steps in this way:

“...There are several steps that need to be taken to move forward with a targeted watershed approach to planning and management. First and foremost, the community needs to be engaged in developing plans that best suit their needs and the needs of the impacted embayments. The region must move past the restrictive nature of the current regulatory framework to develop solutions on a watershed basis rather than a municipal basis.

“In the coming months the Commission will implement a watershed based, public participation process to help citizens better understand the alternatives available to their communities. This process will be targeted at impacted embayments, free of municipal lines, and engage residents from each town with a connection to the water body....

“As part of this Cape-wide approach the Commission will utilize the tools and resources developed as part of the CCRWMP to identify alternatives for each watershed. It is the goal of the Commission to be able to provide communities with at least 3 initial solutions to consider as they begin planning—a **faster approach** (one that will remediate nitrogen in impacted embayments most quickly), **the better approach** (one that is most sustainable, remediating the most nitrogen over the longest period of time with little additional impact

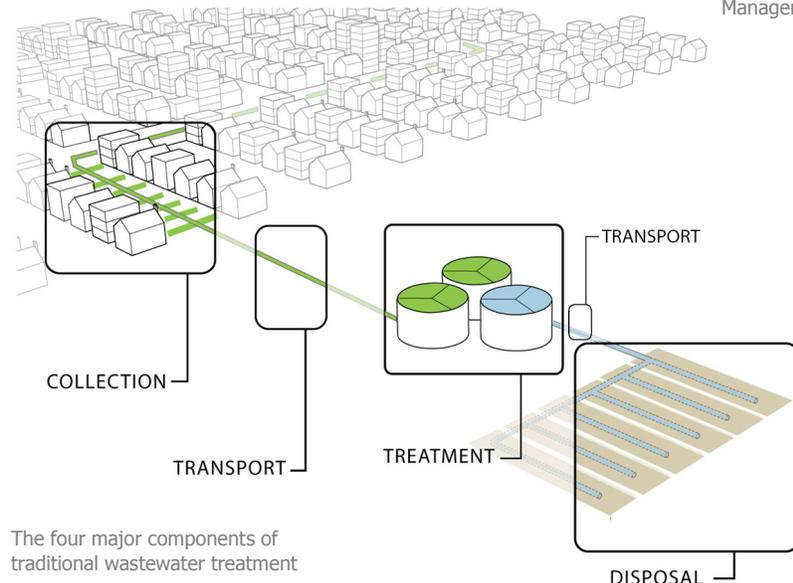


to the ratepayer), and **the cheaper approach** (one that remediates the necessary nitrogen at the least possible cost).

“It is vital that communities engage with regulators from the outset in developing a new and innovative management approach. A strong relationship with regulators and some targeted, demonstrated progress in watersheds where infrastructure

should be prioritized may allow for some flexibility in areas for scaled affordable approaches and piloting new technologies. Investigating new technologies, utilizing a range of tools and resources, and engaging communities in a larger public discussion will aid Cape Cod in identifying the most effective and efficient solutions for managing wastewater.”

The illustrations in this article were prepared by Tabitha Harkin/CCC and Kate Kennen/Offshoots, Inc. for the Regional Wastewater Management Plan.



Cape Cod Streets: Not Just Conduits for Moving Vehicles

Readers might want to add “Complete Streets” and “Living Streets” to their digital dictionaries because planners, designers, and transportation experts are going to be talking about the concept more and more. It’s the new vernacular for streets that focus on the mobility needs of all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and transit riders. Proponents of complete streets/living streets cite the benefits as “safer, sustainable, and more accessible streets.”

Staff of the Cape Cod Commission planning and transportation departments recently compiled a guidebook to explain and illustrate the concepts. The aim is to encourage consideration of certain design options when municipalities, planners, developers, and engineers are designing and constructing roadway improvement projects. The authors (Planner/Historic Preservation Specialist Sarah Korjeff, Senior Community Design Planner Phil Dascombe, Special Projects Coordinator/Landscape Design Specialist Tabitha Harkin, and Technical Services Planner Steven Tupper) introduce the concepts this way:

“Through this guidebook, we hope to help change attitudes about appropriate street design and encourage people to approach streets as public spaces, not just as conduits for moving vehicles.”

The guidebook discusses the character of Cape Cod and the concept of context-sensitive design, then describes the principles and benefits of complete streets/living streets. Next, the manual reviews special considerations for Cape Cod streets—more than 4,000 miles of paved roads, according to state data (2008 Massachusetts Roadway Inventory File). Those considerations include the region’s historic villages, commercial corridors, tourist destinations, scenic and coastal roadways, environmental sensitivity, seasonal fluctuations, and regional roadways. The manual suggests treatments for:

1. Traveled Ways—for example, put the road width on a “diet” and make it more narrow to slow traffic down, and use different surface treatments (materials and colors) to indicate bicycling and walking areas;
2. Intersections—for example, tighten the radius of an intersection corner and use roundabouts to manage traffic speed and flow;
3. Pedestrian Accommodations—for example, install walkways, crosswalks, universal access and ramps for wheelchairs and walkers, and pedestrian “refuge” islands;
4. Bicycle Accommodations—for example, create shared routes, bicycle lanes, and pavement markings;
5. Transit—for example, install bus stops, shelters, and pull-outs; and,
6. Land Use/Streetscape Elements—for example, add bike racks, benches and seating, public gathering spaces, and landscaping.

The document will be available by the end of January in the Commission’s online Resource Center: www.capecodcommission.org/resourcecenter Choose the “Topic” tab card, then “Community Design.”



ABOVE: A streetscape in Falmouth shows several Complete Streets/Living Streets concepts, including alternative sidewalk materials, stormwater control in landscaped areas, on-street parking, and street furniture.

Benefits of Complete Streets/Living Streets

- ✓ Mobility options for the nearly one third of Americans who don’t drive
- ✓ Reduced congestion through alternatives to short automobile trips
- ✓ Improved safety for all users by moderating vehicle speeds and facilitating alternate modes
- ✓ Connections for transit users from their homes to work, shopping, and schools
- ✓ Equity benefits by providing walking, biking, and transit options for all
- ✓ Benefits for people with disabilities through accessible curb cuts and high-visibility crosswalks
- ✓ Increased connectivity between neighborhoods for a stronger community
- ✓ Improved environment by encouraging non-motorized transportation and reducing emissions
- ✓ Increased economic viability of commercial areas
- ✓ Health benefits by increasing active options for healthy walking and bicycling activities
- ✓ Improved stormwater control and protection of nitrogen-sensitive water resource areas

CCC Regulatory Status Report

■ DRI Reviews of Proposed Projects:

BOURNE

- **Heritage Community Solar Garden**—proposed 1.9MW solar array on a 7.18-acre footprint and 10-foot access drive and a proposed but as yet undefined 2-acre second phase on a 25.19-acre undeveloped site.
- **New Generation Wind Joint Venture**—proposed construction of commercial wind energy-generation project with four turbines expected to generate 9.5MW of power, on multiple parcels west of the Cape Cod Canal. CCC voted to deny the project without prejudice on 2/16/12. The decision has been appealed in court.

FALMOUTH

- **Wireless Communication Monopole**—proposed construction of a wireless communication monopole within a 10,000-sq.ft. designated area at 284 Old Meetinghouse Road in East Falmouth.

HARWICH

- **Harwich Landfill Land Division (ANR) Plan**—proposed division of the Town of Harwich's capped landfill/recycle center into three parcels (one 142.31 acres, one 0.31 acres, and one 0.22 acres). The larger parcel will be retained by the town for the current use; the two smaller parcels will likely be sold or leased (as authorized by Harwich Town Meeting vote in May 2011) or used in conjunction with abutting commercial and industrial properties.

SANDWICH

- **Greenwood Meadows**—proposed large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic field that will occupy 16.56 acres in the Forestdale area.
- **Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project, Western Segment Phases I & II**—proposed installation of about 23,000 feet (4.4 miles) of 20-inch diameter gas pipeline. The project is part of the larger Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project (SLRP), which in total involves the construction of 13.1 miles of new high-pressure natural gas distribution pipeline on Cape Cod in three segments: the western, middle, and eastern segments. Phase I extends from the Spectra Energy Station west of Route 130, across Route 130, and along Service Road to Quaker Meetinghouse Road. Phase II continues along Service Road to Chase Road. The Commission's "Adjudicatory Hearing Procedure for Energy-related DRIs" applies to this project.

WELLFLEET

- **Chequessett Yacht and Country Club**—proposed division of a 1.148-acre lot from a larger parcel of 106 acres located at 680 Chequessett Neck Road. CCC approved the Limited DRI/DRI with conditions on 11/19/12.

YARMOUTH

- **Mayflower Place Expansion and Memory Care Facility**—proposed construction of independent living and memory care facilities on a redeveloped site (former Mill Hill Club on Route 28 and several adjacent house lots) and the Mayflower Place Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) campus is near Buck Island Road, Route 28, and Mill Pond Road in West Yarmouth. The CCRC currently contains independent living units and a skilled nursing home. The expansion proposal is to (1) construct a new, connected building wing in the northwest portion of the campus to house 50 independent living units plus one caretaker's apartment, and (2) construct a memory-care building in the expanded southeast portion of the campus (former Mill Hill Club site) to house 75 memory-care units, both with associated landscaping, parking, wastewater, drainage, and site upgrades.

■ Potential Development Agreements:

- **Barnstable Municipal Airport Master Plan**—proposed master plan for the regional airport. CCC approved a Notice of Intent to File a Development Agreement on 11/29/12. See also "DRI Reviews Pending Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Certificates" (right).
- **South Sandwich Village**—proposed mixed-use development/village center on approximately 50 acres of land off Route 130 and Cotuit Road. The project involves redevelopment of three existing shopping plazas and new development (approximately 886,600 sq.ft. of mixed-use space) on 23 acres of the project site. The project also proposes an off-site wastewater treatment facility about one mile north of the development area off Jan Sebastian Drive. CCC approved the Notice of Intent to File a Development Agreement on 7/19/12. The Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued a MEPA certificate on the project's Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) on 11/14/12.

■ DRI Reviews Pending Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Certificates:

- **Barnstable Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan**—proposed Town of Barnstable Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP)/Environmental Notification Form (ENF). The CWMP will assess the wastewater needs, evaluate mitigation measures, and develop a recommended plan. The Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued a MEPA certificate on the ENF on 7/20/12 requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
- **Barnstable Municipal Airport Master Plan**—proposed Master Plan improvements. See also "Potential Development Agreements" (left).
- **Martha's Vineyard Hybrid Cable Project (Falmouth)**—proposed Comcast, North Central Division, and NSTAR submarine installation of a 4.5-mile hybrid fiber-optic/electric cable between Falmouth on Cape Cod and Tisbury on Martha's Vineyard, within the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan. The project proposes horizontal directional drilling as the preferred method of installation at the Falmouth landing site. The submarine cable is proposed to be installed via cable-trenching remotely operated vehicle or hydroplow. DRI scoping review is pending.
- **Falmouth South Coast Watersheds Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan: Draft Environmental Impact Report**—proposed draft Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) for Falmouth's south coast watersheds and recommendations for the West Falmouth watershed. The draft identifies a preferred scenario for wastewater management, including sewerage select areas, treatment at the existing wastewater treatment facility, and recharge of additional treated water at two sites north of the existing wastewater treatment facility using sand infiltration beds. The draft also identifies several demonstration projects for non-traditional wastewater and nitrogen management methods, deferral of planned sewer construction in select areas, formation of a committee to monitor and oversee the CWMP and its implementation,

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Listed above are Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) and other major proposals whose applications either have been recently decided or are currently under review by the Cape Cod Commission. Details about these activities may be found online in the Regulatory Department of the web site: www.capecodcommission.org/departments/regulatory



and a modular approach to the construction of treatment and recharge facilities. The plan is for a 20-year planning period (2015–2035).

■ **Herring River Tidal Restoration Project (Wellfleet and Truro)**—proposed re-establishment of tidal flow to the 1,100-acre Herring River estuary and floodplain in and adjacent to the Cape Cod National Seashore. The Herring River Restoration Committee and the National Park Service (NPS) are preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR) for the proposed project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), and the Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan. Proposed restoration actions include reconfiguration of the Chequessett Neck Road dike and tide gates, replacement of additional upstream culverts, additional upstream tidal-control structures, and mitigation to low-lying roadways, structures, and private properties. A hearing on the DEIS/DEIR was held on 11/8/12 and closed on 12/12/12. The project now must undergo MEPA review of a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR).

■ **Provincetown Airport Capital Improvements Plan**—proposed safety and facility improvements to the Provincetown Municipal Airport. Withdrawn from DRI review by the applicant on 6/7/12 with intent to resubmit at a later date.



New CCC Falmouth Rep

In December 2012, the Cape Cod Commission welcomed Andrew Putnam as the new representative from the Town of Falmouth.

The Falmouth Board of Selectmen appointed Putnam to fill the post last held by Mario DiGregorio, who resigned in late 2011.

Putnam’s appointment will run through April 2015.

2013 CCC MEETING SCHEDULE

Subject to change. Check for updates online: www.capecodcommission.org/calendar

Thursday, January 3 CANCELLED
 Thursday, January 17 CANCELLED
 Thursday, January 31

Thursday, February 14
 Thursday, February 28



Thursday, March 14
 Thursday, March 28

Thursday, August 8
 Thursday, August 22

Thursday, April 11
 Thursday, April 25

Thursday, September 5
 Thursday, September 19

Thursday, May 9
 Thursday, May 23

Thursday, October 3
 Thursday, October 17
 Thursday, October 31

Thursday, June 6
 Thursday, June 20

Thursday, November 14

Thursday, July 11
 Thursday, July 25

Thursday, December 5
 Thursday, December 19

New in the Resource Center

Check out these recent additions to the web site
www.capecodcommission.org/resourcecenter:



- » Regional Wastewater Management Plan (RWMP) - All components
[Resource Center](#) → [Topic](#) → [Regional Wastewater Management Plan](#)
- » Hyannis Access Study Implementation - Eight concept plans (December 2012)
[Resource Center](#) → [Type](#) → [Concept Plans](#)
- » Wellfleet Route 6 Safety Study (December 2012 report)
[Resource Center](#) → [Town](#) → [Wellfleet](#)
- » Cape Cod Regional Bicycle Wayfinding Design Guidelines (November 2012)
[Resource Center](#) → [Topic](#) → [Bicycling and Bike Trails](#)
- » Brewster Transfer Station Traffic Flow Alternatives (September 2012 report)
[Resource Center](#) → [Town](#) → [Brewster](#)

Cape Cod Commission Meetings and Events

Cape Cod Commission (CCC) meetings and hearings are open to the public. Call 508-362-3828 or check the web site for last-minute changes:

www.capecodcommission.org/calendar

Regulatory Calendar

■ **January 23:** ADJUDICATORY HEARING: Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project, Western Segment Phases I & II (Sandwich DRI), 4 p.m., CCC.

■ **January 24:** HEARING OFFICER: Heritage Community Solar Garden (Bourne DRI), 10 a.m., CCC. Procedural only; no presentations will be made, no testimony will be taken, and no substantive action will be taken at this time.

■ **January 31:** CCC MEETING: 3 p.m., Assembly of Delegates Chamber, First District Courthouse, Barnstable. Agenda tentative; please call to confirm:
- CONTINUED HEARING: Greenwood Meadows (Sandwich DRI)
- HEARING: Harwich Landfill Land Division ANR Plan (Harwich DRI Exemption)

■ **January 31:** CONTINUED HEARING and SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING: Mayflower Place Expansion and Memory Care Facility (Yarmouth DRI), hearing begins at 5 p.m. in the Assembly of Delegates Chamber, First District Courthouse, Barnstable. The subcommittee meeting will be held immediately following the public hearing, in the same location.

■ **February 14:** CCC MEETING: 3 p.m., Assembly of Delegates Chamber, First District Courthouse, Barnstable. Agenda tentative; please call to confirm.

Other Events

■ **Hyannis Access Study Implementation Task Force Meeting:** Wednesday, January 23, 2013, beginning at 1 p.m. at CCC.

■ **Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting:** Monday, January 28, 2013, beginning at 1 p.m. at CCC.

■ **TENTATIVE: Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee (CCJTC) Meeting:** Friday, February 8, 2013, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at CCC.



Standing Committees

Planning, Regulatory, and Executive committee meetings are generally held at the CCC office (3225 Main Street/Route 6A, Barnstable) on the Mondays of the weeks in which full CCC Meetings occur (see Regulatory Calendar, at left). Times vary. Please check the online calendar for cancellations and last-minute changes.

Cape Cod Commission

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