



# FY2013 Annual Report of the Cape Cod Commission to the Town of Dennis

The Cape Cod Commission is the regional land use planning, economic development, and regulatory agency created in 1990 to serve the citizens and 15 towns of Barnstable County, Massachusetts. The Commission's mission is "to keep this special place special," and the agency strives to achieve technical excellence, environmental protection balanced with economic progress, and regional consensus. The Commission pursued the following **regional priorities** for Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013):

**1. Wastewater Management** – Related to this priority, this year the Commission prepared an initial Regional Wastewater Management Plan to serve as a framework and a set of tools to help begin identifying several water quality solutions for each watershed across the Cape. The Commission also prepared a guidance document for the agency's regulatory review of local Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans (CWMPs), conducted a Cape-wide buildout analysis to support local and regional planning, developed the Watershed MVP application for technical experts and municipalities to explore various potential management scenarios, developed a "green infrastructure" siting tool as a companion to the Watershed MVP, and pursued pilot projects to better understand green approaches to treating wastewater and stormwater. In January 2013, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts directed the Cape Cod Commission to prepare an update to the 1978 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan for Cape Cod, a requirement under Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. The Commission subsequently developed a Program Work Plan for the 208 Update and has embarked on that work plan. The work plan has an ambitious set of tasks to complete within three years, the bulk of which is to be completed in FY2014. The Commission and its consultants are tackling the technical analyses, planning, financial, and public participation requirements for the 208 Update simultaneously. Stakeholders are engaged in the program's policy, affordability, financing, planning, and implementation issues, and in watershed- or basin-specific issues, needs



assessments, evaluation of alternatives, and evaluation of costs. The overall goal is to identify the most cost-effective, appropriately scaled and phased solutions on a watershed-by-watershed basis, focusing on the most severely impaired waters and the most easily and affordably implemented solutions while maximizing the use of existing infrastructure.

**2. Strategic Information Office** – Related to this priority, this year the Commission helped establish a governance committee. The Smarter Government Steering Committee then executed a data-sharing agreement with Cape towns to collaborate on opportunities for digital regionalization and recommend potential regional solutions for services and products that increase governmental efficiency and decrease costs to taxpayers. One example activity is the development of an “ePermitting, Licensing, and Inspection System” that is under development now. When fully implemented, the online system will allow Cape Cod municipalities to issue and monitor permits, licenses, and inspections, with a web-based portal for citizens and contractors. The system uses a common technology infrastructure and software that can be adopted regionally but tailored to each town.

**3. Community Design Services** – Related to this priority, this year the Commission managed a number of complex planning projects for which the staff provided community design services to Cape municipalities. Design services can focus on land use, streetscape, roadway, development patterns, transportation alternatives such as bicycle and pedestrian amenities, stormwater management, sustainable landscape design, and more. Design services are frequently integrated through Regional Economic Strategy Executive Team (RESET) assistance projects, which offer a multi-faceted, multi-disciplined approach to community and economic development planning.

**4. Economic Development** – Related to this priority, the Commission continued to pursue the implementation of priority projects that were identified in the Five-year (2009-2014) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This year the focus was on wastewater management planning in economic centers; continuation of the SmarterCape Initiative to promote the use of technology infrastructure that helps the region’s economy evolve from service-based to knowledge-based; and initial work on a comprehensive Cape Cod Canal area transportation study, which includes considering major congestion, safety, and community/economic issues associated with the bridges and the rotaries.



**5. Regional Consensus** – Related to this priority, the Commission coordinated a number of ongoing planning and policy-making endeavors striving to achieve consensus across the region. In addition to the activities mentioned above, the Commission embarked on a consensus-building update to the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the Massachusetts Military Reservation and surrounding communities. The US Department of Defense-funded planning process between the military installation and the communities of Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee, and Sandwich aims to ensure that future community growth and development is consistent with the military training and operational missions and to help reduce the impacts of military operations on the adjacent land. The Commission also continued to help Cape communities prepare Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans for FEMA certification and potential future funding.

In addition to the Cape-wide regional services and programs that the Cape Cod Commission pursues each year (the highlights mentioned above), each of the 15 municipalities in Barnstable County receives direct assistance from the Commission that is tailored to that community's specific needs. **Some highlights of Cape Cod Commission activities specific to the Town of Dennis during Fiscal Year 2013 follow.**

## PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

### PLANNING

- The Commission's planning and technical staff provided technical support for the town's Development of Regional Impact (DRI) threshold relief ("Chapter H") application for the Dennisport Village Center/Economic Center. The town submitted the application on 6/26/12, proposing to revise commercial, residential, mixed use, and economic center requirements. Pending the town's compilation of additional information, the Commission will process the application in FY2014.



#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- The Barnstable County HOME Consortium, coordinated by the Commission's affordable housing staff specialist, made one down payment/closing cost loan totaling \$8,853 to a low-income first-time homebuyer.
- The HOME Consortium made a conditional commitment of \$175,000 in HOME funds to the Housing Assistance Corporation to assist in the new construction on town-leased land of its 27-unit, 100% affordable, family rental project known as Route 134 Community Housing.
- The Commission filled one accessory apartment unit through the Regional Ready Renters program. (Online: [www.capecodcommission.org/departments/planning/housing/renters](http://www.capecodcommission.org/departments/planning/housing/renters))

#### TRANSPORTATION

- The Commission's transportation staff conducted annual summer traffic counts in Dennis, including automatic traffic recorders (ATRs) and turning movement counts (TMCs). Traffic data are available online: [www.capecodcommission.org/departments/technicalservices/transportation/counts](http://www.capecodcommission.org/departments/technicalservices/transportation/counts)

Roadway segments and intersections in Dennis included Route 134 south of Route 6A, north of Airline Road, south of Exit 9, south of Setucket Road, and north and south of Upper County Road; Route 28 west of Sea Street and east of Telegraph Road; Route 6 at the Dennis/Harwich town line and at the Yarmouth/Dennis town line; Route 6A at the Dennis/Brewster town line, east of Old Bass River Road, and at the Yarmouth/Dennis town line; Airline Road east of Route 134 and at south end at the Dennis/Brewster town line; Highbank Road west of Main Street; Market Place west of Main Street and west of Route 134; Old Bass River Road south of Route 6A, north of Highbank/Upper Road, and north of Main Street; Old Chatham Road east of Route 134; Scargo Hill Road south of Route 6A; Setucket Road at the



Yarmouth/Dennis town line; South Gages Way north of the Cape Cod Rail Trail; and Trotting Park Road south of Route 28.

## WATER RESOURCES

- The Commission's water staff continued to support the work of the Dennis Water and Sewer District on wastewater management planning issues, especially for the Herring River, Swan Pond, and Bass River watersheds and to support the economic redevelopment needs of Dennisport.
- The Commission's water staff conducted the annual Pond and Lake Stewardship (PALS) freshwater ponds water-quality sampling snapshot for Bakers, Cedar, Coles, Eagle, Flax, Fresh, N. Simmons, Scargo, Run, and White's ponds.

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

- The Commission's GIS staff supported all of the above as necessary, including map analyses related to the town's DRI threshold relief/Chapter H application for the Dennisport area.

## REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

### DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT (DRI) MINOR MODIFICATIONS – TYPE #1

- The Commission's executive director approved requested minor modifications to a previously approved decision for the Crowell Golf Driving Range/Longest Drive (TR90037) on 12/13/12.

### DRI REVIEWS ONGOING AT FISCAL YEAR END

- Lowe's of Dennis – On 2/5/13, the Cape Cod Commission received an application for the proposed construction of an approximately 100,000-sq.ft. retail Lowe's Home Improvement Store with an adjacent 28,000-sq.ft. garden center near the intersection of



CAPE COD  
COMMISSION

Theophilus F. Smith Road and Route 134 in South Dennis. The applicant withdrew the proposal on 5/6/13, but then resubmitted it with additional transportation information on 5/13/13. The Commission's executive director approved requested minor modifications to a previously approved decision for the Crowell Golf Driving Range/Longest Drive (TR90037) on 12/13/12.

#### OTHER REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

- The Commission provided technical comments to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office on an Environmental Notification Form for the proposed Ramp/Float/Dredging project at 98 Merchant Avenue. Comment letter sent 2/6/13.

For more information about the Cape Cod Commission, visit the web site: [www.capecodcommission.org](http://www.capecodcommission.org)