



FY2013 Annual Report of the Cape Cod Commission to the Town of Eastham

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 Eastham during Fiscal Year 2013 follow.**

PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

PLANNING

- The Commission's planning staff supported the town's work toward recertification of its Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP).
- The planning staff continues to provide technical assistance to the town on zoning issues, particularly for the North Eastham area.



PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

- The Commission's planning and transportation staff continue to support the work of Outer Cape towns and the Cape Cod National Seashore to improve bicycle and pedestrian amenities in the area. Pending funding, the National Seashore is working to correct hazards and to redesign and overhaul the Nauset Bike Trail from the Salt Pond Visitor Center to Coast Guard Beach. In addition, the National Seashore plans to install a self-activated warning beacon, signage, and a crosswalk at the intersection of Nauset Trail and Ocean View/Cable roads and at the Route 6/Governor Prence Road intersection.

TRANSPORTATION

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

Roadway segments and intersections in Eastham included Route 6 at the Eastham/Wellfleet town line, south of Hemenway Road, north of Kingsbury Beach Road, north of the Orleans/Eastham Rotary, and south of Samoset Road; the north and south ends of Nauset Road east of Route 6; Old Orchard Road south of Glacier Hills Road; Samoset Road west of Route 6; and West Road at the Eastham/Wellfleet town line.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- The Eastham Affordable Housing Trust filled one new accessory apartment unit via a lottery through the Commission's Regional Ready Renters program. (Online: www.capecodcommission.org/departments/planning/housing/renters)



WATER RESOURCES

- The Commission's water staff supported the town in its analysis of options for drinking water and in its work to protect and restore the water quality of freshwater ponds.
- The Commission's water staff conducted the annual Pond and Lake Stewardship (PALS) freshwater ponds water-quality sampling snapshot for Bridge, Depot, Great, Herring, Jemima, Little Depot, Minister, Molls, Muddy, Schoolhouse, and Widow Harding ponds.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

- The Commission's GIS staff supported all of the above as necessary, and provided draft maps of wildfire hazard areas and regional vulnerability assessment to municipal staff for review and update of the local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

OTHER REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

- The Commission provided technical comments to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office on an Environmental Notification Form for the proposed Beach Association Stairway project. Comment letter sent 3/5/13.

For more information about the Cape Cod Commission, visit the web site:
www.capecodcommission.org