



21st Century Task Force:

Progress Updates

The January issue of the REPORTER included 29 recommendations presented by the 21st Century Task Force on the Cape Cod Commission in its final report to the Barnstable County Commissioners. This and subsequent issues of the newsletter will present additional recommendations received both from the task force and since the December 2006 release of its report. Progress updates on the Commission's work to implement changes based on the recommendations and the guidance of the Barnstable County Commissioners and Assembly of Delegates will also be covered.

The Cape Cod Commission has also established a Web site for those interested in this work: www.capecodcommission.org/taskforce/

Suggestions are welcome any time. Readers can use a link on the site to offer them electronically to the Commission and may also send them in writing to:

Cape Cod Commission
ATTN: Task Force Comment
P.O. Box 226
Barnstable, MA 02630

CCC Reports to Barnstable County Commissioners

Cape Cod Commission Chair Brad Crowell and Executive Director Margo Fenn met with the Barnstable County Commissioners on January 24, 2007, to share their thoughts on how the Commission can proceed with an implementation plan for the task force recommendations to improve the agency's operations. They will meet with the County Commissioners again in late February to gain further guidance and learn their priorities. Crowell and Fenn also plan to brief the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates, boards of many Cape towns, and civic groups, including the Cape's Selectmen and Councillors Association and area chambers of commerce.

During the meeting with the County Commissioners, Fenn explained the Commission's intention to focus on the recommendations that have the potential to "make the most difference" first, but also to develop a plan that pursues all the recommendations to the extent possible. Primary among those activities is to pursue better communication and coordination with towns. Already the Commission is meeting on a regular basis with the Barnstable Growth Management Department and development-related committees in several other towns. In the upcoming months, the Commission will also work closely with town selectmen, planning board members, and others to develop a regionally coordinated land use map for Cape Cod, another recommendation of the task force. The Commission has begun to revise its Web site, has developed a method for better meeting notes and project scheduling for Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs), and is exploring growth incentive zones and development agreements in Bourne, Sandwich, and Yarmouth—all task force recommendations.

Additional Recommendations

Six of the 18 task force members submitted additional recommendations to the County Commissioners that were added to the end of the report. Several of those recommendations are summarized here:

- for a public workshop by Barnstable County "to allow for the full discussion and review of all of the recommendations"
- for review of "the priorities of the mission of the Cape Cod Commission" and the Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan
- for the Commission "to recognize and incorporate towns' plans into the Regional Policy Plan, thereby allowing Local Comprehensive Plans to be truly 'local'"
- for the District of Critical Planning Concern (DCPC) process to be "town driven"
- for "the role of the Cape Cod Commission and the Regional Policy Plan in economic development to be thoroughly and comprehensively reviewed and revisited," and

...to page 4

Task force, from page 3...

- for “an outside independent ombudsman” to analyze DRI permits and DCPC designations.

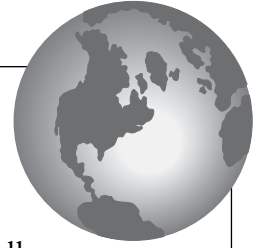
The group also opposed “a reduction in base thresholds for DRIs,” but supported adoption of a ‘sliding scale’ method for mitigation, weighted Commission voting by town population, weighted determination of minimum performance standards for particular projects, and a review of the regulatory program and the operation of the Commission by an independent organization.

As mentioned earlier, Fenn, Crowell, and other Commission members will meet with town boards and other organizations to discuss the task force recommendations and to learn more about local concerns. They have already had initial meetings with Eastham, Falmouth, and Yarmouth, and will do so with other towns in the next few months.

Many suggestions coming out of those meetings support the task force recommendations. Additional ones include:

- to examine DRI thresholds for individual towns, zoning districts, or lot sizes;
- to streamline review of redevelopment projects, especially motel conversions;
- to provide technical assistance with visualization software for planning purposes;
- to simplify the process to establish “growth incentive zones”; and
- to involve towns more directly in the development of the Regional Policy Plan, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and transportation plans.

Coastal notes, from page 2...



Climate Change Conference

January was a busy month for Tucker, who joined 20 experts from federal agencies and non-governmental organizations at a two-day workshop in Maryland at the end of the month. The panel is to develop a policy framework related to marine protected areas and climate change.

Coordinated by the United States Global Change Research Program (www.usgcrp.gov), the overall document will establish federal priorities for dealing with climate change effects on federally owned and managed sites. The document is intended to serve as a resource

for state and local marine managers as well.

Tucker, as an invited guest of the panel, recommended that the manageable effects of climate change be clearly distinguished from those likely to be beyond human influence. He also urged the execution of climate risk and vulnerability assessments at individual sites and for the broader marine sanctuary system.

The federal program offers free publications about climate change, on the Web site: www.gcrio.org/orders/

USGS Observation Well Data

These groundwater-level measurements are taken monthly by the Cape Cod Commission’s Water Resources Office from nine U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) index wells. The data are also online at: www.capecodcommission.org/wells.htm

January 2007

Location	Well Number	Level*	Record High*	Record Low*	Departure from Average**	
					Monthly	Overall
Barnstable	A1W 230	23.0	20.5	26.6	not available this month	
Barnstable	A1W 247	23.0	20.5	28.6		
Brewster	BMW 21	8.7	6.9	13.6		
Chatham	CGW 138	23.9	20.9	26.6		
Mashpee	MIW 29	8.3	5.6	10.0		
Sandwich	SDW 252	47.3	45.8	48.2		
Sandwich	SDW 253	48.1	45.8	55.1		
Truro	TSW 89	12.1	10.2	13.0		
Wellfleet	WNW 17	11.1	7.3	12.8		

*Feet below land surface. **Feet above mean sea level. †New monthly high. ‡New record high. **BOLD** = New monthly high