



2018 Year in Review

CAPE COD COMMISSION



CAPE COD
COMMISSION



From the desk of the Executive Director



I would like to thank everyone who made 2018 a remarkable year for the Cape Cod Commission. The support and dedication of community leaders, Commission staff and the residents of Cape Cod are vital to the success of the agency and its mission of “keeping a special place special.”

Over the past 12 months, I had the opportunity to visit with all select boards across Cape Cod, the town council in Barnstable and many of the region’s other elected and appointed officials to share the Commission’s vision and goals. It was also an opportunity to listen and better understand what towns need and expect from the Commission. These conversations will continue, ensuring that we are collaborating with towns in the best manner possible.

In the broadest terms, the Commission is an organization created to balance environmental

protection and economic progress. We went back to the language of the Cape Cod Commission Act to draft a new Regional Policy Plan that maintains these and other foundational elements, yet provides greater flexibility in how they are met.

It’s a plan that supports a vision for environmental and economic sustainability and resiliency. These principles are ingrained in the Commission’s work. We are actively working on projects that address our economic and environmental challenges including housing, water quality, transportation, infrastructure and coastal resiliency.

We look forward to working with the towns and people of Cape Cod in the year ahead, building on the conversations started in 2018 to realize our shared goals for a healthy, vibrant Cape Cod.

*Kristy Senatori,
Executive Director*

2018 Commission Staff

“Truly dedicated professionals, all committed to keeping a special place special” - Kristy Senatori

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Madden Bremer</i> | Heather McElroy |
| Tom Cambareri | Anne McGuire |
| <i>Glenn Cannon</i> | Taree McIntyre |
| Mario Carloni | <i>Colleen Medeiros</i> |
| Jennifer Clinton | Scott Michaud |
| <i>Kristen Clothier</i> | <i>Paul Niedzwiecki</i> |
| <i>Heather Cormier</i> | David Nolan |
| Gail Coyne | <i>Tim Pasakarnis</i> |
| Patty Daley | Erin Perry |
| Jay Detjens | Gary Prahm |
| Lisa Dillon | Anne Reynolds |
| Danielle Donahue | <i>Jeffrey Ribeiro</i> |
| Shawn Goulet | Leslie Richardson |
| Gail Hanley | Sharon Rooney |
| Heather Harper | Chloe Schaefer |
| Martha Hevenor | Kristy Senatori |
| <i>Stephanie Houghton</i> | David Still |
| Jonathon Idman | Dave Sullivan |
| Sarah Korjeff | Steven Tupper |
| Lev Malakhoff | Michele White |
| Maria McCauley | Jessica Wielgus |

2018 new hire 2018 departure

Leaders speak with one voice at OneCape

Over both days of the 2018 OneCape Summit a clear and consistent message was heard from state, federal, and local leaders: Cape communities live up to the conference's name, speaking as one Cape on key issues. The annual summit, hosted by the Cape Cod Commission, reinforced that theme, inviting towns and community-based organizations to develop many of the sessions presented.

The first day of the summit focused broadly on the environment with state leaders applauding the collaborative efforts of towns to address regional issues. Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito expressed continued support and encouragement for the development of strategies for

ongoing resilience planning initiatives. Governor Charlie Baker discussed the recent environmental bond bill and emphasized that planning efforts should be locally-driven with support from regional and state agencies.

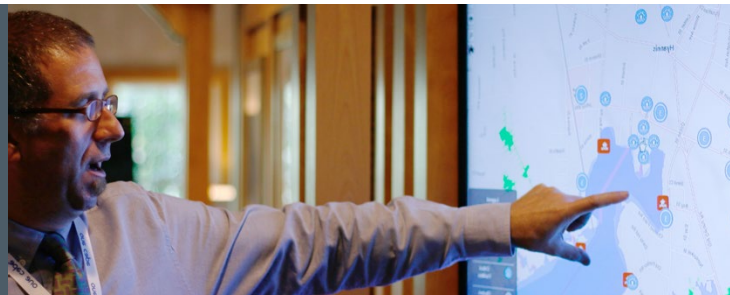
The second day of the summit focused broadly on economic development through the lens of resiliency. Kennedy Smith, a nationally recognized urban planner, provided examples from across the nation of how smaller downtowns are addressing retail's changing landscape. With humor and insight drawn from more than 30 years, she provided examples of successful strategies to rebuild vibrant downtowns while retaining historic contexts.

OneCape featured presentations on water quality, coastal resiliency, infrastructure planning, community design, and economic development across the region. The event brought together over 300 attendees representing federal, state, and local officials, municipal staff, board members, community activists, and members of the business community.

Paul Niedzwiecki, former executive director of the Cape Cod Commission and current executive director of the Southfield Redevelopment Authority, was honored as the 2018 OneCape Award recipient for his outstanding leadership of the Cape Cod Commission from 2007-2018.



Interactive planning tool demonstrations, led by Commission staff, were held in the Sandbox over the course of the Summit. To learn more about these tools, visit: cccom.link/tools



More than 70 professionals and elected officials addressed key issues in nearly 20 sessions over two days.



Growth Incentive Zone regulations revised

The Cape Cod Commission amended its Growth Incentive Zone (GIZ) regulations to allow for greater flexibility and to broaden the purposes and approaches that a town may pursue under a GIZ designation.

The approved amendments are responsive to town com-

ments that GIZ regulations should better reflect and support long-term planning and community investment needed in areas prioritized and appropriate for development growth.

Changes to the regulations include removing specific timeframes for GIZ designations, elimination of required open space and other development offsets, and greater focus on community and economic activity inside a designated Growth Incentive Zone.

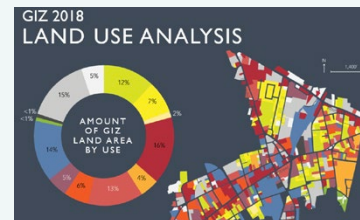


REGULATORY REVIEW

Cape Cod Five headquarters in Hyannis

In 2018, The Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank began construction of its new headquarters on Route 132 in Hyannis. The Commission approved this project as a development of regional impact in 2017. The \$45 million redevelopment project also includes the first on-site structured parking garage reviewed by the Commission. The project will connect to and extend municipal sewer along Attucks Lane, and extend an existing multi-use trail across Route 132 and along Attucks Lane.

Hyannis Growth Incentive Zone re-authorized



The Downtown Hyannis GIZ was the first Growth Incentive Zone designation approved by the Commission back in 2006.

Following changes to its Growth Incentive Zone regulations, the Commission reviewed and approved re-designation of the Downtown Hyannis GIZ.

The town took a strategic planning approach that includes specific infrastructure and other proposed actions to

further the town's varied goals for the designated area.

The town's vision for the GIZ is an, "integrated place-based approach to planning... designed to support authentic community building efforts responsive to needs of residents and the history and culture of Hyannis."

The designation will remain in effect, without specified expiration, so long as the town progresses towards meeting the goals identified for the GIZ. Commission and town staff will discuss and assess the status of the GIZ at agreed-upon, specific milestones set out in the GIZ decision.

Updated Regional Policy Plan

The Regional Policy Plan serves as a guide to the Cape Cod Commission's planning and regulatory work and provides a framework for planning at the local level.

The 2018 plan lays out a vision for the future of Cape Cod designed to balance the Cape's natural, built, and community systems. It provides a growth policy that supports Cape Cod as a vibrant, sustainable,

and healthy community and a protected natural environment.

Stakeholder meetings and two surveys helped shape the regional vision, growth policy, goals, and identified key areas of concern, such as climate change, affordable housing, preserving the area's natural resources, and protecting regional character.

The plan identifies regional challenges, goals, and actions,

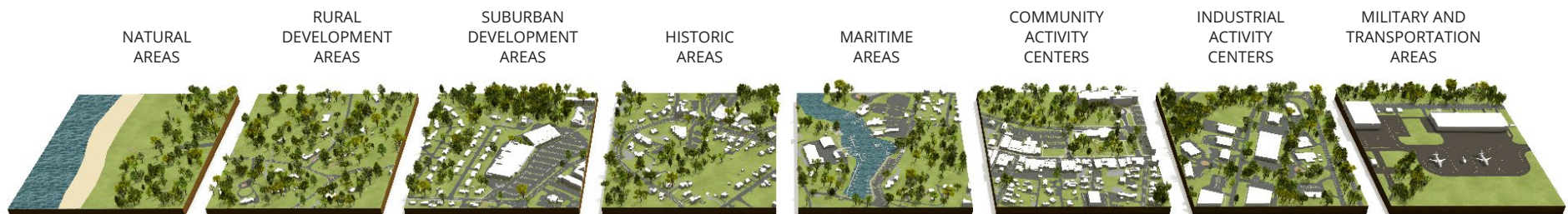
and sets nine performance measures. It recognizes that growth and density should be focused in existing centers of activity with appropriate infrastructure.

The Cape Cod Commission will use newly developed technical bulletins, along with placetype maps and resource maps, to determine if a Development of Regional Impact is consistent with the Regional Policy Plan.



The 2018 Regional Policy Plan helps provide a framework for guiding how and where the region will grow while protecting unique Cape assets that cannot be replaced. The update process incorporated broad community and stakeholder feedback that helped shape and guide the final plan.

LEARN MORE | capecodcommission.org/rppupdate



The 2018 Regional Policy Plan identifies eight placetypes across the region. They recognize and support the different and unique places across Cape Cod and serve as the conceptual framework for context-sensitive planning and regulation.

Water Quality Progress

In 2018, the Commission continued to work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the 15 Cape Cod communities, and stakeholders across the region to implement the recommendations of the Cape Cod Area Wide Water Quality Management Plan Update (208 Plan).

Progress in Pleasant Bay

In June, the Pleasant Bay Targeted Watershed Management Plan (TWMP) was the first to receive a 208 consistency determination from the Commission. With their consistency determination in hand, the Pleasant Bay communities were issued the first watershed permit from DEP in August.

Development of the TWMP was coordinated by the Pleasant Bay Alliance in response to

DEP's invitation that the four member communities participate in a watershed permit pilot project. Watershed permits, as recommended in the 208 Plan, allow multiple towns to work towards water quality improvement while also allowing for greater flexibility to achieve nitrogen reduction, the use of non-traditional nitrogen management strategies, and priority for State Revolving Fund financing.

Both the consistency determination and the watershed permit will be reviewed every five years.



208 Plan Implementation

In March 2018, noting considerable progress, EPA accepted and incorporated the 2017 Implementation Report into the 208 Plan.

The Implementation Report documents local, regional and state progress toward meeting the challenges of non-

point source nitrogen pollution emphasized in the 208 Plan and, among other recommendations, identifies 11 priority watersheds where action must be taken over the next 12 months.

As did the 208 Plan, the Implementation Report identifies key recommendations for continued progress in the areas of information, support, cost and regulatory reform.

In response, the Commission amended its regulations governing review of Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs). The regulations, approved by the Assembly of Delegates and Board of Regional Commissioners in April, allow for a review for consistency with the 208 Plan rather than DRI review. Guidance on 208 consistency review distills the 208 Plan into 10 criteria which form the basis of a consistency determination.



Progress on 208 Plan implementation and water quality efforts can be found at: capecodcommission.org/208



\$400,000 Grant Supports Monitoring Focus

Through development of the 208 Plan Implementation Report and work with the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative, reconstituted in 2017 to better align its mission with 208 Plan implementation, regional priorities of monitoring and finance emerged.

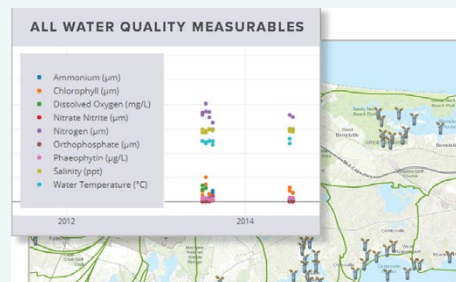
In response, the Commission, working with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Center for Coastal Studies, UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, applied for and was awarded a \$400,000 2018 Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grant.

The grant will support enhancements to the regional water quality database, expand the database to include freshwater resources, and create tools to provide automated data analyses.

The project outputs are intended to assist communities in evaluating invest-

ments in nutrient reduction strategies and groundwater protection efforts and the process for completing the proposed work will include extensive stakeholder outreach and collaboration to identify and respond to the needs of the region.

Data compiled will form the basis for water resources report cards, the annual State of the Waters report, interactive maps and other information products.



The project looks to consolidate and analyze monitoring data already being collected across the Cape.

Support for Regional Stormwater Efforts



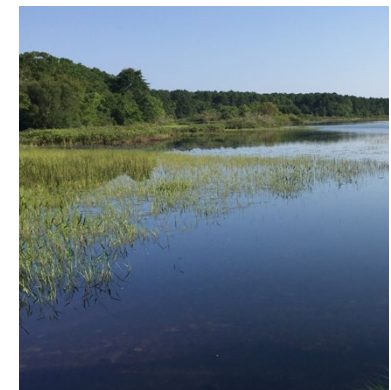
The Cape Cod Commission, through the Department of Housing and Community Development's District Local Technical Assistance grant program, provided more than \$50,000 in grant and matching funds to the Cape Cod Stormwater Managers group.

This funding is being used to assist communities in updating their stormwater management programs and meeting requirements of the recently issued federal Municipal Separate

Storm Sewer System, or MS4, permit. The MS4 permit regulates municipal stormwater systems to protect and restore water quality.

Cape Cod Commission staff is working with towns and consultants to develop shared tools, strategies, and materials that can be utilized by all member towns. The Commission convened a stormwater managers group in 2017 as part of a broader state grant.

In 2019, the Commission will continue to support the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative, focus on monitoring and financing initiatives, and work with communities on local watershed-based planning and implementation efforts.





Barnstable County Economic Development Council re-established

Barnstable County renewed its focus on regional economic development strategies with the 2018 inaugural meeting of the new Barnstable County Economic Development Council (BCEDC).

The BCEDC serves as an advisory board to the Board of Regional Commissioners to guide economic development policy for the region's growing and unique economy.

The Council has an important role to play in the drafting and approval of the five-year update to the Cape Cod Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS serves as the regional economic strategy and the BCEDC serves as the review committee, recommending the strategy for approval by the Cape Cod Commission.

The Council also serves as the governing board for the Economic Development District, a federal designation that provides annual funding to support economic development planning and access to federal funds for infrastructure and economic development projects. In 2018, this resulted in a grant for development of the Marine Technology cluster on the Cape and South Coast.

Community Resiliency by Design to develop housing models

Finding the right balance between community need, community preference, and financially viable development is the goal of the Community Resiliency by Design project. In collaboration with the towns of Eastham, Orleans, Falmouth, and Barnstable, the Commission received funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to develop model housing designs for compact development in four



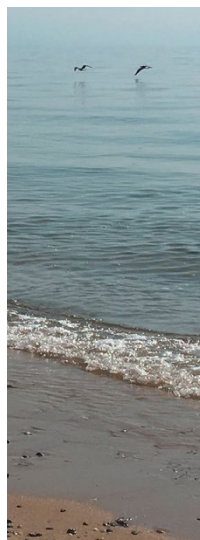
different, but typical Cape Cod development patterns.

Along with addressing regulatory reforms to provide greater density in areas where it can be supported, it will be necessary to create designs that are acceptable to residents and financially viable for developers.

Union Studio of Providence



R.I. was retained to develop models and other tools aimed at meeting housing diversity needs in the pilot communities. In addition to architectural renderings, model form-based zoning bylaws that emphasize appropriate scale and design over use will be developed.

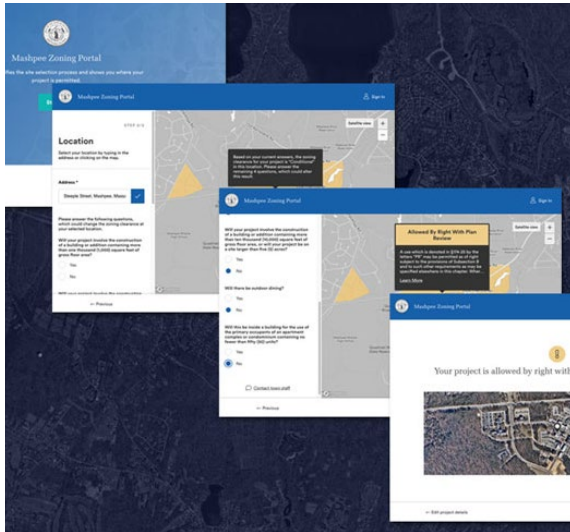


Barnstable County Coastal Management Committee formed

A new coastal resources advisory group with membership from regional government, non-profit and state agencies held its first meeting in October 2018. The Barnstable County Coastal Management Committee (BCCMC) was established by the Board of Regional Commissioners to provide guidance on

the protection, preservation, and use of Cape Cod's coastal resource areas.

Among the broad areas of focus for the group are coastal resilience, fin and shellfish resources and habitats, education and outreach, dredging, regional sediment management, and marine and estuarine water quality. The newly formed committee, staffed by the Cape Cod Commission and Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, will work to identify regional coastal priorities that benefit the environment and the economy.



Application allows users to explore local zoning online

The Towns of Mashpee, Barnstable, and Yarmouth launched online tools to make local permitting and zoning analysis easier and more user friendly.

In partnership with the Cape Cod Commission's Strategic Information Office, zoning portals were developed for each town on a platform created by the San Francisco-based firm Open Counter. Working with each town, zoning laws were translated to provide user-friendly interfaces, allowing users to easily explore how town land use policies affect specific parcels.

It has the added benefit of tracking user inquiry, providing towns with insight about trends in local development and areas of local regulation.

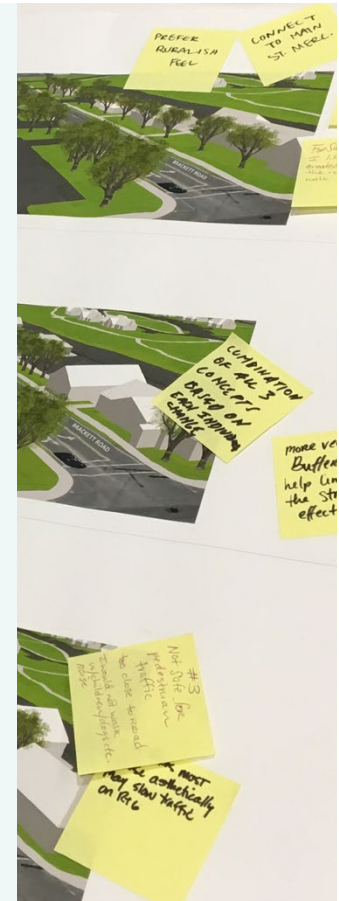
DCPC leads to new zoning in Eastham

In May 2018, Eastham Town Meeting adopted new zoning regulations for the Eastham Corridor Special District. These serve as the implementing regulations for the Eastham District of Critical Planning Concern (DCPC) adopted as a Barnstable County ordinance last fall. The new zoning applies to parcels located along Route 6 between Old Orchard Road and the Eastham-Wellfleet town line, the heart of the town's commercial district and the DCPC area.

The implementing regulations were developed through

a series of public workshops and joint work sessions with the Eastham Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. They are designed to better reflect Eastham's community character and desired scale for new development and to enhance opportunities for creation of affordable housing within the District.

Commission staff is working on a transportation model for the corridor that will provide a comprehensive approach to transportation management along the Route 6 corridor.



In 2018 the Cape Cod Commission Bike Rack Program provided more than 100 bike racks and seven rescue stations to towns and other government agencies across the Cape.



Route 6 safety improvement study underway

Cape Cod Commission staff was tasked with studying existing shoulder conditions and acceleration and deceleration lane dimensions on Route 6 from Exit 1C in Bourne to the Orleans Rotary. Staff researched and analyzed the most recent crash data for current acceleration and deceleration lanes, scoring each ramp

on whether it met existing standards. A GIS-level analysis was run to see how much additional pavement would be necessary to bring below standard ramps up to code.

Commission staff then investigated the safety benefits of increased paved shoulders along Route 6. An inventory of existing shoulders, as well

as guardrails, was conducted. A basic GIS level analysis was conducted to confirm that minimal clearing impacts would be associated with the addition of new paved shoulders along Route 6.

A final report is expected in early 2019 offering recommendations and outlining the existing conditions of Route 6.



EASTHAM COMPLETE STREETS PRIORITIZATION PLAN

To improve the safety and accessibility of its municipally-owned roadways for all users, the Town of Eastham engaged the Cape Cod Commission to develop a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.

The town was awarded \$25,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to develop the plan. After extensive public outreach, and incorporating feedback, the Commission developed plan was delivered to the town for submittal to MassDOT in Fall of 2018.

The plan includes recommendations for construction of sidewalks and shoulders on many of the busier roadways in town. Once approved by MassDOT, the town will be eligible to apply for construction grants up to \$400,000.

Resilient Transportation Project Viewer



The image above identifies restoration projects (green dots) with projected sea level rise of 2 feet (blue overlay) and FEMA floodplains (teal overlay). Learn more: [cccom.link/resilient-transportation](https://www.cccom.link/resilient-transportation)

In 2018, Commission staff developed an online map to prioritize potential transportation-related coastal resilience projects that have been identified through planning projects over the last decade. The Commission worked with the Association to Preserve Cape Cod to add projects from their robust resilience projects database. The application ranks the projects in each of three categories: transportation criticality, vulnerability, and ecological value.

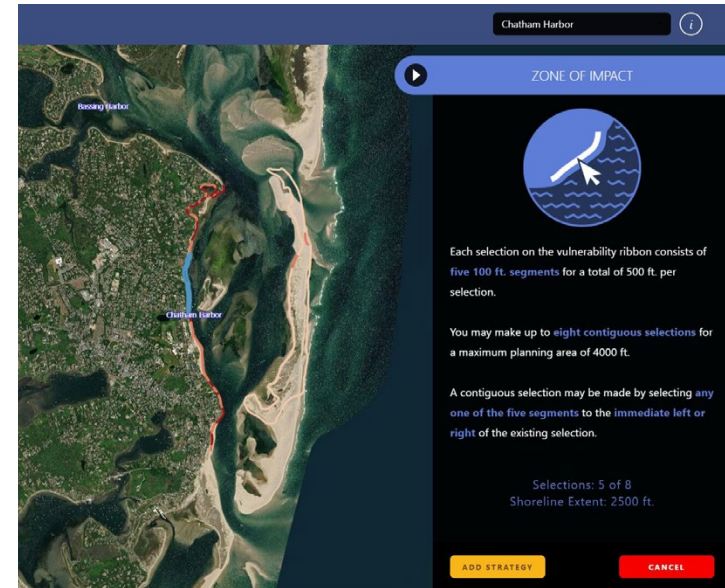
Resilient Cape Cod project progresses with application development

The Cape Cod Commission is working with several partner agencies to develop a way to have better-informed conversations about current and future coastal hazards. The Commission is building a GIS-based decision support tool designed to investigate environmental and socio-economic effects of different local and regional coastal resiliency strategies. The goal is to assist local decision makers with conversations about coastal hazards and how communities might adapt to changing conditions.

Nearly 100 participants from across the Cape attended stakeholder meetings in 2018

to learn about coastal vulnerability and adaptation strategies, while also providing feedback to inform the creation of the coastal resiliency planning tool. The tool will be publicly released in early 2019.

The Commission and the Association to Preserve Cape Cod developed an adaptation strategies matrix with detailed information on tools available to coastal communities to protect their coastlines, adapt to natural hazards, or retreat from their impact. This work is made possible by a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration grant awarded in 2016.



The Cape Cod Coastal Planner is an online, GIS-based decision support tool that integrates adaptation strategies, socio-economic analyses, and GIS planning layers in one place. Commission staff worked with the Timmons Group in Virginia to develop the tool.



STATE HELPS TOWNS PLAN FOR RESILIENCY

A state grant program to bolster climate change planning and projects is benefiting 12 Cape towns. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program supports municipal climate change resiliency planning and implementation of priority projects. Ten communities received grants in

2018 to complete vulnerability assessments and develop resiliency plans and strategies. Falmouth and Sandwich received grants in 2017.

The grant provides communities with technical support, climate change data, and planning tools to identify hazards and develop strategies to improve resiliency. The Cape Cod Commission, which serves as

a state-certified MVP provider, has been contracted to provide technical assistance to Bourne, Barnstable, Eastham, Wellfleet, and Truro. The Commission is working with these towns to hold workshops that will identify climate hazards, determine the community's vulnerabilities and strengths, develop adaptation strategies, and prioritize next steps.

Paul Niedzwiecki steps down after 10 years



In early 2018, long time Executive Director, Paul Niedzwiecki, stepped down to pursue a new opportunity off Cape. During his tenure, the Cape

Cod Commission evolved to become an organization focused on facilitating regional discussion on some of the most pressing issues facing Cape Cod.

"The decision to leave the Commission was the most difficult professional decision I've ever had to make," said Niedzwiecki. He added, "The Cape Cod Commission understands that Regional Planning Agencies need to be regional information agencies and planners have to be problem solvers."

The Commission led the regional problem-solving effort to protect and restore Cape Cod's estuaries and embayments under Paul's direction. The resulting Area Wide Water Quality Management Plan (the 208 Plan) will save Cape Cod communities billions of dollars as they implement local plans.

2018 Cape Cod Commission Members

Barnstable (Jan-April) | Royden Richardson
Barnstable (April-Present) | Fred Chirigotis
Bourne | Richard Conron
Brewster | Elizabeth Taylor
Chatham | Michael Skelley*
Dennis | Richard Roy
Eastham | Joyce Brookshire
Falmouth | Charles McCaffrey
Harwich | Jacqueline Etsten
Mashpee | Ernest Virgilio

Orleans | Leonard Short
Provincetown | Dr. Cheryl Andrews
Sandwich | Harold Mitchell
Truro | Kevin Grunwald
Wellfleet | Roger Putnam
Yarmouth | John H. McCormack, Jr.
County Commissioner | Mary Pat Flynn
Minority Rep. | John D. Harris
Native American Rep. | David Weeden
Governor's Appointee | Michael Maxim

ROYDEN RICHARDSON RETIRES FROM COMMISSION



Royden Richardson, the representative from the Town of Barnstable, ended 12 years of service on the Cape Cod Commission in April 2018. The 19-member Commission board formally recognized his dedication and leadership. Commission Chairman Harold "Woody" Mitchell presented Mr. Richardson with a Certificate of Recognition.

In Memoriam

Michael Skelley, Chatham
Representative*

Chatham representative Michael Skelley passed away in November 2018. He represented the town on the Cape Cod Commission for four years.

He retired to Cape Cod with his wife in 2008 from Connecticut, where he ran a successful construction/marketing and project development company and served as a state senator. Mr. Skelley also served as Vice-Chair of Chatham's Water and Sewer Advisory Committee.