



**Minutes
Cape Cod Commission Regional Policy Plan Subcommittee Meeting
Subregional Hearing
Mashpee Public Library
October 1, 2024 @ 1:30 p.m.**

The Chair Tom Wilson made some opening announcements.

Mr. Wilson stated that we are recording the meeting for the purpose of creating minutes. If anyone is also recording the meeting, please identify yourself.

How to be recognized to speak:

At the appropriate time, members of the subcommittee and the public who wish to speak will be able to do so after being recognized by the Chair. For those in attendance, Commission members may raise their hand to be recognized by the Chair. Members of the public attending should proceed to the podium to make comments during the public testimony section of the hearing. Once recognized by the Chair, state your name and then make comment.

The Chair called the meeting to order and took roll call for attendance.

Attendance/ Roll Call

Harold Mitchell	Present
Peter Okun	Present
Richard Roy	Present
Elizabeth Taylor	Present
Tom Wilson	Present

Alternate Members:

John Druley	Present
Dennis Prebensen	Present

Summary of actions/votes taken

There were no actions of votes

Regional Policy Plan Public Hearing – A Cape Cod Commission subcommittee will conduct a public hearing to assist the Commission in its five-year review and potential amendment of the 2018 Regional Policy Plan, as amended in 2021. The Regional Policy Plan contains regional planning

policies and objectives to guide development in Barnstable County and protect the region's resources. Following a staff presentation/overview of the Regional Policy Plan and potential areas for amendment within the plan, public testimony will be taken by the subcommittee.

Erin Perry said that this is beginning of the RPP process. One of the primary responsibilities of the Cape Cod Commission is to create a Regional Policy Plan. She provided details on the history of the RPP stating that 2021 was the last amendment to the RPP. She reviewed the key challenges covered in the RPP such as protecting natural areas, freshwater, coastal water quality, climate change, housing, infrastructure and economic stability. She added that there are several challenges related to aging infrastructure throughout the region and that the region faces challenges related to its highly seasonal economy. She noted that there have been many successes in the past several years, including investments in water quality and wastewater infrastructure. She talked about the plans and initiatives developed over the past several years that will help to inform the RPP update, including the Climate Action Plan, 2024 Regional Transportation Plan, Regional Housing Strategy, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Freshwater Initiative, all of which can help to inform the goals and objectives of the RPP.

She reviewed the Next Steps in the RPP update and handed the presentation over to Chloe Schaefer, Chief Planner, Cape Cod Commission.

Chloe Schaefer reviewed key elements of the RPP, including the growth policy, placetypes, and systems. The areas of focus are to encourage housing in appropriate places, promote reuse and redevelopment, preserve natural areas, economic resiliency, climate action and infrastructure. Potential areas of change could include goals and objectives, technical guidance and review thresholds. Ms. Schaefer concluded her presentation with the review of the next steps for the RPP update.

Public Testimony:

Federal State or Local Officials:

Deb Short, Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority, provided an update on transportation planning and the infrastructure needed for electric vehicles. She said that there are 6 new electric buses coming in 2026 and the CCRTA received a grant from the state for low emission vehicles. She stated that there has been expansion of services such as DART On Demand Services in almost every town.

Andrew Gottlieb, Association to Preserve Cape Cod, noted that the RPP is an important document. He feels that there are areas that should be looked at again, particularly the remaining undeveloped land, critical habitat, and the effects of development on critical habitat. He added he would like to see a greater emphasis on finding regulatory tools to direct development away from the sensitive areas and more toward areas that are developed and underdeveloped and pair with town planning and infrastructure, particularly wastewater. He said he would like to see more emphasis on the freshwater environment and climate change, including minimizing impacts to the environment and opportunities to utilize natural resource restoration to mitigate impacts.

Commission Members comments:

There were no member comments at this time.

Meeting Adjourned:

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 by Elizabeth Taylor, seconded by Dennis Prebensen, the motion carried. Roll call vote was as follows: Harold Mitchell, Yes; Peter Okun, Yes; Dick Roy, Yes; Elizabeth Taylor, Yes,

Documents used/submitted at the October 1, 2024 Cape Cod Commission RPP Subcommittee Meeting

Cape Cod Commission RPP Subcommittee Meeting Agenda October 1 2024

Power Point Presentation prepared by Cape Cod Commission staff inclusive of all agenda items

Approved by the Cape Cod Commission RPP Subcommittee on: _____

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