



**Ed DeWitt**  
*Executive Director*

May 2, 2012

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Henry Kelley II, Chair  
Community Preservation Committee  
Town of Dennis  
P.O. Box 2060, 485 Main Street  
South Dennis, MA 02660

Subject: Grassy Pond Woodlands Property

Dear Mr. Kelley:

I am writing on behalf of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) to express strong support for the application submitted by the Dennis Conservation Trust for Community Preservation Act funding towards the purchase and protection of 11 acres of critical habitat on Grassy Pond and Clay Pond in Dennis. As the leading environmental advocate on Cape Cod, APCC's mission is to promote programs, policies and projects that foster the preservation of the Cape's natural resources. We firmly believe that the purchase of these 11 acres is a vital conservation project that will accomplish several critical environmental goals.

**Preservation of Wildlife Corridor:** Included within a Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Priority Habitat for rare and endangered species, this property is a key part of a critical wildlife migration route.

**Protection of Water Resources:** Located within several Zone II Areas of Contribution to the Dennis Water District's wellfields, the preservation of this land—removing the existing house and eliminating the possibility of a total of nine residential houses and on-site septic systems from being constructed—will help protect the quality of the drinking water supply. Equally important is the property's location, providing a buffering upland to the waters and coastal plain pondshore of Grassy and Clay Ponds.

**Preservation of Open Space:** Strategically connecting to 250 acres of open space lands owned and protected by the town, state and Dennis Water District, the Grassy Pond property will expand and enhance this protected open space.

3010 Main Street | P.O. Box 398 | Barnstable, MA 02630-0398

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Acquisition of the Grassy Pond Woodlands Property will continue the long and successful history of partnering between the town of Dennis and Dennis Conservation Trust to preserve ecologically important properties. This parcel, which is so crucial for the protection of wildlife habitat and natural resources, is comprised predominantly of buildable and valuable upland, making it so at risk of being developed and its habitats permanently destroyed. We believe it is imperative to protect this parcel, and appeal to you to respond favorably to the Dennis Conservation Trust's application for CPA funding.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed DeWitt', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ed DeWitt  
Executive Director