

Spotlight on issues and projects in 2006

This publication of Shore Lines summarizes some of the issues and projects on which APCC is focused this year. Growth management, wastewater, open space protection, regional planning, coastal resources and environmental legislation are all critical issues for Cape Cod, and will occupy APCC's efforts in the months ahead. APCC will also continue to promote environmental stewardship through educational workshops and volunteer programs.

APCC's emphasis on growth management

APCC and the Roundtable issue a **Call to Action**. APCC and the Cape Cod Business Roundtable have released a bold Call to Action for Barnstable County to address our region's many growth-related issues. The document makes strong recommendations for tackling Cape Cod's most important regional challenges, such as sprawl, wastewater, housing, and traffic, through innovative measures initiated by county leadership in coordination with towns. The Call to Action makes the argument that Barnstable County has failed to take advantage of the special planning and regulatory powers it has been given by the state, and urges county officials to take the initiative in addressing these regional challenges.



Visit www.apcc.org to read the Call to Action, and then let county leaders know you support bold action for Cape Cod.

Directing growth to village centers. For several years, APCC has actively promoted smart growth management practices that reduce development in Cape Cod's natural resource areas and direct growth to existing town centers. Working closely with several towns, APCC has aided growth management efforts through conceptual visualizations of village centers using various zoning scenarios, and other forms of technical assistance.

This year, APCC is focusing its attention on town center initiatives in several communities, including North Falmouth, Orleans and East Harwich. (See *Spring Town Meeting* on page 4 for other important community issues.)

In North Falmouth, efforts are under way to preserve the character of the traditional mixed use village. In Orleans,

APCC has been working with town officials on potential zoning to permit village center revitalization of the Main Street area.

The town of Harwich received a grant from the Cape Cod Economic Development Council for the first phase of the East Harwich Village Center Initiative, which will concentrate on the Routes 137 and 39 commercial district and surrounding undeveloped areas. The town is collaborating on the effort with APCC, the Business Roundtable, the East Harwich Community Association and the Cape Cod Commission. The goal is to create a vibrant mixed use center, reverse the area's sprawling development pattern, increase workforce housing, improve traffic safety and provide for a pedestrian-friendly environment.

APCC also plans to coordinate another town center workshop. The workshop date and additional information will be announced later in the year.

Studying TDRs on Cape Cod. There are several planning tools available to help reduce growth in undeveloped areas and direct it to town centers, one of them being transferable development rights, or TDRs. This year, APCC plans to evaluate the viability of the TDR tool on Cape Cod. A TDR program allows property owners in natural resource areas to sell the development rights on their land. A developer purchasing those development credits can transfer them to a town center, where they can be used to develop at greater densities.

Monitoring development proposals. As always, APCC will closely follow all major development proposals on Cape Cod in 2006. In the coming months, APCC expects to weigh in on the latest CanalSide Commons activity, as well as the Mashpee Commons and Barnstable Stop & Shop development proposals.



Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative moves forward

The last issue of *Shore Lines* reported on the proposed creation of the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative, a county department that would partner with Cape Cod towns to coordinate wastewater planning efforts and seek funding for wastewater infrastructure.

Since that time, the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates and the County Commissioners have adopted the proposal, officially establishing the collaborative. Most of the region's 15 towns have already appointed representatives to the collaborative, and regional representatives have also been selected. The first meeting of the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative will likely take place in April. After three years of hard work by APCC and others, APCC is extremely pleased that a regional entity focused on wastewater solutions for Cape Cod has finally been established.

APCC weighs in on RPP

APCC is making recommendations for updates to the Regional Policy Plan, the regulatory document that guides regional planning and development on Cape Cod. Every five years, the Cape Cod Commission conducts public hearings on the proposed changes, which must be approved by the Assembly of Delegates before the new RPP is adopted.

Many of APCC's recommendations focus on policies that guide growth, including the identification of natural resource areas where development should be restricted, and regional growth centers where development should be encouraged. APCC is also recommending policy changes that accurately reflect the true impacts of a development's traffic on regional roadways; and APCC is calling for the elimination of currently allowable mitigation measures that are ineffective in reducing traffic and traffic impacts.

APCC makes recommendations on federal oversight of offshore alternate energy uses



Recently, APCC submitted recommendations to the U.S. Minerals Management Service concerning policies for oversight of alternate energy uses on the U.S. outer continental shelf.

MMS was given the responsibility to regulate alternate energy projects in federally-controlled waters. The Cape Wind project proposed for Nantucket Sound, which had been under review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will now fall under MMS jurisdiction.

APCC's comments pointed to the need for increased use of renewable energy to reduce the nation's dependence on fossil fuels, and stressed that development of renewable energy must be accompanied by a comprehensive

regulatory policy for access to U.S. coastal waters. APCC emphasized that a federal policy must be developed in coordination with coastal states, and must include opportunity for public comment. APCC also stated that project approval should come only after a thorough environmental review. APCC's recommendations to MMS can be read at www.apcc.org.

Legislative initiatives in 2006

APCC is following the progress of proposed legislation that has relevance to Cape Cod's environment.

For several years, APCC has taken a leadership role in advocating for the passage of state legislation that would update Massachusetts' woefully outdated land use laws. Such laws profoundly affect the ability of towns on Cape Cod and across the state to plan for growth, provide housing and protect the environment.

As coordinator of the state-wide Coalition for Zoning Reform, APCC has worked for the adoption of the Massachusetts Land Use Reform Act (MLURA), which provides amendments to the State Zoning Act and the state's Subdivision Control Laws. Responding to recommendations that the legislation incorporate more affordable housing components, MLURA has been retooled and refiled as the Community Planning Act, or CPA II. The name change illustrates how the CPA II is a natural sequel to the Community Preservation Act, which provides a new funding tool to help preserve community character. The Community Planning Act complements the CPA by providing towns with the necessary planning tools to achieve their community preservation goals.

Other legislation followed by APCC:

Massachusetts Oceans Management Act: Intended to govern development activities and foster environmentally sustainable uses of marine resources in Massachusetts waters.

An Act to Protect the Natural and Historic Resources of the Commonwealth: Institutes a policy of "no-net loss" of lands protected under state Article 97, which ensures that lands acquired for conservation are not converted to other uses without consent of the legislature.

An Act Relative to Land Conservation Incentives: Establishes a state income tax credit for property owners who conserve their land.

An Act Relating to Distribution and Sale of Household Cleaning Products Containing Phosphorous: Eliminates phosphorous, which is harmful to freshwater ponds, from household cleaning products.

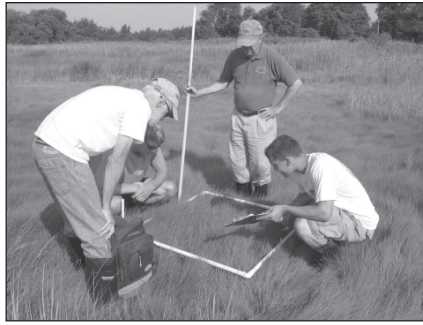
APCC plans workshops, seeks intern for salt marsh project

APCC is entering its fourth year coordinating a volunteer salt marsh restoration monitoring program on Cape Cod. Volunteers monitor the effectiveness of efforts to restore tidally-restricted salt marshes at seven locations across the Cape.

Workshops: Several training workshops for volunteers are planned this spring. On May 16, APCC will conduct a workshop on monitoring birds, and a fish workshop will take place in late May. Training for plants and water salinity testing will occur in mid to late July. Dates will be announced later. Contact APCC toll free at 1-877-955-4142 or info@apcc.org for more information on workshops and volunteering.

Summer Intern: APCC is also seeking applications from undergraduate and graduate students to work as a summer intern with the salt marsh monitoring project. Visit www.apcc.org or contact APCC for more information.

Grants Awarded: The salt marsh monitoring program is the recipient of several grants for 2006. APCC wishes to acknowledge the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Coastal Zone Management/Wetland Restoration Program, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare for helping to ensure the continuation of this important project.



Message from APCC's development office

APCC's fundraising goals for 2006

Every nonprofit faces the same challenges when raising money for its programs, and APCC is no exception. We must engage donors in our mission and imbue them with a sense of stewardship and connection to the land. Because we are a local organization, we rely solely on the generosity of those who reside here or come to visit.

This year, APCC will chart a more aggressive fundraising course in order to sustain our critical programs for the protection of Cape Cod's environment. We will send targeted appeals more often and remind members more frequently when their membership renewals are due. As always, we address parallel paths for giving: membership dues, individual giving, and grant writing.

So, before you put this newsletter aside, please turn to the attached envelope and make the most generous gift you can to preserve the legacy of the Cape Cod we now enjoy for those who come after us.

APCC loses two longtime friends

It is with great sadness that APCC must note the passing of two individuals who were valued members of the APCC family. Both will be remembered with fondness and gratitude.

Winnie Feightner

It's been said on more than a few occasions that Winnie Feightner was a fixture at APCC for so many years, no one—including Winnie—could remember just when she first started volunteering for the organization. She kept the APCC reference library in immaculate Dewey decimal system order, a responsibility Winnie handled effortlessly as a result of her 17-year employment at the Snow Library in Orleans. Winnie's choice of APCC as one of the organizations for which she did volunteer work would come as no surprise to anyone who knew her; she had a deep and life-long love for her Cape Cod home (she grew up on Eastham's Town Cove). Her dedication to APCC, and the energy and enthusiasm she threw into her work, earned Winnie the much-deserved and long-overdue APCC Volunteer of the Year Award last autumn. And because she cheerfully showed up at APCC nearly every week in the early winter months of 2005 just as she had done for ages, it was hard to remember that she was battling an illness that would finally claim her this past January.

Charlie Thomsen

APCC can't lay full claim to a man like Charlie Thomsen, who seemed to have had quite a few irons in the fire at any given time; but that Charlie was a loyal, dedicated and special friend to APCC there can be no doubt. He devoted many years to this organization, working in several different capacities for APCC. Charlie was elected to the APCC board of directors in 1997, retiring only in the autumn of 2005. In between, he served as clerk from 1998 to 2002, and then as treasurer from 2003 to 2005. Charlie also sat on APCC's development committee, much of the time as committee chair, where his fundraising talents and important Cape Cod contacts proved invaluable. He was present for—and actively involved in—some significant chapters in APCC's and Cape Cod's recent history: the Cape Cod Land Bank campaign and the successful effort to preserve the upper 15,000 acres of the Massachusetts Military Reservation, to name two. Perhaps more than anything, Charlie had a passion for land conservation, for preserving the woodlands, meadows and ponds that are such a part of the Cape Cod psyche and that meant so much to him. For that reason alone, we are all eternally indebted.

Spring Town Meeting



Valley Farm property, West Chatham.



View from proposed open space purchase in West Brewster.

Articles on proposed zoning bylaw changes and key open space purchases are appearing on several town meeting warrants this spring. APCC strongly urges its members to attend town meeting and vote in support of open space protection and community preservation initiatives. Below are some of the issues coming before town meetings. Contact APCC for more information on warrant articles, and check with town halls for town meeting dates, times and locations.

BREWSTER

Open Space: Proposed acquisition of 59 acres of environmentally significant forest, wetland and pondshore at Slough Road in West Brewster, for public wellfield protection, wildlife habitat preservation, including a freshwater pond used by herring to spawn, and passive recreational uses such as walking trails, small craft pond landing and scenic enjoyment.

CHATHAM

Open Space: Proposed acquisition of 8.38 acres known as the Valley Farm in West Chatham. The land is in the vulnerable floodplain between the Oyster River tidal creek system and the Sulphur Springs estuary, and serves as a critical wildlife corridor. Its protection will also help preserve the water quality of the tidal inlets.

EASTHAM

Zoning: Proposed zoning amendments concerning house size in the Seashore District, the sale of commercial property on Route 6 in north Eastham, and subdivision cluster development.

FALMOUTH

Zoning: Proposed zoning amendments concerning extension of the Business Redevelopment Overlay Zone and the creation of a Historic Village Center Overlay District.

HARWICH

Zoning: Proposed inclusionary affordable housing amendment for new residential developments.

ORLEANS

Zoning: Proposed amendments concerning non-conforming structures, commercial parking spaces, and architectural design standards.

PROVINCETOWN

Open Space: Proposed acquisition of 2.08 acres of land within the Jimmy's Pond wetland system, to help protect pond, cranberry bog, quaking bog, marsh, meadow and swamp resources. Habitat in this highly sensitive area supports threatened insect and plant species.

TRURO

Zoning: Proposed growth management bylaw to limit the number of residential building permits issued.

WELLFLEET

Zoning: Proposed Main Street Overlay District for mixed uses and other provisions on the south side of Main Street between Bank Street and Holbrook Avenue.

YARMOUTH

Zoning: Proposed zoning amendments concerning creation of an Old South Yarmouth Village Center District, and rezoning of Route 28 motel uses.

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*The Association to Preserve Cape Cod is a non-profit corporation founded in 1968
"to foster policies and programs that promote the preservation
of natural resources on Cape Cod."*

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