

APCC sets environmental agenda for 2007

APCC has identified several areas where it will focus most of its resources in 2007. These issue areas and projects reflect APCC's ongoing mission to protect and enhance Cape Cod's natural resources and quality of life through adoption of growth management policies, protection of water resources, preservation of the Cape Cod landscape, and advocacy for key legislative initiatives. The following pages offer a brief look at APCC's planned efforts this year. For more information on these and other projects, please visit www.apcc.org.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT: In recent years, much of APCC's work has centered on Cape Cod growth management issues. APCC will continue to promote the Call to Action developed by APCC and the Cape Cod Business Roundtable last year, which calls for bold measures by Barnstable County to address sprawl, wastewater, traffic, housing and other critical regional issues. One important recommendation is the development of regional/local planning based on comprehensive mapping of the Cape (see Task Force article on page 3).

APCC also continues to work with towns to direct growth away from natural resource areas and to designated village centers through fundamental changes in zoning and the use of innovative planning tools. In the months ahead, APCC plans to publish a report on the common challenges and impediments to changing zoning in order to reduce sprawl.

WATER QUALITY: APCC continues to play a leadership role in efforts to protect the quality of Cape Cod's water resources. APCC has pushed strongly for a regional strategy for wastewater infrastructure on the Cape, which resulted in the formation of the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative last year.

To further support such initiatives, APCC has embarked on a major public education campaign that extends into 2007, and which includes the continuation of a series of wastewater education workshops first held in 2006. APCC's partners in this endeavor are Barnstable County and Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. One outcome of the workshops is the creation of a speakers' bureau to train citizens in making public education presentations across the Cape about improvements in wastewater treatment.



APCC's work in 2007 will continue to emphasize protection of Cape Cod's water quality through advocacy, education and policy initiatives.

In addition to more workshops, APCC and its partners are planning other water quality public education and outreach efforts, including a conference on financing wastewater infrastructure.

APCC will also continue its advocacy on behalf of the quality of our freshwater ponds. Additional workshops in the "Ponds in Peril" pond stewardship workshop series will be conducted this year.

APCC's MASS BAYS PROGRAM: As the host for the Massachusetts Bays Program on Cape Cod, APCC is planning several coastal restoration projects for 2007. APCC's senior scientist and Mass Bays Program Cape Cod Region coordinator, Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto, was successful in helping the town of Brewster to nominate Stony Brook as a priority restoration site to the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Program. APCC was also successful in obtaining a \$10,000 grant from the Eddy Foundation to conduct a herring videomonitoring program this spring for the Stony Brook herring run. The grant will enable APCC to purchase an underwater video camera and recording equipment to help count herring, as part of the larger restoration

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feasibility study. To foster stewardship of the Cape's herring runs, APCC plans to hold a training workshop on herring counts this March.

In the area of stormwater management, Jo Ann helped Brewster obtain a stormwater grant for \$19,150 from the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Nonpoint Source Program. The grant will allow the town to inventory stormwater discharges in the Stony Brook watershed in Brewster and prioritize stormwater outfalls for future remediation. APCC is also developing outreach materials to help communities understand options for financing stormwater management.

In addition, APCC, through the Mass Bays Program, is working to support No Discharge Area designations for our coastal waters to eliminate all boating discharges.

For more information, please contact Jo Ann Muramoto at 1-877-955-4142 or jmuramoto@apcc.org.

SALT MARSH RESTORATION MONITORING

PROGRAM: APCC is preparing for the fifth year of its very successful salt marsh restoration monitoring program, which uses volunteers to monitor restoration efforts at salt marshes across Cape Cod. Five of the seven salt marshes being monitored have now undergone tidal flow restoration, and data on environmental changes to the marshes as a result of the restoration efforts are being compiled.



APCC is assisted in the salt marsh monitoring program by volunteers from AmeriCorps and Senior Service Corps.

Photo documentation of salt marsh sites will begin this year to visually track and record changes that occur in vegetation over time due to increased tidal flow. Also, training workshops for volunteer monitors are planned for this spring, with bird workshops in April, fish in May and plants and water salinity training later in July.

As the new monitoring season approaches, opportunities exist for additional volunteer monitors at most marsh sites. For more information, please contact APCC staff biologist Tara Nye at 1-877-955-4142 or tnye@apcc.org.

LEGISLATION: APCC is closely following and advocating for legislative action on the state and national level that would benefit Cape Cod environmental programs. Those efforts include:

- State environmental budget increases, including a new environmental bond bill for land conservation.
- The Community Planning Act, which would rewrite the state's antiquated and ineffective land use laws and zoning statutes.
- State income tax incentives for property owners who conserve their land.
- State legislation to establish a management policy for Massachusetts oceans.
- Legislation to help provide wastewater infrastructure funding.
- Federal and state funding allocations for specific Cape Cod land conservation acquisitions.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROGRAM: As the Cape's environmental watchdog, APCC remains diligent in closely monitoring major development projects across the region that have the potential to adversely impact natural resources and community character. APCC will vigorously respond as needed to any threats that may emerge in 2007.

CAPE WIND: This spring, the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS), which is charged with conducting the regulatory review of the Cape Wind proposal, intends to release a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed project. The project applicant is seeking federal permits to construct 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound.

APCC will carefully review the information provided in the report and submit extensive comments on the project to the MMS.

Strengthen environmental programs, APCC urges new governor

In the days leading up to Gov. Deval Patrick's inauguration, APCC submitted comprehensive recommendations to the new administration on a vision for Massachusetts' environmental policies in the next four years. In its comments, APCC recommended that the governor:

- Shape policies around the concept of conservation, whether it be of natural resources, energy, or the built environment.
- Create and implement a comprehensive land use plan for Massachusetts.
- Create an Office of State Planning.
- Reform state land use and zoning laws.
- Conserve the state's important natural landscapes through increased open space preservation, an overhaul of the

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state's "surplus lands" disposition policy, increased budgeting for environmental programs, and state-wide utilization of land protection planning tools.

- Integrate efforts to increase needed housing with efforts to protect water quality, so that housing occurs in areas that can support wastewater infrastructure. Sufficient funding for infrastructure must also be found.
- Improve the Commonwealth Capital Fund qualification criteria for funding local conservation initiatives.
- Establish a comprehensive state energy policy, particularly concerning energy conservation and offshore energy.



Photo: Barnstable Land Trust

Bayview Farm in West Barnstable was permanently protected thanks to state funding assistance that supplemented local acquisition efforts. APCC is calling on the Patrick administration to increase the state's commitment to environmental programs, including money for land conservation.

Your membership support matters!

Without the generous support of concerned individuals like you, APCC could not continue the important work we do every day—protecting Cape Cod's fragile environment. Please use the attached envelope to send in your donation today. Thank you!



Task Force recommendations strive for more effective planning

In late 2006, the Cape Cod Commission 21st Century Task Force released its recommendations for the future direction of the Cape Cod Commission. The recommendations, which were submitted in a final report (and minority report) to the Barnstable County Commissioners, focused on ways the regional planning and regulatory agency can more effectively meet the challenges that face Cape Cod in the years ahead. APCC executive director Maggie Geist served on the Task Force.

At the conclusion of its study, the Task Force found that the regional role of the Commission "is more necessary than ever," due to ongoing development pressures and existing patterns of growth that encourage sprawl, create traffic congestion, threaten natural resources and erode community character. The regional nature of these challenges requires that they be addressed from a regional perspective, yet local coordination is essential. To that end, the Task Force report recommends that the Commission should:

- Take the lead, with town coordination, in establishing detailed Cape-wide mapping that will guide planning and zoning.
- Restructure the Regional Policy Plan to separate planning components from regulatory development requirements for better clarity.
- Work with towns to ensure that Local Comprehensive Plans incorporate standards outlined in the Task Force's findings.
- Develop a regional housing strategy based on input from towns and housing agencies.
- Work with towns to identify geographic areas that would benefit from the District of Critical Planning Concern planning tool.
- Work with towns to establish a concurrent Commission/town application and joint hearing structure for development projects, to the extent allowable under state law.

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Helen C. "Bobsie" Whitlock

APCC fondly remembers a true pioneer of the Cape Cod environmental movement, one who could rightfully claim to be among the founders of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. Helen C. Whitlock, Bobsie to all who knew her, passed away this January in her Eastham home that overlooked the great expanse of Nauset Marsh for which she cared so deeply.

Four decades ago, Bobsie, her husband, Herb Whitlock, and a handful of neighbors and friends came together over shared environmental concerns for their community and for the region, and from that initial gathering APCC was born.

Although her husband is credited with being the catalyst that started the whole process, Bobsie's own role in the formation of APCC, her continued contribution and inspiration given to the organization in the decades that followed, and the profound difference APCC has made on this peninsula because of her involvement must not be overlooked. Most recently, she was responsible for endowing APCC's Herbert E. Whitlock Internship Program, which provides opportunities for graduate students to work on important regional environmental projects.

Bobsie's legacy lives on, and Cape Cod and all who cherish it are richer because of it.

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- Adopt procedures that streamline the development review process in areas where greater density is desirable, and create tougher standards for areas where less density is sought.
- Establish new operating procedures to provide better record-keeping and improve the development review process.
- Restructure mitigation policies for developments, including requiring that mitigation be determined by actual project impacts, rather than simply by size of the development.

- Adopt recommended policies to improve communication, coordination and cooperation between the Commission and towns.

The Barnstable County Commissioners will provide the Cape Cod Commission with guidance on implementing the recommendations. APCC will continue to push for early implementation of one major recommendation: the creation of a comprehensive mapping system that will serve as a blueprint for regional planning.

The Task Force final report is available at Barnstable County's Web site, www.barnstablecounty.org.

APCC

Association to Preserve Cape Cod
3010 Main Street
P.O. Box 398, Barnstable, MA 02630
TEL: (508) 362-4226
TOLL FREE: 1-877-955-4142
FAX (508) 362-4227
E-MAIL: info@apcc.org
WEB PAGE: <http://www.apcc.org>

*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."*

APCC Staff

Margaret Geist, *Executive Director*
Don Keeran, *Assistant Director*
Tara Nye, *Staff Biologist*
Jo Ann Muramoto, *Senior Staff Scientist / Mass. Bays
Program Regional Coordinator*
Joan Bailey, *Executive Assistant*
Everett Kiefer, *Clerk / Receptionist*
Patrick Frye, *Membership Field Coordinator*

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*Shore Lines Edited by Don Keeran
Newsletter designed by Karen Holmes*

Leave a Lasting Legacy

A bequest through your estate plan is a meaningful way to help ensure that Cape Cod will be protected for future generations.

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod provides opportunities for individuals to assist our work to preserve and protect Cape Cod's natural beauty and quality of life. Bequests from our members and friends help make it possible to continue our efforts to speak out for Cape Cod and fight for the protection of our environment, just as we have done since 1968. The sample language shows just how easy it is:

I bequeath to the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Inc. (APCC), a charitable corporation established by law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the sum of _____ dollars (or percentage of estate) to be a.) used for the general purposes of APCC at the direction of its Board of Directors or b.) added to APCC's permanent restricted endowment.

For more information, please contact APCC toll-free at 1-877-955-4142 or info@apcc.org.



P.O. BOX 398, BARNSTABLE, MA 02630

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