

**DENNIS**  
**TOWN SERVICES REPORT**  
**Fiscal Year 2011**  
(July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

**CAPE COD COMMISSION**

*Planning, Community Development, and Technical Services*

- The Commission provided planning, GIS, and technical assistance to the town for its portion of the Regional Land Use Vision Map, which the Cape Cod Commission approved and the Assembly of Delegates adopted as an amendment to the Regional Policy Plan on March 4, 2011.
- The Commission provided technical assistance on the town's Chapter H application for Development of Regional Impact (DRI) threshold relief.
- The Commission assisted the Dennisport Revitalization Committee to create conceptual landscape plans and visualizations for proposed improvements to Dennisport Village Green.
- The HOME Consortium closed on a \$60,000 HOME award to the Housing Assistance Corporation for its two-unit Dennis Homeownership Project that resulted in two first-time homebuyers purchasing deed-restricted affordable homes.
- The Commission conducted 29 automatic traffic-recorder counts on road segments and four turning-movement counts at intersections in Dennis.
- With data collected by staff members aided by an AmeriCorps Cape Cod member, the Commission identified the location of private wells in Dennis to ensure the protection of private water supply wells from herbicide spraying adjacent to NSTAR utility rights-of-way (ROWs).
- The Commission began watershed analysis and mapping for the Massachusetts Estuaries Project for Swan Pond and Bass River.
- The Commission organized forums as part of its "Watershed Tour," to build public awareness and support for watershed-based wastewater planning in these watersheds in Dennis:
  - the Bass River watershed (Dennis, Yarmouth, and Brewster)
  - the Herring River watershed (Dennis, Brewster, and Harwich)

The watershed initiative emphasizes the regional scope of watershed dynamics and encourages citizens to look past their town's boundaries when considering solutions for wastewater treatment. At the forums, the Commission distributes localized maps and information to better acquaint citizens with their watersheds, and shares data and concepts from the Commission's work to develop a regional wastewater management plan. The ultimate goal of these forums is to work with citizen stakeholders to develop cost-effective and appropriately scaled wastewater solutions to benefit and preserve Cape Cod's environment and economy for the future.

- The Commission conducted the annual Pond and Lake Stewardship (PALS) freshwater ponds sampling snapshot for Bakers, Cedar, Coles, Eagle, Flax, Fresh, Hiram, North Simmons, Run, Scargo, and White's ponds.

### **Cape Cod Cooperative Extension**

- The Dennis Natural Resources Department received a \$16,764.00 grant to begin implementing the Wildfire Protection and Preparedness plans developed for the Shoop Memorial conservation land, Princess Beach Conservation area the Plashes Conservation area and the Green Belt Well Field. The grant allowed the town to remove understory fuel loads and to establish and maintain fire roads.
- The Coastal Processes Specialist presented a talk entitled: *Coastal Processes in Dennis, MA (EROSION)* on 4/9/2011 in the Town of Dennis, which was attended by 45 individuals (mostly town beach committee and volunteers).
- The Coastal Processes Specialist presented a talk entitled: *Coastal Processes at Crowes Pasture, Dennis, MA* on 8/1/2010 in the Town of Dennis which was attended by 35 individuals (mostly neighborhood association).
- The Coastal Processes Specialist presented a talk entitled: *Coastal Processes and ORVs at Crowes Pasture, Dennis, MA* on 8/10/2010 in the Town of Dennis which was attended by 25 individuals (mostly ConCom).
- On-site and remote technical assistance has been provided on a variety of coastal geology topics including: shoreline change, erosion control alternatives, potential effects of various human activities on coastal landforms, coastal flood plains, coastal hazards, hazard mitigation analyses, and shoreline stabilization techniques. On-site visits typically address site-specific coastal processes/hazards, which are followed with unbiased, written technical alternatives analyses. These site visits are most often requested by Conservation Commission Agents but have also been requested by Beach Committees, Department of Natural Resources, and beach residents. Six site visits occurred in the town of Dennis.
- The Coastal Processes Specialist published and distributed educational information to the Conservation Commission Agent of the town. These materials consisted of a Biological Erosion Control Extension Bulletin (4 pages) and a Coastal Managers Guide to Longshore Sediment Transport (46 pages).
- The Coastal Processes Specialist provided technical assistance to the Dennis Department of Natural Resources with regard to delineating an Off Road Vehicle (ORV) corridor on Chapin Beach and Crowes Pasture Beach. To comply with the existing Order of Conditions these beaches must conform to a minimum beach width (defined by beach geomorphology and vertical datums) to allow ORV traffic. Several times over the year these beaches were surveyed with equipment, methodology, and assistance provided by the Coastal Processes Specialist.
- A total of 47 children and 24 adults participated in four separate marine summer programs held at the Dennis Public Library on 4 days in July and August.
- Two hundred sixteen participants of all ages visited the Coastal Explorer one day in August at the Dennis Public Library.
- Cape Cod Livestock 4-H Club focuses on animal care and responsibility and is extremely active in many 4-H events and shows. This club has made an important

presence for Barnstable County at fairs and camps, trainings and shows throughout the state.

- A 4-H afterschool Science program was offered this year at the Ezra Baker School, to 25 enthusiastic participants, and a very appreciative after-school program director. The children participated in a variety of hands-on experiments, ending the year by burying a number of items and digging them up a month or so later in order to evaluate how well they were-or were not-decomposing.
- Another group of about 24 students took part in a Philanthropy Roundtable at Ezra Baker School this year, and chose Operation Military Kids as a focus area in their community.
- Dennis received 195,000 2-3mm hard clam (quahog) seed in FY 2011 through the Barnstable County Municipal Shellfish Propagation Program. Value of this seed at time of dispersal was \$1,560.00.
- Additionally, Dennis received 200 bags of remote-set oysters also funded through the Barnstable County Municipal Shellfish Propagation Program. It is estimated that each bag contained a minimum of 1000 juvenile oysters. Value of these bags of remote-set at time of dispersal was \$2,300.00.
- Dennis took advantage of the bid price established by the County and purchased another 605K quahog seed.
- One aquaculturist was chosen and funded at \$1,000.00 to be part of the 2011 SEMAC Research Farm Network which focused on a comparison of triploid (seedless) oysters and conventionally grown diploid oysters.
- Marine staff responded to concerns about shellfish diseases, red-tide and provided information and technical assistance.
- Technical assistance and educational programs were also provided to town personnel, aquaculturists, and local citizens.
- Household hazardous waste collections conducted in Dennis in 2010 provided the following data: Dennis residents represented 477 cars and 613 households in two Dennis HHW collections. A total of 5,738 gallons / 25,025 pounds of hazardous waste was collected at the two HHW collections. Year round residents comprised 86% of participants, 37% of participants were participating for the first time in the collection, and 16% of participants brought waste that was left in their home when they bought it. Funding for the collections is provided by the Dennis Water District and the Town of Dennis. The Dennis Water District paid for the June 2010 collection and provided additional financial support in 2010 to pay for a portion of the town-sponsored collection in September 2010.
- The Cape Cod Cooperative Extension mercury collection program collected the following items in the Town of Dennis in 2010: 29 fever thermometers, 1 lab thermometers, 50 thermostats, and 5.0 pounds of elemental mercury.
- A total of 128 road and marine flares were collected in the Town of Dennis by Cape Cod Cooperative Extension in 2010.
- A total of 236 sharps containers were paid for and provided by Cape Cod Cooperative Extension to the Town of Dennis in 2010 for distribution to the general public. The disposal cost for all full sharps containers returned to the town was paid for by Barnstable County / Cape Cod Cooperative Extension.

- Two food safety certification programs have been offered for the food service industry. ServSafe, a food sanitation certification program through the National Restaurant Association fulfills the 1999 Food Code requirements set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Thirty-nine food handlers and restaurant managers have successfully passed the national exam of the National Restaurant Association's Educational Foundation as a result.
- Nutrition educator participated in two separate Biometric Screenings offered by the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group. Nutrition education through a display, one-on-one conversations, educational materials, and food demonstrations was made available in conjunction with health screenings.
- Two hundred six residents received technical information from the Plant Clinic via phone call, office visit, fact sheet, or soil test.
- Master Gardeners made two presentations to civic groups in the Town of Dennis.
- Educational materials for distribution included wallet cards and rack cards. These materials contain key information on tick identification, life cycle and prevention tips for tick bites and lowering the risk of tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme. Distribution points included Town Halls including all Department of Health Offices, Chambers of Commerce, Public Libraries and golf courses. Golf courses were offered signs to post to alert people about tick habitat and precautions. Each distribution point was visited between May and June as the highest risk period for Lyme disease approached (June – August). In general, each location received between 50 and 200 each of rack and wallet cards.

### **Children's Cove**

- Conducted 18 SAIN (Sexual Abuse Intervention Network) interviews.
- Provided counseling sessions to 27 child victims and their family members with referrals to community providers for long term treatment.
- Conducted 8 medical examinations for children at Children's Cove.

### **Fire & Rescue Training Academy**

- Chainsaw Awareness  
- 2 Firefighters

2 Students, \$200.00 Dollar Value, 2 Day Value, 16 Hour Value

### **Department of Health & Environment**

- Coordinated County and Cape Cod Medical Reserve Corps nurse and volunteer staff scheduling for regional adult immunization clinic; 130 adult immunizations (shingles, Td, Tdap, MMR, varicella, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, pneumonia) given to Dennis residents at no charge. Acted as an evaluator for the HSEEP compliant public health preparedness drill conducted at this clinic.
- Presented Sun Safety education to over 50 adolescent and adult participants at West Dennis Beach

- Managed underground storage tank (UST) program which tracks testing and removal of tanks; also performed tank testing. Fourteen active tanks tracked and tested; have overseen removal of 20 tanks in conformance with Board of Health regulations.
- Dennis Seasonal Flu Clinic nursing support
- Presentation by MRC Social Worker on “Caring for the Cognitively Impaired in a Disaster”-30 participants
- Dennis DPW workers with Hepatitis A and B, Tdap and Td and boosters with vaccine from Adult Immunization Clinic
- Secured a grant for the collection and laboratory analyses of marine beach samples. Sampling of marine water was conducted weekly at 22 sites; Bayview, Chapin Memorial, Cold Storage, Corporation, Follin's Pond, Glendon Road East, Glendon Road West, Haigis, Harborview, Howe’s St., Inman Rd., Mayflower, Raycroft, Sea St. (Dennisport), Sea St. (East Dennis), South Village, Sullivan (Depot St.), Trotting Park, West Dennis (Resident), West Dennis (Mid. Snack Bar), West Dennis (West), and Clipper Lane. The Dennis Board of Health was notified immediately of bacterial exceedences and retesting was conducted daily until bacteria levels were found to be within acceptable limits.
- Sampling of fresh water was conducted weekly at three sites; Flax Pond, Princess Park, and Scargo Lake. Samples were processed for detection of fresh water indicator bacteria *E. coli*. The Dennis Board of Health was notified immediately of bacterial exceedences and retesting was conducted daily until bacteria levels were found to be within acceptable limits
- Created ClinicACE, an internet-based immunization clinic preregistration system and successfully pre-registered 76 immunizations. Necessary immunization documents were printed by each registrant following completion of the registration process, saving the town valuable time on the day of the clinic
- Compliance management of 213 innovative/alternative wastewater treatment units.
- Sent/received 32 correspondences involving 20 innovative/alternative wastewater treatment systems.
- Resolved two O&M contract non-compliance issues.
- Continued Carmody Innovative/Alternative(I/A) Septic System Database User Fee collection, invoicing I/A operators for 170 systems for which they are responsible for reporting to the database.
- Responded to 36 residential and commercial referrals for IAQ, hazardous material issues, or EHS assistance (26 residential/commercial IAQ/housing, 6 commercial/industrial hazardous materials, 4 residential hazardous materials).
- Conducted vehicle wash water assessment for Dennis Fire Department including assessment and review of their current SOPs and recommendations for future practice to reduce costs of compliance.
- Assisted resident on fishing boat grounding and provided technical assistance for oily rag and waste disposal in conjunction with Harwich solid waste facility’s routine pick-up-no cost to owner.
- BCREPC provided two mobile message boards for one community event in the Town of Dennis.

- Provided public health nursing services to assist the Town of Dennis Health Department with the development of emergency dispensing site plans and public health response plans.
- Landfill sampled semi-annually for a total of 46 wells/year and approximately 100 person hours (this total does not include lab work)
- Conducted over 70 inspections (food service/pools) in support of the Town Health Department during the seasonal influx of tourists.
- Secured home betterment loans for the correction of 23 septic systems within the town (\$278,925 in projects).
- Biometric Screening, DY High School, 22 attendees.
- Biometric Screening, Town of Dennis, 20 attendees.
- Health Fair, Ezra Baker school, 350 attendees.
- Two inspections of every tobacco retailer and two tobacco compliance checks of each tobacco retailer were conducted. Smoke-Free schools signage was distributed.
- Assisted the Town of Dennis by achieving Tier 2 Hazardous Chemical Emergency Reporting compliance for 30 facilities.
- Provided the town's Fire Department with Hazardous Tier 2 reports for their CAMEO (Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations) databases.
- Made training and guidance available for the 30 Tier 2 Hazardous Chemical Reporting facilities in the town.
- Assisted town Health Department staff in meeting the deliverables of the CDC/MDPH Health Agents Coalition grant, as well as state mandates in public health emergency planning.
- Laboratory services saved town over \$11,200 in analytical fees.

### **Department of Human Services**

- HRC: Through part of the fiscal year, there was an active town representative on the HRC Town Representation Council. The HRC chair and coordinator met mid-year with the Boards of Selectmen at their regional meeting, and began a process to name a new representative to serve as a liaison between the town and the HRC, support human rights, and advise HRC about issues particular to the town.
- HRC: Human Rights Academy. Dennis-Yarmouth High School has been a participant in this HRA for five years, and participated in this year just completed. In addition, Cape Cod Regional Tech has participated.

### **Resource Development Office/AmeriCorps Cape Cod**

- Public Beach Plastic Disk Cleanup  
Members cleaned up water treatment plant discs that were washing up on shore.
- Chapin Beach Fencing  
Members installed erosion control fencing along Chapin Beach.
- Fire Fuel Assistance Preparation  
Members cut and split downed trees from across the Town of Dennis to be distributed to residents as fuel assistance.
- Salt Marsh Monitoring  
Members assisted the Association to Preserve Cape Cod with surveying fish

populations at Quivett Creek.