

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

CAPE COD COMMISSION

Planning, Community Development, and Technical Services

- The Commission provided \$28,000 in calendar year 2010 and \$7,500 in calendar year 2011 from District Local Technical Assistance funds to prepare and complete the Saquatucket and Wychmere Harbor Baseline Study and Conceptual Plan. The plan reviews existing conditions at both harbors, identifies priority land- and water-based harbor uses based on Commission-facilitated meetings, and developed conceptual plans for Saquatucket Harbor for enhancing the harbor's economic potential and visitor accessibility.
- The Commission's Planning Committee pre-certified the town's revised Local Comprehensive Plan on April 25, 2011.
- The Commission prepared an East Harwich Village Center Handbook that contained concept plans, maps, regulations, and design guidelines for East Harwich as part of the agency's work for the town and East Harwich Village Collaborative. The Commission also continued to participate as a member of the East Harwich Village Collaborative.
- The Commission continued to provide planning and GIS support for the town's portion of the Regional Land Use Vision Map.
- The Commission assisted the Pleasant Bay Alliance in developing a coastal atlas for Pleasant Bay.
- The Commission prepared a map for the Harwich Youth Council and contributed to the town's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- The Community Development Partnership completed its HOME-supported project to construct 12 affordable family rental units at Thankful Chases Pathway. The project achieved a Platinum LEED® certification and, at the HOME Program's 20th anniversary conference, won an Honorable Mention award for producing sustainable housing.
- The Commission provided \$3,000 in District Local Technical Assistance funds for a regional dispatch study for the towns of Wellfleet and Harwich.
- The Commission provided \$15,000 in District Local Technical Assistance funds to complete a bicycle study and plan with maps to provide safe and effective pedestrian and bicycle facilities between the Cape Cod Rail Trail/Old Colony Rail Trail and Route 28. The specific focus is on a connection between Harwich Center and Harwich Port to enhance the economic development of Saquatucket Harbor and provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connections as well as shuttle bus service between Wychmere and Saquatucket harbors.
- The Commission conducted 13 automatic traffic-recorder counts on road segments in Harwich.
- The Commission upgraded communications and calibration of automated traffic-counting functions at Route 39/Route 137.

- With data collected by staff members aided by an AmeriCorps Cape Cod member, the Commission identified the location of private wells in Harwich to ensure the protection of private water supply wells from herbicide spraying adjacent to NSTAR utility rights-of-way (ROWs).
- The Commission completed watershed analyses and mapping for the Massachusetts Estuaries Project for the Wychmere, Allen, and Saquatucket watersheds.
- The Commission organized forums as part of its “Watershed Tour,” to build public awareness and support for watershed-based wastewater planning in the Herring River watershed (Harwich, Brewster, and Dennis). 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.

Regulatory Activities

DRI Mitigation Funds in Fiscal Year 2011

- The Commission provided \$34,490 for the Long Pond Drive multimodal-lane project.

Other Regulatory Assistance

- The Commission submitted a comment letter to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office on the Environmental Notification Form for the Maher Pier and Stairway (3/28/11).

Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

- A Wildfire Protection and Preparedness Plan was developed for the Bell’s Neck Conservation Area for the Harwich Fire and Conservation departments. When the town adopts the plan, the town will be eligible for implementation funds.
- The Harwich Conservation Department received a \$3,000 Barnstable County Land Management grant for dune stabilization at Red River Beach as well as to make habitat improvements to the Herring River.
- 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 comments on numerous documents (i.e. Improvement Dredging, Pier/Dock Construction, Sediment Management Plan, Needs Assessment, etc.) for the Pleasant Bay Alliance. In addition, the Alliance sought assistance from the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Service to develop a coastal management atlas for Pleasant Bay ACEC and adjacent Chatham Harbor area. Technical assistance was provided in compiling and analyzing the information, manipulating and creating GIS-based figures, and writing and editing chapters regarding coastal processes. The atlas should provide a compendium of objective, scientifically based information for Conservation Commissions, other local, regional and state officials, and property owners. Once completed it is hoped that this would be of significant value for

- projects (ex. coastal erosion protection, beach nourishment, and dredging) to the Alliance communities of Orleans, Chatham, Harwich, and Brewster.
- One hundred eighty-nine participants of all ages visited the Coastal Explorer during one day in July at Brooks Free Library.
 - Sixty-five students in grades pre-K-5 at Holy Trinity School participated in 6 marine science classes offered through the Coastal Explorer vehicle in October. Teachers were provided with the *Coastal Explorer Curriculum Guide*.
 - Five hundred forty students in grades K-4 at Harwich Elementary participated in 29 marine science classes offered through the Coastal Explorer vehicle in November. Teachers were provided with the *Coastal Explorer Curriculum Guide*.
 - One hundred eight students in grade 3 at Harwich Elementary participated in 3 sessions of “Whale in the Classroom” during one day in February. Teachers were provided with the *Whale in the Classroom Curriculum Guide*.
 - The Brooks Free Library in Harwich hosted a 4-H Babysitting Course. They also hosted a 4-H Informational session and presentation for families.
 - 4-H is in dialog currently with Harwich Elementary School about reviving the Gardening Club that was under the direction of Mrs. Twomey until her retirement a few years ago.
 - Harwich received 200,000 2-3mm hard clam (quahog) seed through the Barnstable County Municipal Shellfish Propagation Program. Value of this seed at time of dispersal was \$1,600.00.
 - The Harwich Shellfish Constable is part of the Marine Program’s Shellfish Officers Research and Education (ShORE) Group. In 2010 the ShORE project evaluated oyster growth and survival in Wychmere, Saquatucket, and Round Cove, and compared results with other embayments on Cape Cod.
 - Marine staff hired a contractor to conduct an experiment to assess fish passage in Herring River – value of contractor was \$2,800.00.
 - 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, and local citizens.
 - Household hazardous waste collections conducted for Harwich in 2010 provided the following data: Harwich residents represented 266 cars and 334 households in six regional Lower Cape HHW collections. A total of 7,652 gallons / 64,460 pounds of hazardous waste was collected at the six regional HHW collections. Year round residents comprised 79% of participants, 42% of participants were participating for the first time in the collection, and 17% of participants brought waste that was left in their home when they bought it.
 - The Cape Cod Cooperative Extension mercury collection program collected the following items in the Town of Harwich in 2010: 63 fever thermometers, 2 lab thermometers, 205 thermostats, 3 electric switches, 12.0 pounds of elemental mercury, and 1 blood pressure gauge.
 - A total of 32 road and marine flares were collected in the Town of Harwich by Cape Cod Cooperative Extension in 2010.

- A total of 369 sharps containers were paid for and provided by Cape Cod Cooperative Extension to the Town of Harwich 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.
- Four healthy cooking demonstrations and displays have reached a total of 92 clients and volunteers at the Harwich Family Pantry. Demonstrations and displays provide recipes and healthy cooking methods to low income families as part of the Family Nutrition Program.
- Nutrition educator led the Eating Well round table discussions as part of the Councils on Aging Serving Together (COAST) forum for older adults entitled, “Building Resiliency in Aging”. Approximately 75 older adults participated in this program.
- Six issues out of the year-long series of *Pumpkin Post & Banana Beat* newsletters have been distributed in collaboration with Harwich elementary schools to 120 families with children in kindergarten. The Pumpkin Post series is an educational newsletter including recipes and regular columns on child feeding challenges, seasonal foods, physical activity, and menu ideas. The series of six newsletters focus on themes about breakfast, fitness, fruits and vegetables, healthy lunches, goal setting and holiday eating.
- One soil test clinic was held in the Town of Harwich.
- Thirty-five people attended an eight-week ‘Backyard Horticulture’ school presented by the Master Gardeners at the Harwich Community Center.
- Master Gardeners made two presentations to civic groups in the Town of Harwich.
- One hundred thirty six residents received technical information from the Plant Clinic via phone call, office visit, fact sheet, or soil test.
- Four 4-Poster Deer Feeding stations were maintained in the Bells Neck Conservation area during FY2011. Stations were activated to allow interaction with deer between mid-Sept. and mid-November 2010, and again between mid-March and mid-June 2011. Tick sampling was conducted in October 2010 and during June/July 2011.
- 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 12 SAIN (Sexual Abuse Intervention Network) interviews.

- Provided counseling sessions to 19 child victims and their family members with referrals to community providers for long term treatment.
- Conducted 2 medical examinations for children at Children's Cove.

Fire & Rescue Training Academy

- Chainsaw Awareness
 - 1 Firefighter
- Firefighter I&II
 - 1 Firefighter
- Flashover
 - 2 Firefighters
- ICS 100
 - 17 Students
- Thermal Imager
 - 1 Firefighter

22 Students, \$4,600.00 Dollar Value, 50.5 Day Value, 432 Hour Value

Department of Health & Environment

- Secured a grant for the collection and laboratory analyses of marine beach samples. Sampling of marine water was conducted weekly at two sites; Red River Beach's West and Middle locations. Monthly sampling of marine water was conducted at 13 sites; Atlantic Avenue Beach, Bank Street/Bayview Road Beach, Brooks Beach, Earle Road Beach, Grey Neck Beach, Merkel Beach, Neel Rd. Beach, Pleasant Bay, Pleasant Rd. Beach, Red River Beach (East), Seabreeze Road, Wah Wah Taysee, and Zylpha Road Beach. The Harwich 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 nine sites; Bucks Pond, Hinkley's Pond, Long Pond (3 locations), Robbins Pond, Sand Pond, Seymour Pond, and Skinequit Pond. Samples were processed for detection of fresh water indicator bacteria *E. coli*. The Harwich Board of Health was notified immediately of bacterial exceedences and retesting was conducted daily until bacteria levels were found to be within acceptable limits.
- Landfill sampled semi-annually for a total of 28 wells/year and approximately 48 person hours (this does not include lab work). Quarterly soil gas monitoring is also performed for the Town of Harwich resulting in an additional 65 hours.
- Conducted approximately 40 inspections (food service/pools) in support of the Town Health Department during the seasonal influx of tourists. In addition, the sanitarians performed a great deal of computer work/data entry and served as a second inspector with a primary inspector from the town.
- Designed and commissioned the production of aluminum signs to meet new regulatory requirements mandated in 2010. Signs were purchased by the town of Harwich for posting at all beaches.

- Responded to 27 residential and commercial referrals for Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), hazardous material issues, or EHS assistance (20 residential/commercial IAQ/housing, four commercial/industrial hazardous materials, three residential hazardous materials).
- Working with DPW on long term project involving implementing comprehensive Environmental Health Safety (EHS) program-presently relating to ventilation for apparatus area.
- Assisted Harwich Fire in five IAQ and hazardous materials responses in field.
- Provided four onsite assessments for IAQ and hazardous materials issues. One employee grievance, two student health issues and one hazardous material management issue-approximate savings to school \$3000.
- Provided one emergency response to school regarding carbon monoxide issue-savings to school approximately \$2500.
- Provided IAQ assessment and analysis- 2X to elementary school for union and parent grievance re: mold. Approximate savings to town \$2500.
- Coordinated County and Cape Cod Medical Reserve Corps nurse and volunteer staff scheduling for regional adult immunization clinic; 70 adult immunizations (shingles, Td, Tdap, MMR, varicella, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, pneumonia) given to Harwich 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 100 adolescent and adult participants at Bank Street Beach
- Managed underground storage tank (UST) program which tracks testing and removal of tanks; also performed tank testing. Three active tanks tracked and tested; have overseen removal of 13 tanks in conformance with Board of Health regulations
- Provided technical information on Title 5 and innovative/alternative wastewater treatment.
- MRC Medical Volunteers staffed the Cape Cod Tech. Regional Shelter for Hurricane Earl-4 MRC.
- Biometric Screening, Harwich Elementary, 20 attendees
- Biometric Screening, Harwich Middle School, 20 attendees
- Biometric Screening, Harwich High School, 20 attendees
- Tuberculosis Testing, Harwich Fire Dept., 5 trips made, 21 tests given
- Harwich Fire Dept., 2 trips made, 8 Hepatitis B shots given
- Created ClinicACE, an internet-based immunization clinic preregistration system and successfully pre-registered 30 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 28 innovative/alternative wastewater treatment units.
- Sent/received two correspondences involving one innovative/alternative wastewater treatment systems.

- Continued Carmody Innovative/Alternative(I/A) Septic System Database User Fee collection, invoicing I/A operators for 23 systems for which they are responsible for reporting to the database.
- BCREPC provided two mobile message boards for three community events in the Town of Harwich.
- Two inspections of every tobacco retailer and two tobacco compliance checks of each tobacco retailer were conducted. Smoke-Free schools signage was distributed. Collaborated with Health Tech Program at Cape Tech HS on compliance checks.
- Secured home betterment loans for the correction of 5 septic systems within the town (\$72,286 in projects).
- Laboratory services saved town over \$7,500 in analytical fees.

Department of Human Services

- Summary of economic indicators comparing the Town of Harwich to Barnstable County as a whole to support a town grant application (Feb. 2011.)
- Assist County RDO office in wide distribution of Harwich Human Service RFP
- 211 Presentation to Harwich COA Volunteers (July 2010.)
- Responded to request from town resident on accessibility guidelines & compliance to ADA required reasonable accommodation by towns in providing meeting notices.
- HRC: Through most 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. Harwich High School has been a participant in this HRA for five years, and participated in this year just completed. Because of the pending link to Chatham, HRA groups from both high schools this past year engaged in some common activities at the HRA. In addition, Cape Cod Regional Tech has participated.
- HRC: In November 2010, the HRC cosponsored a “tree of life” program in Harwich (St Peter Lutheran Church) and Orleans (Holy Spirit Church). This brought Israeli and Palestinian leaders to our towns, to meet with local residents, to underscore the need for peace and to share background on the current conflicts.

Resource Development Office/AmeriCorps Cape Cod

- Harwich Blitz Week
Members assisted the town with recruiting school groups and volunteers to clear invasive plants on the Thompson's Field Property as well as Harwich Conservation Trust's Bank Street Bogs property.
- Bank Street Bogs
Members helped with management and removed small woody plants to restore heath lands habitat.
- Live Owl Show
Members assisted with set-up and running of the Live Owl Show for

community members.

- Herring Run Clearing
Members removed overhanging branches and debris from the herring run.
- Hazardous Waste Collection
Members helped to facilitate a hazardous waste collection.