

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
GRIFFIN ROOM, TOWN HALL
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017
6:30 P.M.**

APPROVED

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Brown, Hughes, Kavanagh, LaMantia, MacAskill

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Assistant Town Administrator Charleen Greenhalgh, Deputy Chief David LeBlanc, Aly Sabatino, Amy Usowski, Chris Joyce, Cyndi Williams, Barbara Hageman, Audrey Greenway, Richard Waystack, Bob Thomas, Craig Chadwick, Linda Cebula, and others.

Chairman MacAskill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He reported that the Board had just come out of Executive Session where they discussed the HMEA Union contract and potential litigation for Beach Road and no action was taken.

WEEKLY BRIEFING

Ms. Joyce reported that the Voter Information Committee is hosting a debate of the Selectmen candidates on May 9th at 1:00 p.m. which will be moderated by the League of Women Voters.

Ms. Goodwin reported that Channel 18 will be broadcasting informational pieces relating to Town Meeting articles this week.

Ms. Hageman provided a document entitled "WIC Project Financial Impact on Households" and discussed concerns that financing options for hook ups have not been addressed. She asked for a preliminary financing project plan as quickly as possible. Chairman MacAskill stated that this has already been brought forward by two Selectmen and the Town Administrator is working on it.

Ms. Williams outlined upcoming Chamber of Commerce events.

Deputy Chief LeBlanc and Lt. Tyldesley reported on the department's response to a house fire on Standish Woods Circle and noted that as a result they are receiving a Compassionate Fire Department Award from PETA for rescuing the family dog.

Ms. Greenway of 69 Lovers Lane discussed the ongoing issues at the farm at 35 Chatham Road including environmental concerns particularly regarding the manure pile which is going directly into the bog. Mr. Clark responded that he sent a letter to the Farm Bureau that they are in violation of local Conservation Commission rules and regulations and the Department of Environmental Protection is aware of it. He noted that they were issued a stop work permit. He added that he asked all enforcement agencies to look at the issues including the Building Department and Board of Health and a lot of enforcement action is being taken.

Mr. Chadwick, representing the Harwich Fire Station 2 Committee, reported that the committee is hosting an open house this Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 noon and they will be available to answer questions and conceptual plans will be displayed.

Chairman MacAskill took the Wastewater Financing item out of order (see Town Administrator Report). Mr. Clark outlined the legal opinion from Mr. Giorgio (see attached). He stated that once the design is done we can hone in on what the costs will be. The Board took comments from Ms. Hageman and Mr. Thomas.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes
 - 1. April 3, 2017 Regular Session
- B. Approve Chapter 90 Project request for guardrail replacement
- C. Authorize Town Administrator as signatory on Chapter 90 contract documents
- D. Approve 2017 Junk Dealer License renewals
- E. Approve HMEA Union Contract
- F. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Elder Services of Cape Cod
- G. Approve application for Common Victualler License for Ten Yen
- H. Accept resignation of Amy Harris from Housing Committee

Ms. Kavanagh moved approval of the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item E. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Potential disbanding of Architectural Advisory Committee

Ms. Brown moved to disband the Architectural Advisory Committee until further notice. Ms. Kavanagh seconded the motion. Ms. Brown stated that the Committee was created by Town Meeting on October 2, 1984. Mr. Clark stated that if it was created by the Board then the Board has the authority to dissolve it but if it was created by Town Meeting then Town Meeting would have to dissolve it. He stated that the Board can take the step of ruling that it is inert and not in operation until the paperwork can be done to nullify that article. He said he would get a legal opinion. The motion carried by a 4-1 vote with Mr. LaMantia in opposition as he questioned if the Committee had been notified.

- B. Agricultural Commission – discussion

Chairman MacAskill reported that Mr. Hemeon and Mr. Coulson responded that they want to remain on the Agricultural Commission but the other members didn't respond. Mr. Hughes moved to remove 4 members that didn't reply to the March 17, 2017 letter and post vacancies for 4 members of the Agricultural Commission. Mr. LaMantia seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- C. Future use of Albro House and failed CPC article (*Action Item Register #16-047*)

Ms. Kavanagh said we should find out what the need is, if there is somewhere else we can house these people and then possibly sell the building. Mr. Clark stated that there was a request for just over \$18,000 to put on handicapped accessibility and we are doing that now. He added that we put in an application to CPC this year for \$12,000 to do a comprehensive review to see what the needs are but the application was turned down. Mr. Hughes said we lost an opportunity to use it as a Wastewater Information Center and added that he thought putting the Town Engineer over there made sense. Ms.

Brown said the building is in disrepair and we should sell it as it is going to cost more than it brings in but she does understand the need for the Youth Counselor to have a private place for her counseling. Mr. LaMantia said this is another one of our buildings that we have no use for and are trying to invent a use for. He said if we have a real use then we should fix it and if not we should get rid of it.

Mr. Clark stated that there are other potential funding resources other than CPC if the Board wants him to pursue them. Chairman MacAskill said they should approach the Finance Committee and see if we can find the money someplace and decide where we can put the Youth Counselor. There was discussion about the need to use a Land Use Attorney to re-designate the lot lines. Mr. LaMantia said the Planning Board can deal with that. Mr. Clark stressed that the Youth Counselor should be in a place where kids feel comfortable coming to her.

Mr. Waystack questioned the cost of what the \$12,000 inspection entails. Mr. Clark stated that it definitely includes structural and comprehensive review. Mr. Waystack stated that there are other inspectors who charge far less and said he would be happy to assist in putting names together of qualified inspectors who could do a comprehensive review, as could Mr. Thomas. Chairman MacAskill asked Mr. Clark to explore this and bring it back. Mr. LaMantia added that they should look into how much we can get for the building.

D. Old Recreation Building discussion of lease and related costs (*Action Item Register #16-047*)

Chairman MacAskill stated that he was surprised to find a lease that dates out to 2034. He asked for a financial picture including how much we receive in rent, insurance costs, etc. Mr. Clark stated that there is a list of items that the landlord was expected to do and we need to see if they have been completed. Chairman MacAskill questioned if there were articles with any funding and he noted that there was a housing component to build on an adjacent lot and he asked Mr. Clark to look into this. Ms. Brown pointed out that the 2nd floor was to be handicapped accessible. Ms. Kavanagh questioned if we have anyone reviewing the secondary rent and Mr. Clark said he would check with Accounting. Chairman MacAskill said they would bring this item back.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorize Chair to sign letter of support and approve the Open Space and Recreation Plan

Ms. Sabatino and Ms. Usowski outlined their memo to the Board of April 19, 2017 regarding the Open Space and Recreation Plan Summary (attached). Mr. Hughes moved to approve the Town of Harwich Open Space and Recreation Plan as presented to us and authorize the Chair to sign. Mr. LaMantia seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Renewal of Mutual Cooperation Agreement with Barnstable County HOME Consortium

Chairman MacAskill asked if any Board member objects to the renewal. Ms. Greenhalgh described the work of the Consortium. There were no objections and no action was taken.

C. Stabilization Fund balance and investment status

Mr. Clark stated that we had about \$1.1 million in the Stabilization Fund and had approved to transfer at last year's Town Meeting another \$1.7 million for a total of \$2.8 million. He stated that he found

out that the Accountant had to make a journal entry at the same time as the Treasurer so the transfer into the Stabilization Fund would be acknowledged by both departments. He said that generally happens on June 30th and we were getting 1/10 % interest and you can get over 1% if actively managed and that should have occurred earlier. He said he met with the Treasurer and Accountant and made it known to them.

D. Using a portion of solar field revenue for OPEB (*Action Item Register #16-021*)

Mr. Clark reported that we currently commit \$100,000 a year into funding OPEB and this is not a sufficient amount. He noted that we committed to using solar revenues for salaries. He said we would need to discuss if we are not going to use it as a General Fund offset for salary and shift it to funding the OPEB obligation. He said we need to head towards funding it at \$300,000 a year. He said the balance is now \$757,000 and it has been actively managed. Mr. Hughes pointed out that our unfunded OPEB obligation is \$42,421,535 and we have less than \$1,000,000 and it is important since we have solar as a source of revenue. Chairman MacAskill stated that identified funding sources would be helpful for a AAA rating and asked if we can look at the percentage of this money and bring it forward. Mr. Clark stated that understanding the liability and designing a plan to meet that liability is what they want to see. He noted that he didn't know of any communities that have fully funded their OPEB. He stated that there will be a newer report coming out and he will check on the status.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Senior tax break legislation status

Mr. Clark reported that we had submitted the request for this special legislation and Representative Peake has reported that it has not yet been scheduled for a hearing and once that happens we can submit testimony.

B. Well water sampling results for chemicals used by NStar vegetation control

Mr. Clark noted that testing was done for the 3 known chemicals for herbicides in December 2014 and nothing was detected. He recommended not testing again until Nstar does extensive spraying again.

C. Letter of commendation to employees

Mr. Clark reported that letters of appreciation were received for Carolyn Carey, Shelagh Delaney, Jay Briggs, and Heinz Proft.

D. Resignation of Town Clerk's office employee

Mr. Clark reported that Kate Gaudet of the Town Clerk's office submitted her letter of resignation and is in the process of retirement. He thanked her for her efforts in the Town Clerk's office.

E. Wastewater Financing for taxpayers

This item was addressed under Weekly Briefing.

Mr. Clark acknowledged that he received a request from the Friends of the Council on Aging. He explained that they established a trust document for building improvements and in order to change the charge to allow for program support of the Council on Aging, the Board would have to initiate their support. Mr. Brown of the Council on Aging noted that they have voted this unanimously and that the Attorney General has assented to their proposal. Chairman MacAskill said they will put this on the Pre-Town Meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman MacAskill adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Steidel
Recording Secretary

WIC Project Financial Impact on Households

Cape Cod Commission Data from the
American Community Survey 5 year Estimate:
Harwich Median Household Income: \$68,267 in 2015
Total households: 5,430
Older adults (45-64): 3,645
Older (65+): 3,605
Percent of total population: 58.7%

Observation: an average \$7,000 sewer hookup fee would be about 10% of the annual median Harwich family income. For older adults, this will be a hard expense to absorb without multi-year funding options at low market interest rates.

Cape Cod Commission Data

- From the American Community Survey 5 year Estimate:
 - **Harwich Median Household Income: \$68,267 in 2015**
 - **Total households: 5,430**
 - Older adults (45-64): 3,645
 - Older (65+): 3,605
 - Percent of total population: 58.7%

Adding It All Up

- Average single family tax bill: \$4,261
- Town-wide sewer cost annually: \$400+/- (will vary by year and phase of project)
- Add the WIC-cited average of \$7000 for a hookup – to be done within a year, will affect the first 600 households for a possible average total of **\$11, 661** in one year
- For a household with the median income, this would represent 17% of their pre-tax income
- The cost of the hookup is not tax deductible
- This is NOT attractive math

Impact On 64+ Demographic

INCOME/YR	NUMBER	INCOME/YR	NUMBER
60-75K	315	76-100K	176
50-60K	175	101-125K	131
45-50K	69	126-150K	120
35-40K	118	151-200K	89
30-35K	146	>200K	69
25-30k	100		
20-25K	201		
15-20K	187		
10-15K	68		
<10K	49		
TOTAL	1,393	TOTAL	585

CONCLUSION: Without subsidy or special financing, a \$7,000 hookup fee could negatively affect 1,393 age 64+ individuals at 10% +of their annual income, meaning less for food, utilities, medications etc.

Population & Income

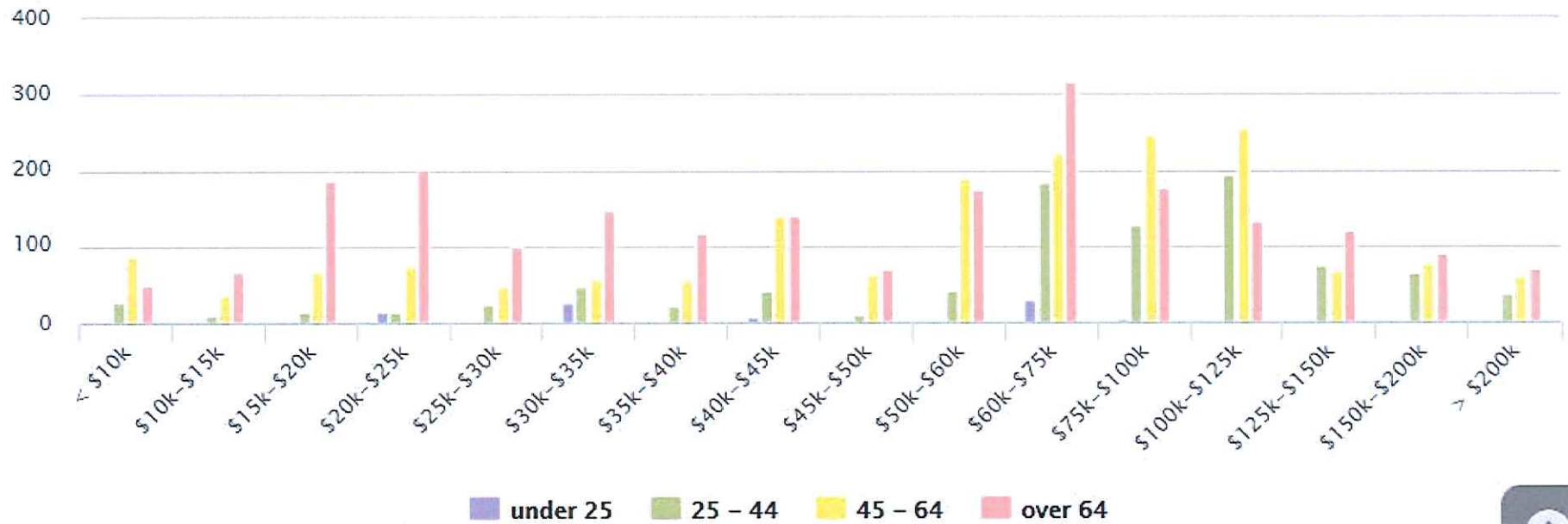
- **Population in 2010:** 12,243. **Population change since 2000:** -1.2%
- **Population Estimate in 2015:** 12,197

- **Males:** 5,688 (46.5%) **Females:** 6,555 (53.5%)
- **Median resident age:** 52.6 years
- **Massachusetts median age:** 39.2 years
- **Zip codes:** [02645](#).
- **Estimated median household income in 2015:** \$68,267 (it was \$41,552 in 2000)
Harwich:\$68,267 **MA:**\$70,628

- **SOURCES:**
 - (1) <http://www.city-data.com/city/Harwich-Massachusetts.html#ixzz4e9SdZK32>;
 - (2) www.statsamerica.org/capecod/town

Income Distribution By Age Groups

Distribution of median household income in 2015 (number of people)



The Concern For Those Affected by Phase 2: An Incomplete Project Plan

- The WIC team has completed a very thorough engineering plan
- The legal arrangement with Chatham has been negotiated out
- The mil-rate level calculation has been projected
- BUT the individual Harwich taxpayer's burden has not been examined at the household level to uncover or create means to mitigate the significant financial impact of this project
- This project impacts the both environment and taxpayers who must pay for it

Many Questions Remain

- The vote on Articles 11-13 of the Town Warrant appears to be premature with project plans devised *minus* an assessment of means for taxpayers to pay for a significant hookup cost, relative to Harwich demographics
- Examples: What are the funding options available to taxpayers for hookup fees? What has the Town leadership done to identify and vet these options? What input has been invited from the community on this aspect of the project? What are the specific homeowner funding benchmarks from other communities in Massachusetts who have done this kind of project already? Who owns this part of the project within the town leadership? How will this information be communicated to the Town at large and to those encompassed in Phase 2?

Some Hookup Funding Options Are Surfacing

- Harwich could offer an low or zero percent 20 year loan
- Harwich could provide each connecting property owner with a flat amount (ex. \$5000) and the property owner assumes the remaining expense
- Utilize the betterment process to provide low to zero 20 year loans
- Utilize the County Septic Loan program at 5%
- Continue to press for state and federal assistance
- Harwich to partner with local banks to offer a localized plan (municipal bond?)
- Other benchmark funding options as done by other MA towns
- Offer low income assistance as the town does with taxes

We appreciate that Chris Clark has proactively requested the Town Counsel research options which might be available. We also appreciate that he is inviting other participation in building a sound solution to this critical aspect of the overall project.

The Request

- Add a section to the May 1st Warrant that clearly defines individual taxpayer hookup funding project planning as part of the next phase of the project so that voters can be confident this is a formal part of the project and not merely an intended expression of goodwill
- Communicate the intention to research, define, and otherwise document this part of the project, including the town leadership responsible for it
 - At the Warrant discussion for Articles 11-13
 - In the newspapers during the week of April 24 and beyond
 - On the Town website as early as Tuesday, April 25 and updated as appropriate



The Leader in Public Sector Law

101 Arch Street, Boston, MA 02110
Tel: 617.556.0007 | Fax: 617.654.1735
www.k-plaw.com

April 24, 2017

John W. Giorgio
jgiorgio@k-plaw.com

Mr. Christopher Clark
Town Administrator
Harwich Town Hall
732 Main Street
Harwich, MA 02645

Re: Financing of Sewer Connections

Dear Mr. Clark:

You have asked me to outline the options available to the Town for providing financial assistance to residents who will be connecting to the Town's new sewer system in the future.

As I understand the facts, the Town is in the process of planning for the installation of a sewer system in the Pleasant Bay Watershed Area, which will serve approximately 600 properties. The Town is seeking an appropriation at the May 1, 2017, Annual Town Meeting for design funds, and it is anticipated that an appropriation for construction funds will be sought at the May 2018, Annual Town Meeting. I understand that the Town intends to pay for the construction of common sewers and other facilities from the tax levy subject to a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion. With regard to the cost of connections of individual properties to the common sewers, the Town is exploring ways to assist homeowners.

In my opinion, there are several options that the Town may consider in order to provide financial assistance to homeowners for the cost of the sewer connections.

Assessment of Betterments

Pursuant to G.L. c. 83, §3, the Town is authorized to appropriate money for the purpose of connecting a property to a public sewer system, but it requires that the land owner reimburse the Town for the actual costs. The statute provides:

The board or officers of a city or town having charge of the repair and maintenance of sewers may, upon request of the owner of land and payment by him of the actual cost thereof, construct a particular sewer from the street line to a house or building. A town may appropriate money for connecting estates within its limits with common sewers, and no estate shall, in any year in which such an appropriation is made, be connected with a common sewer except in the manner hereinafter provided. If bonds or notes are issued to pay the cost of making such connections, the assessments provided for in section twenty-four shall be applied to the payment of such bonds or notes. If the board of health of a town making such appropriation shall order land abutting upon a public or private way in which a common sewer has been laid to be connected with such sewer, or if the owner of such land shall make

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Mr. Christopher Clark
Town Administrator
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to the board or officer having charge of the maintenance and repair of sewers application to connect his land with a common sewer, such board or officer shall make such connection.

In turn, G.L. c. 83, §24 (referenced above) provides:

The owner of any land benefited by the laying out of a particular sewer from the common sewer to the boundary of the way shall pay to the town for the permanent privilege of using the same such reasonable amount as the aldermen or the sewer commissioners, selectmen or road commissioners determine, which may be fixed at the estimated average cost of all such particular sewers within the territory for which a system of sewers has been built or adopted. The board or officers authorized to lay out sewers shall assess the cost of connecting private land with a common sewer under section three upon the land so connected, and may require that an applicant for a connection of his land with a sewer shall pay in advance an amount equal to the estimated assessment therefor, which shall be applied to the payment of the assessment, and the remainder, if any, shall be repaid to the applicant.

When read together, these two statutes allow the Town to appropriate money to pay the costs of connecting private buildings to the sewer system and to assess the costs of constructing the sewer connection to the building owner as betterment. The betterment may be apportioned over a twenty year period. The Town may charge interest on the betterment assessment by one of the methods found in G.L. c. 80, §13, which provides for an interest rate of 5 per cent per annum or, at the election of the Town, at a rate up to 2 per cent above the rate of interest chargeable to the Town for the borrowing for the project. The most cost effective interest rate for the owner allowed by law would most likely be the actual interest paid by the Town on the bonds issued for the project.

In order to assess a betterment for a sewer project, Town Meeting must authorize the amount of the project cost to be assessed and the method of assessment. I would also recommend that the Town consider the adoption of a General Bylaw that sets forth the details of the betterment assessment for private property connections, including the method for calculating the betterment.

As stated in G.L. c. 83, §3, the Town can only expend money to connect private property to the common sewers "upon the request of owner of land." Therefore, the homeowner would have four options for financing the connection: (1) paying a private contractor to make the connection; (2) paying the full amount of the connection cost to the Town prior to the connection being made by the Town; (3) paying the full amount of the betterment assessed by the Town; or (4) apportioning the betterment over a twenty year period.

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Mr. Christopher Clark
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If the Town opts to appropriate funds to make the connection pursuant to G.L. c. 83, §3, in my opinion, the Town would have to follow the Massachusetts Public Construction Laws, including the Prevailing Wage Law. The increment costs associated with the Prevailing Wage Law may be outweighed by the economies of scale with a single contract awarded to the lowest bidder.

Septic System Loan Betterment Program

Pursuant to G.L. c. 111, §127B½, the Town is authorized to appropriate money for the purpose of providing a loan to a homeowner to replace a septic system or to connect a property to a municipal sewer system. Unlike the assessment of a betterment under G.L. c. 83, §3 and §24, this program involves advancing the homeowner the funds necessary to pay for the sewer connection. The Board of Health would enter into an agreement with the homeowner for the disbursement of the funds and would set forth the repayment obligation. A copy of the betterment agreement must be recorded. The lien remains on the property until the loan is repaid in full. While this statute is primarily used to finance a replacement for a failed septic system, the statute may also be used to finance the connection to a municipal sewer system. Similar to betterment assessments under G.L. c. 83, §§ 3 and 24 (discussed above), betterments under G.L. c. 111, §127B½ may be apportioned over a 20 year period at an interest rate of 5 per cent per annum or, at the election of the Town, at a rate up to 2 per cent above the Town's borrowing cost.

In addition, I would point out that the Board of Health has authority under G.L. c. 83, §3 to order that a property which abuts a public or private way in which a common sewer is located to connect, in which case, in my opinion, the Board of Health would have the authority to enter into a betterment agreement with the homeowner under this section. I also understand that the Town's sewer regulations require properties to connect to the sewer system within one year. In my opinion, such a requirement would also trigger the provisions of G.L. c. 111, §127B½ allowing for betterment loans.

While this program is typically financed with a loan to the Town under the State Revolving Fund, I have consulted with the Town's bond counsel who has confirmed that the program may be implemented using non-SRF general obligation bonds. If the Town seeks to borrow funds through the SRF Septic Management Programs, there are significant additional steps that the Town has to complete including the preparation of a septic management plan. There are also income eligibility limitations. I recommend that the Town consult with the DEP regarding the requirements under this program. Furthermore, I understand that Barnstable County administers the septic betterment loan program in behalf of all of the Cape towns.

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Mr. Christopher Clark
Town Administrator
April 24, 2017
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Because the Town does not actually contract for the work, in my opinion, the Massachusetts Public Construction Laws, including the Prevailing Wage Law, would not apply to the work contracted for by the homeowner. Furthermore, in order to implement this program, the Board of Health would have to determine that the septic system is in failure or the Board would have to order under G.L. c. 83, §3 that all properties abutting the sewer lines must connect to the Town's sewer system. Obviously, this option has the advantage of simplifying any contract oversight issues.

Deferral and Recovery Agreements

Pursuant to G.L. c. 80, §13, if Town Meeting accepts the statute, the Town can enter into a deferral and recovery agreement that would permit a homeowner to defer the payment of any betterment assessment under either G.L. c. 83, §3 or G.L. c. 111, §127B ½ if the homeowner qualifies for an exemption under G.L. c. 5, §59 (clause 41a) for low income elderly persons. Although there are certain requirements under the statute, in essence, the agreement may provide for the deferral of any betterment payments plus interest until the home is sold or the demise of the homeowner.

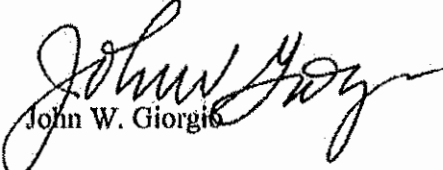
Special Legislation

Many communities have sought and obtained special legislation through the Home Rule Petition process to allow certain deviations from the requirements of the General Laws relating to sewer construction and assessment of betterments. This option is open to Harwich should the Board of Selectmen determine that a more tailored program to address the specific needs of the Town would be in the best interests of the Town.

Before making a final decision on how to proceed, I would recommend that the Town consult with the Board of Health and DEP to identify any issues so that special legislation could be considered to adapt either of the options to the Town's specific needs.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


John W. Giorgio

JWG/bp
580838/HARW/0001



Town of Harwich
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
AND
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Amy Usowski, Conservation Administrator *AU*
Aly Sabatino, Town Planner *A.S.*
RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan Summary
DATE: April 19, 2017

History and Purpose of the Open Space Recreation Plan (OSRP):

The plan was first adopted in 1998 and this is the 2nd update. This plan update was conditionally approved by the State in 2015 and we are submitting the last requirements to obtain final approval.

The purpose of the plan is to lay out a proposal for management of existing Town land/facilities and lay a framework for how to select new parcels and manage them. Approval of the Plan makes the Town eligible for grant funding.

Accomplishments since the 2010 OSRP update:

1. Priority list of new acquisitions/checklist to evaluate potential new properties,
2. Connectivity with other conservation land,
3. 9 new parcels with 57+ new acres of land,
4. 2 new Land Management Plans and 1 parcel stewardship report,
5. Muddy Creek Bridge,
6. Addition of critical habitat type,
7. Making Town-owned parcels more ADA accessible.

Goals of the 2017 OSRP update:

Goal 1: Maintain an inventory of existing Town-owned property and identify appropriate uses.

- a. Update inventory, maintain GIS system,
- b. Identify existing and potential uses for parcels.

Goal 2: Implement land management plans for existing conservation parcels.

- a. Existing and proposed (Robbins Pond and Isabel Smith Monomy River Woodlands).

Goal 3: Identify future open space acquisitions.

- a. Criteria.



Town of Harwich

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
AND
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Goal 4: Enhance trail systems within open space areas.

Goal 5: Protection of natural resources and community character through growth management strategies.

Goal 6: Preserve and enhance natural resources groundwater and surface water, coastal water and adjacent shoreline areas; inland and coastal wetlands and wildlife and plant habitats.

Goal 7: Management of the handling and disposal of solid hazardous water products.

Goal 8: Preserve and enhance unique natural and manmade features and resources.

Goal 9: Preserve and enhance opportunities for passive and active recreation to meet the needs for both residents and visitors.



April 25, 2017

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms Cryan:

On April 24, 2017, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to endorse and support the May 2017 draft Open Space and Recreation plan which outlines goals and objectives that are consistent with the wishes of the community and its residents. These goals provide a good framework for the Town when looking at open space and conservation issues for the next five years. Additionally, having an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan makes the Town eligible to receive grant funding for projects.

Sincerely,

Michael MacAskill
Chair, Harwich Board of Selectmen



Town of Harwich Open Space and Recreation Plan

Revised 2017

Aly Sabatino – Town Planner 2016–present

Amy Usowski – Conservation Administrator

David Spitz – previous Town Planner



History and Purpose of the OSRP

- ❖ First adopted in 1998; 2016 revision is 2nd update
- ❖ Incorporates info and recommendations from the 2011 Local Comprehensive Plan and 2013 Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.
- ❖ Includes assessment of current open space and recreation needs, a statement of goals and objectives to fill the Town's needs, and an action plan to meet these goals.
- ❖ Purpose: lay out a plan for management of existing town land/facilities and lay framework for how to select new parcels/manage them.
- ❖ Approval of the OSRP makes the Town eligible for grant funding.



Photo by Amy Usowski



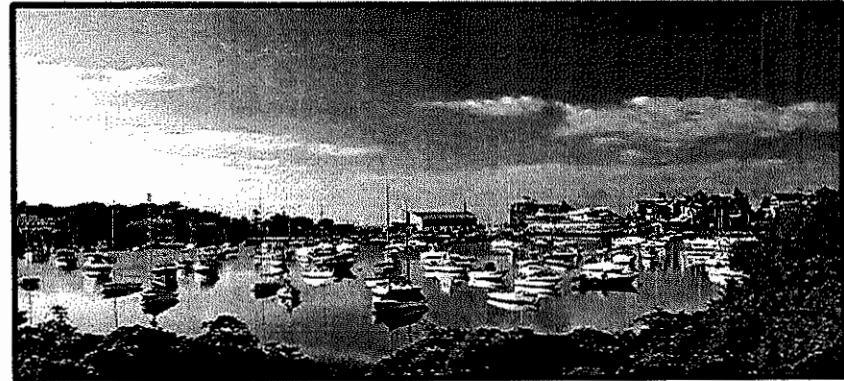
Photo by Janet Baker

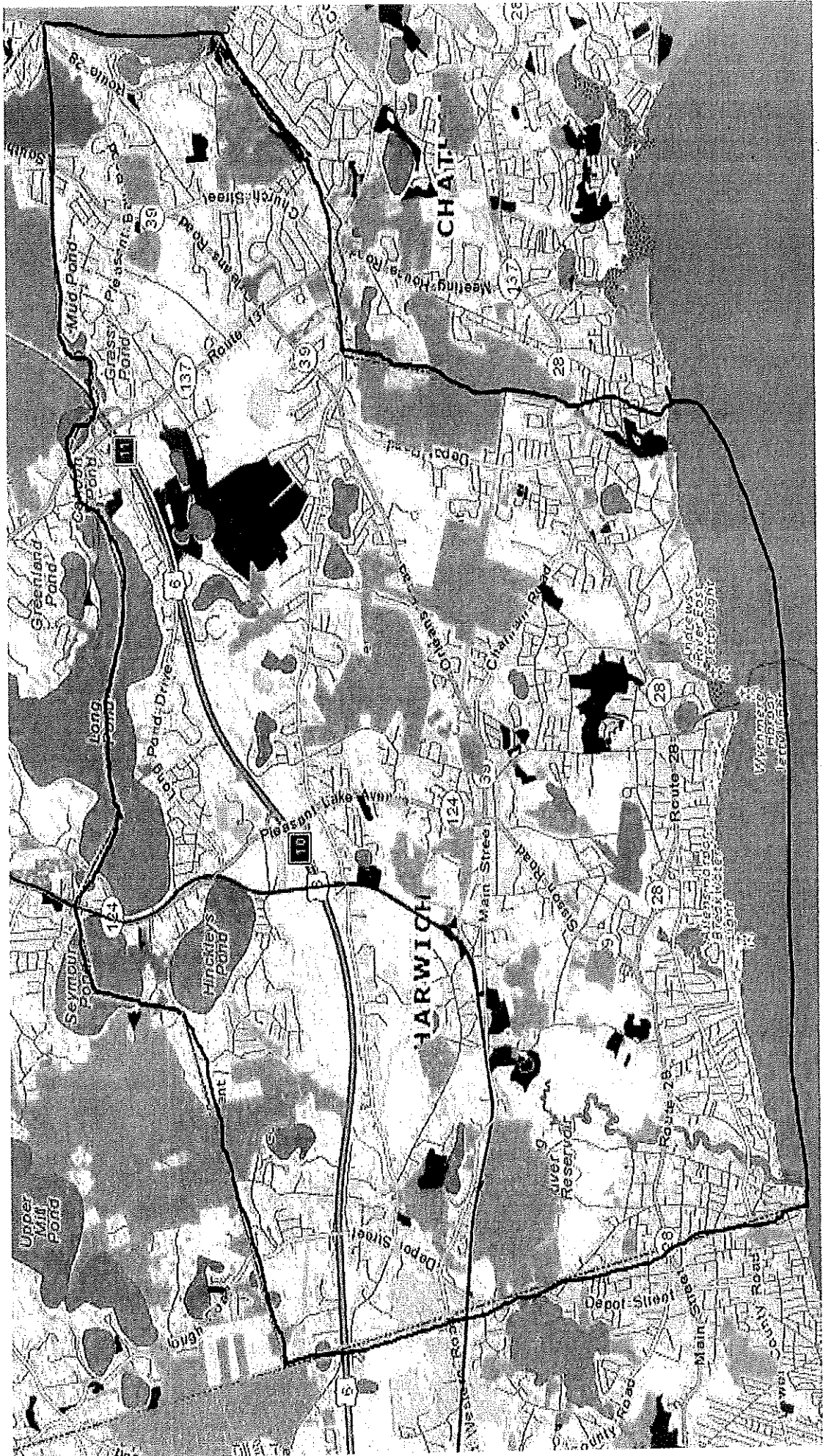
Accomplishments since 2010 OSRP

- ❖ Since last revision of the OSRP in 2010:
 - ❖ Priority list of new acquisitions/checklist to evaluate potential new properties
 - ❖ Connectivity with other conservation land
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 - ❖ 2 new Land Management Plans and 10 parcel stewardship report
 - ❖ Muddy Creek Bridge
 - ❖ Addition of critical habitat type
 - ❖ Making Town-owned parcels more ADA accessible

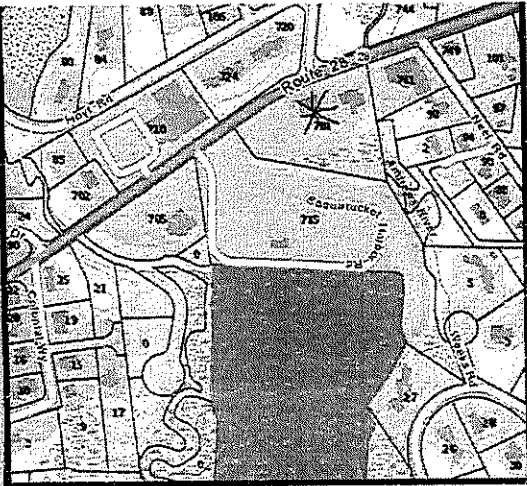
Goals and Objectives of the 2017 OSRP

- ❖ Strategic acquisition of environmentally-sensitive properties
- ❖ Optimal projection of the Town's natural resources
- ❖ Protection and enhancement of town's character
- ❖ Development of village centers





Key Acquisitions and Projects



< Downey



< Verrochi

Muddy Creek Bridge



Conceptual view



Goals Moving Forward

- ❖ **Goal 1:** Maintain an Inventory of Existing Town-Owned Property and Identify Appropriate Uses
 - ❖ Update inventory, maintain GIS system
 - ❖ Identify existing and potential uses for parcels
- ❖ **Goal 2:** Implement Land Management Plans for Existing Conservation Parcels
 - ❖ Existing and proposed (Robbins Pond and Isabel Smith Monomoy River Woodlands)
- ❖ **Goal 3:** Identify Future Open Space Acquisitions
 - ❖ Criteria
- ❖ **Goal 4:** Enhance Trail Systems within Open Space Areas

Goals Continued....

- ❖ **Goal 5:** Protection of Natural Resources and Community Character Through Growth Management Strategies
- ❖ **Goal 6:** Preserve and Enhance the Following Natural Resources: Groundwater and Surface Water; Coastal Water and Adjacent Shoreline Areas; Inland and Coastal Wetlands; and Wildlife and Plant Habitats
- ❖ **Goal 7:** Management of the Handling and Disposal of Solid Hazardous Waste Products



AmeriCorps Cape Cod assisting with managing Thompson's Field



Goals Continued.....

- ❖ **Goal 8:** Preserve and Enhance Unique Natural and Manmade Features and Resources
- ❖ **Goal 9:** Preserve and Enhance Opportunities for Passive and Active Recreation to Meet the Needs for Both Residents and Visitors

Related Documents - April 24, 2017 BOS Meeting

- 01 Agenda.pdf
- 02 Minutes.pdf
- 03 Chapter 90 Guardrail Replacement.pdf
- 04 Chapter 90 Signatory.pdf
- 05 Junk Dealer Licenses.pdf
- 06 Elder Services Contract.pdf
- 07 Ten Yen CV License.pdf
- 08 Housing Comm Resignation.pdf
- 09 Architectural Advisory.pdf
- 10 Agricultural Commission.pdf
- 11 Old Rec Building.pdf
- 12 Open Space Plan.pdf
- 13 HOME Consortium.pdf
- 14 Stabilization Fund.pdf
- 15 Solar Revenue - OPEB.pdf
- 16 Senior Tax Break.pdf
- 17 Well Water Sampling.pdf
- 18 Employee Commendations.pdf
- 19 Employee Resignation.pdf
- 20 Wastewater Financing.pdf