



Shore Lines

Newsletter of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod | Spring 2019

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A coalition for Cape Cod's future

By Andrew Gottlieb, APCC Executive Director



Sometimes the pursuit of smart public policy and shared mutual objectives brings together interests not normally seen as aligned with one another to pursue a big idea.

Now is such a time on Cape Cod.

Four very different organizations, APCC, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, Cape Cod & Islands Association of Realtors and Housing Assistance Corporation, have come together out of a shared belief that the future of Cape Cod depends heavily on infrastructure improvements and community investment for future economic stability and environmental improvement. The four organizations see now as the perfect time for local government to establish infrastructure banks and direct resources to long-term community investment.

Part of the impetus for this initiative is the unusual opportunity for towns to take advantage of a new revenue source provided by legislation at the end of 2018. More broadly though, and perhaps more encouraging, is that these four organizations have come to realize that many of our interests are better served by coordinating our efforts than by seeking our own objectives in a vacuum. In APCC's case, our pursuit of water quality improvement is not a zero-sum game where the environment can only improve at the expense of housing and economic interests. Collectively, we stand to improve water quality more quickly and at lower cost by working with, not against, our partners.

By joining this broad coalition, APCC is expanding its strategic reach to broaden the base of people who recognize and understand the imperative to improve our environment in general, and water quality in particular. While few towns took the actions we recommended for spring town meeting this year, we plan to stick together and keep working on this issue, and others, throughout the year and beyond. While reserving our right to disagree with and push back against our partners where the needs of the environment require it, APCC sees a new era of productive partnerships emerging that will achieve environmental improvement goals and achievements that have remained elusive.



The proposed model bylaw drafted by APCC for Wellfleet considers climate change impacts when weighing future development decisions in coastal and other wetland areas.

APCC drafts climate change bylaw for Wellfleet

APCC has submitted a first draft of a model bylaw addressing climate change for the town of Wellfleet to consider. The Wellfleet Conservation Commission sought the development of a model bylaw providing policies and regulations that promote adaptation to the impacts of climate change on storms, flooding, sea level, coastal erosion, water, wetlands and other natural resources, as well as on properties and structures. The objective of the bylaw is to increase the community's climate resilience by considering climate change impacts when development and other projects are proposed in coastal and other wetland areas. The bylaw is also intended to serve as a model for use in other Cape Cod towns as well as coastal communities throughout Massachusetts.



Wellfleet commissioned APCC with the task of drafting the bylaw through a Direct Local Technical Assistance grant awarded to the town by the Cape Cod Commission. The Cape Cod Commission and APCC are partners on the Wellfleet project, which builds upon a NOAA grant to the commission to develop a toolbox of coastal adaptation measures that towns could utilize to improve climate change resiliency. APCC collaborated with the commission on the NOAA grant as well.

APCC will continue to work with the Wellfleet Conservation Commission on refining the bylaw and, potentially, developing accompanying regulations.



Photo: Gerald Beetham

CHILDS RIVER

restoration project advances

Restoration of Childs River will improve habitat for brook trout and other fish and aquatic species.

APCC's Restoration Coordination Center has been working with the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club and their partners since late 2016 to support planning for the restoration of the upper Childs River in Falmouth.

This work has ramped up in the last six months with funding from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust and EPA Southeast New England Program watershed grants through collaboration with Restore America's Estuaries. With this support, the project has now completed initial designs and is in the permitting process.

The Childs River restoration is similar to the project currently underway at the neighboring Coonamessett River. Work will include removal of an earthen dam and failed fish ladder, replacement of an undersized culvert under Carriage Shop Road and restoration of two abandoned cranberry bogs to natural wetlands. Once complete, this project aims to provide expanded coldwater habitat for brook trout, access to new habitat for other fish and aquatic species, improved habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife, increased resilience to major storms and uptake of nutrients contributing to poor water quality in Waquoit Bay.



Photo: USGS

Photo: USGS

Brook Trout

Sea run brook trout is one of the species of focus in APCC's "State of the Waters: Cape Cod" initiative (*See story on page 4*). Trout, which live in cold, clear waters, have experienced a decline in population and viable habitat. The freshwater ponds and streams that provide habitat for brook trout are being impacted by poor water quality from nutrients, stormwater runoff and warming due to climate change. Restoration efforts such as the Childs River project are important to the future of the species. It is APCC's hope that the State of the Waters project will increase public awareness and lead to improvements in water quality across the Cape, one outcome being restoration of habitat for at-risk fish species such as sea run brook trout.



Photo: Gerald Beetham



Photo: Gerald Beetham

STATE OF THE WATERS

APCC PREPARES FOR THE RELEASE
OF A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK
AT THE STATE OF CAPE COD'S WATERS

APCC is embarking on a major initiative in 2019 to help inform the public and policy makers about the quality of Cape Cod's many and varied water resources. The purpose of the project, called "State of the Waters: Cape Cod," is to help restore and improve water resources and aquatic ecosystems across the Cape through publication of an easily understood "report card" assessment of the quality of our water resources.

Cape Cod's water resources—our coastal estuaries, ponds, rivers and groundwater—provide critical habitat, are integral to our regional economy, and in the case of groundwater, supply the Cape with its source of drinking water. However, many of the Cape's waters have been degraded by excess nutrients, bacteria, contaminated groundwater plumes and other sources of pollution.

Photo: Gerald Beetham



Photo: Gerald Beetham



Photo: Gerald Beetham



Photo: Steven Koppel



Photo: Gerald Beetham



Photo: Gerald Beetham

So, what is the state of Cape Cod's water?

Over the years, the state, towns and many organizations and groups have collected water quality data on individual water bodies and water resources. But that information, which was collected to help inform decisions on measures to protect and improve water resources, is all too often relegated to reports and studies that are not easily available, digestible or acted upon; or, the collected data has never been interpreted. Just as significant, the information, collected by various groups or agencies across the Cape, has never been organized together in a single source to give a comprehensive, Cape-wide assessment of the region's different water resources.

APCC is currently compiling, researching and interpreting available existing water quality data on the Cape's marine and freshwater resources. Later this year, the information will be published in a report featuring an easy to understand grading system and report cards that describe the quality of Cape Cod's coastal estuaries, ponds, drinking water and groundwater. The results will be updated on a yearly basis to measure any changes in the quality of individual water bodies. Another important product will be APCC's "Cape Cod Water Action Plan," which will offer recommendations on local and regional water quality improvement strategies as well as actions that individual homeowners and businesses can take to protect water quality.

The report cards, report and water action plan will be provided in the form of a web-based interactive map. The map will be hosted on a website that will also include an analysis of water quality data collected, interpreted and organized in a manner that enables everyone to gain a common understanding about the state of the Cape's water quality.

APCC believes that promoting increased public understanding of the health of the Cape's water resources will improve policy and investment decisions, leading to better coastal and freshwater watershed management for Cape Cod by local, regional, state and federal decision makers. The "State of the Waters: Cape Cod" program will be designed so that it can also serve as a model for replication across Massachusetts, in both coastal and inland regions.



Photo: Gerald Beetham



"State of the Waters: Cape Cod" is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. MET is one of the Commonwealth's premier environmental philanthropy organizations and is mainly funded by environmental license plate revenues.

Purchasing an environmental license plate supports MET's work. Environmental license plates are available from the Registry of Motor Vehicles at <https://secure.rmv.state.ma.us/SpecialPlates/intro.aspx>.

Visit MET's website at mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-environmental-trust to learn more about MET, the programs it supports and specialty license plate offerings. Support for "State of the Waters: Cape Cod" is also provided by the Cape Cod 5 Charitable Foundation, Friendship Fund and dues and donations from APCC members.

You have a say in Cape Cod's future.

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, or go to APCC.org to make a secure online contribution.



© Steven Koppel

Photo by Steven Koppel. Steve is a Cape Cod photographer and founder of the EDI Institute, a charitable organization promoting healing, connection, and self-expression through digital imagery. Learn more and watch Steve's TEDx talk at ediinstitute.org.

It's spring and the herring are running

Cape Cod is in the midst of river herring migration season, which means the spring volunteer herring counting program is in full swing.

Scores of volunteers across the Cape are counting herring as the fish travel upstream to their spawning grounds. In 2007, APCC began working with Cape communities and state agencies on the volunteer herring run monitoring program to promote restoration and protection of the fish and their habitat. The counting effort this spring will assist fisheries managers in estimating the herring run sizes for 2019 and—long-term—help track trends in river herring populations.

APCC collaborates with many partner organizations and town natural resources staff to provide training, technical support and equipment for the program. **Find out more at APCC.org/herring.**

Local Businesses Support APCC and Cape Cod's Environment



STEVEN KOPPEL
PHOTOGRAPHY

Fine art photographer **Steven Koppel** is donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of his stunning Cape Cod prints to APCC. His work is available through the Focus Gallery, 595 Main Street, Chatham. Find out more about his photography at stevenkoppel.com.



E2 Solar on Route 6A in Dennis is Cape Cod's premier SunPower dealer. For every APCC member going solar with SunPower by E2 Solar, APCC will receive \$500. See E2solarcapecod.com for more information, or call 508-802-4344.



VOLUNTEERING FOR APCC

APCC's mission is furthered by our dedicated volunteers whose generosity of spirit and skills is greatly appreciated. Those interested in offering some of their time and talent to APCC are invited to fill out a volunteer form at APCC.org/volunteering.



APCC endorses Vineyard Wind

APCC executive director Andrew Gottlieb and Vineyard Wind chief development officer Erich Stephens at the Vineyard Wind press conference in December.



Photo: Gerald Beetham

APCC has endorsed the Vineyard Wind project, a proposal to develop an 800-megawatt offshore wind facility in federal waters south of Martha's Vineyard. The announcement was made in December at a press conference conducted by Andrew Gottlieb, APCC's executive director, alongside Erich Stephens, chief development officer for Vineyard Wind.

The decision by APCC to support Vineyard Wind came after many months of exhaustive scrutiny of the project that included review of the volumes of multiple filings submitted by project developers for state and federal regulatory agencies.

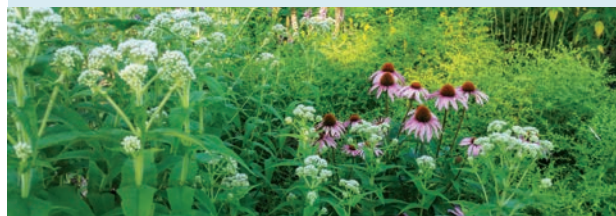
APCC felt the need to take a public stand in endorsing Vineyard Wind in the wake of a report released last year by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which predicted dire consequences unless world governments and private businesses commit to immediate action on radical changes that significantly reduce carbon emissions. Once completed, Vineyard Wind will generate enough clean energy to offset approximately 1.63 million tons per year of carbon dioxide emissions, the main greenhouse gas fueling climate change. This would be the equivalent of removing 325,000 cars from the road.

APCC realizes that all major projects have some impacts, and Vineyard Wind is no exception. But, the impact to the environment and to human society will be catastrophically more significant if nothing is done to address climate change. APCC reached a point in our review of the project where we are confident Vineyard Wind has worked in good faith to avoid the potential for most environmental impacts, especially the potential for impacts to the endangered North Atlantic right whale and other marine mammals and birds.

In offering our endorsement, APCC is still committed to continued review of the project as it moves forward to ensure that the highest environmental protection standards are maintained in its development and operation, both offshore and on Cape Cod.



APCC Presents Eco-Landscape Talks



THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2 P.M.

MASHPEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kill Your Lawn

with Mark Richardson, director of horticulture at Tower Hill Botanic Garden.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2 P.M.

MASHPEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pollinators ~ What Do Bees Need? And How to Support Native Bees on Cape Cod

with Emily May from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

Lectures are free, but registration required at APCC.org/events.

The lectures are part of a stormwater management project to improve water quality in the Three Bays area of Barnstable and are funded by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and the Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grants through a collaboration with Restore America's Estuaries. Partners include the town of Barnstable, Barnstable Land Trust, Barnstable Clean Water Coalition and Horsley Witten Group.



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The Association to Preserve Cape Cod is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1968 to foster policies and programs that promote the preservation of natural resources on Cape Cod.

Support comes from over 3,000 members, and from gifts and grants from individuals, foundations and businesses.

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Living Legacy

APCC has benefited greatly over the years from bequests from our members. Making a bequest is as easy as adding the following language to your will:

"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)."

You can direct how you want your legacy gift to be used by choosing "the general purposes of APCC at the direction of its Board of Directors," or if you'd prefer to have your legacy live on in an endowment, you can direct it "to be added to APCC's permanent endowment."

Wise Ways to Give

Donating appreciated securities may be a prudent way to be charitable, as you can avoid paying tax on capital gains. It's also easy! And, if you are 70½ or over and make a gift to APCC directly from your IRA, it counts toward your required minimum distribution—and avoids tax.

To learn more, please contact Andrew Gottlieb at 508-619-3185 or agottlieb@apcc.org.

Please note: This information should not be considered as legal, tax or financial advice. Consult your professional advisor for further information and guidance.

Learn more at **APCC.org**

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