



Cape and Islands Municipal Leaders Association, Inc.

Representing 22 Municipalities & 105 Elected Officials

MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING Minutes
Saturday, January 20, 2024; 11:30 AM
Hynes Convention Center
Boston, Massachusetts

Meeting with Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll

After canvassing the meeting room, President Galligan recognized that: *Quorum has been met.*

MEETING DISCUSSION

Our group gathered at a prescribed room to meet the Lt. Governor thanks to the efforts of Mark Forest, Kevin Galligan and others.

President Galligan recognized Representative Flanagan, Cape Cod Chamber CEO Paul Niedzwiecki and Kristy Senatori and Erin Perry of the Cape Cod Commission among the municipal officials in the room.

Topics discussed when the Lt. Governor arrived:

- Clean Energy is an opportunity in Massachusetts and the Cape is especially affected regarding climate change.
- The new Title V regulations affect the Cape differently from the way it affects communities off cape. Good progress has been made to accommodate the concerns from Cape municipalities. More of the Cape towns are investing in sewers and doing it at a faster rate than originally anticipated.
- Affordable Housing is tied to our communities. A housing bill employs a policy shift, working to help how to say yes to housing. The Municipal Empowerment Bill provides for a suite of tools to give municipalities tools for local option taxes.

- There was a discussion on the funding of the Cape and Islands Water Protection Fund. The Cape relies on the subsidy, and we request an increase in revenue for this Fund. Andrew Gottlieb mentioned that the Cape and Island Water Protection Fund is a success, but towns are asking for more money than the Fund can provide. There was a discussion regarding a strategy to use federal money to go to disadvantaged communities. This allows the first slug of money to move forward for the anticipated subsidy.
- Perhaps the Housing Bill can fund a part of it to support housing with sewer as infrastructure. Perhaps a future Environmental Bond Bill can help to piece together funding sources to support clean water projects. The SRF (State Revolving Funds) loans can go out to 30 years. The Lt. Governor said that our economic benefits can help justify the funding.
- We also would like to encourage rehabilitation of existing housing. The Lt. Governor said that the Commonwealth needs more housing production.
- Bridge replacement was also discussed. If the Commonwealth takes ownership of the bridges will the state assume responsibility for maintenance? Yes- it is part of accepting federal money.
- Joint Base Cape Cod needs a Task Force to help develop water policies. There is concern that wastewater disposition will not jeopardize the drinking water supply.
- The cable landing in Barnstable is a concern. Barnstable is the “tip of the spear”? In event of a failure of the substations, what will assure protection for Barnstable’s resources, including our drinking water sources. It is a divisive issue in Barnstable. Lt. Governor Driscoll said that we have an outdated electric grid and that the electric delivery utilities are upgrading the grid. Other Cape towns have concerns with wind farm proposals too. JBCC could be used for a regional substation.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kris Clark
Clerk