

Cape and Islands Municipal Leaders Association, Inc. (CIMLA)  
Tuesday, August 1, 2023  
OneCape Summit/Wequassett Resort Outer Bar and Grill  
2173 Route 28, Harwich, MA 02645

Attendance attached.

President Kevin Galligan welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. He encouraged members to suggest topics and speakers for upcoming meetings. He introduced Cape Cod Commission Executive Director, Kristy Senatori.

Ms. Senatori provided brief opening remarks noting that this is the 9<sup>th</sup> annual OneCape Summit. She recognized the work of the state legislative delegation and invited Senator Susan Moran to address the group.

Senator Moran reported that yesterday, the last day of the legislative session before the summer break, the state budget was approved, noting that many important housing programs were funded. She also noted that with the upcoming bridge replacement projects and ongoing maintenance work needed until then, she is working with the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce to remind visitors that Cape Cod remains open for business.

Ms. Senatori thanked Senator Moran and introduced Edward Augustus, Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. She noted his 30+ year career of public service including as Mayor of the City of Worcester and highlighted that this is the first time in over 30 years the Commonwealth has had a separate cabinet secretary dedicated to housing.

Secretary Augustus told the group that this was his fourth visit to Cape Cod in his two-month tenure in the position. He spoke of a housing crisis across the Commonwealth and acknowledged the unique challenges facing Cape Cod. The crisis, he noted, is an existential threat to the state's competitiveness. He said while Massachusetts is a hub for higher education, graduates face a choice; remain in the state and spend 50% to 60% of their income on housing or move and spend 30% of their income on housing. Reflecting on the two canal bridges, he highlighted that many of those crossing the bridges are our employees, commuting to keep the Cape Cod economy functioning without being able to live here. He noted that Massachusetts is not losing population due to quality of life or job opportunities, but to lack of housing. As is required every five years, his office will be filing a bond bill this Fall to capitalize a wide variety of housing programs. He noted that Massachusetts is the only state with a Right to Shelter Law and that currently 25,000 people representing 5,400 families are served by the program; with a vacancy rate of 2.7%; 160,000 are on a waiting list for housing. He listed many of the tools available and others being considered, including a transfer fee.

Noting that the Commonwealth doesn't build housing, but supports developers who do, Governor Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll charged him with developing new policies that would support more housing at a faster pace. He said they continue to look at state owned or controlled surplus property and encouraged members to contact his office if they are aware of any in their communities. Aligning policies to create additional housing, such as through the MBTA zoning law; MGL Ch 40A s 3A, requiring that an MBTA community (having or adjacent to public transit) have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right). He noted that 175 of the 177 communities to which this applies are currently in compliance; his office is working with the other two. He also noted that inflation driving up the interest rates as well as supply chain issues have hurt housing development. His office will focus on removing zoning barriers, expanding flexibility in how, and for which aspects of housing development, state funds are used as well as providing technical assistance for communities to align with policies. The Secretary took several questions from the audience.

President Galligan thanked Secretary Augustus and moved to the last agenda item, discussion and vote to direct CIMLA Board of Directors to send MassDEP a letter in support of the tentative decision to deny Holtec International's permit application to discharge radioactive wastewater from Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station into Cape Cod Bay. Upon a motion by Elizabeth Harder, second by Alan McLennan, the motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Elizabeth Harder, second by Kris Clark, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 a.m.

## Attendance

1. Mark Ameres
2. Mary Anderson
3. Susan Areson
4. Edward Augustus
5. Art Autorino
6. Amanda Bebrin
7. Doug Brown
8. Suzanne Bryan
9. Mary Chafee
10. Kris Clark
11. Melissa Ferretti
12. Owen Fletcher
13. Kevin Galligan
14. Jill Goldsmith
15. Lilli-Ann Green
16. Elizabeth Harder
17. Michael Herman
18. Kari Hoffmann
19. Michael Holcomb
20. Charlie Holden
21. Chris Lambton
22. Matthew Levesque
23. Peter Lombardi
24. Betty Ludtke
25. Robert Mascali
26. Mark Mathison
27. Alan McClennan
28. Corey Metters
29. Su Moran
30. Dean Nicaastro
31. Joseph Powers
32. Andrea Shaw Reed
33. Leslie Sandberg
34. Mike Schell
35. Paula Schnepf
36. Anne-Marie Siroonian
37. Michaela Wyman-Colombo
38. Medford Runyon