



Cape and Islands Municipal Leaders Association, Inc.

Representing 22 Municipalities & 105 Elected Officials

MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING Minutes
Friday, September 8, 2023; 8:00 AM
Lower Cape TV; 5 Namskaket Road, Orleans, MA 02653

DRAFT

President Kevin Galligan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Towns represented: Barnstable, Bourne, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown, Wellfleet

Quorum has been met.

MEETING DISCUSSION

- Draft Minutes were made available by the Clerk. Kevin has posted them online for members to view.
- Treasurer's Report
- Host Community/ Lower Cape TV: Teresa Martin, Executive Director of the Lower Cape TV welcomed the attendees to their facility for our meeting.
- MassDOT presentation on the Cape Cod Bridges Program. John Bechard, P.E, Deputy Chief Engineer of Project Development Highway Division gave us an update on the plan to construct new vehicular bridges for the Cape. They work with other state and federal agencies.
 - o Mr. Bechard discussed various aspects of their scope of work including environmental considerations, alternatives, grant applications and future steps. They permit the project through MEPA- Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and have filed a DEIR- Draft Environmental Impact Report. They will also execute an Environmental Impact Statement.
 - o He explained the Alternative Development Update. The size and scale of the new bridges are expected to be similar to our current bridges. They are addressing the conflict points, establishing an extra lane for merging traffic, wider shoulders and a shared use path. The interchanges around both ends of the bridges will involve considerable work. Mass DOT filed grants with the federal government on August 21, 2023. Mr. Bechard reminded us that the state does not own the bridges, the Army Corps of Engineers does.

- The Sagamore Bridge was selected to be built first because it carries more traffic and is a smaller bridge. They will continue to conduct public outreach. The staff has weekly meetings on this project. Progress may be accessed through: mass.gov/cape-bridges and the project coordinator is Bryan Cordero. Questions were asked and answered. There were some concerns that funding for the second (Bourne) bridge could languish. There is a Memo of Understanding with the Army Corps that Mass DOT will take ownership of the bridges once the construction of the bridges is complete. Greg Milne suggested that pieces of the Bridges be sold as souvenirs and could contribute to a possible funding opportunity.
 - Gareth Saunders is the liaison regarding the bridges: gareth.saunders@dot.state.ma.us There will be another planning meeting for the bridges on September 26 from 3-5 PM at the Massachusetts Maritime's Ballroom
 - Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Outreach and Advocacy for the Replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges
 - Paul Niedzwiecki, CEO, explained his perspective on how the bridges have affected the Cape. He noted that due to several factors the labor supply and workforce on the cape have been displaced. Mr. Niedzwiecki provided figures and data, including that 30% of our workforce travel over the bridge. He mentioned that the Healey application is thorough. He explained that there's some urgency to replace the bridges, because these aging bridges will need expensive maintenance work if they are not replaced before maintenance is necessary, meaning more frequent and inconvenient consequences for travelers.
 - Mr. Niedzwiecki explained that the state is establishing Tourism Destination Districts and that he and his staff will be working to establish such a District for the Cape to promote tourism and travel. 70 cents of every dollar on the Cape are tied to tourism. Questions and answers: How will the railroad be impacted? It was mentioned that the Canal is not as relevant as it used to be. The growth of Short-Term Rentals displaced housing for our work force, causing an economic disruption with the increased traffic over the bridges.
 - Ed announced that the Harwich Cranberry Festival will be on Saturday and Sunday, September 16 and 17, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (many booths will remain open longer!)
- MOTION: To adjourn: Made by Alan McClenan, seconded by Ron Bergstrom. Unanimous.** Meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Next meeting: October 13, 2023 at 7:30 AM in Sandwich, featuring the Massachusetts Municipal Association's legislative breakfast. A good turnout is expected.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kris Clark
Clerk