



# Martha's Vineyard Commission

## Mid-Year Report 2013

June 18, 2013

Here are some of the main things that the MVC has been or is working on as of June 2013.

### **Housing Needs Assessment**

Economic Development and Affordable Housing Planner Christine Flynn coordinated and facilitated the preparation of a Housing Needs Assessment for Martha's Vineyard, working with consultant Karen Sunnarborg and a Study Committee made up of appointed representatives from each Island town, the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority, and the MVC. The assessment consists of three parts:

- Town and Island-Wide Profiles including demographic, social, and economic data to quantify the greatest current and projected housing needs;
- Organizational Capacity of existing housing organizations, projects, and programs; and
- Final Recommendations for long term financially sustainable community housing policies, programs, and projects, to best leverage community assets and resources.

We are presenting the final report at a public meeting on June 19.

### **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan**

Coastal Planner Jo-Ann Taylor and GIS Coordinator Chris Seidel are working, with input from town emergency managers, on an update of the 2007 Dukes County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. We are using new and much more accurate elevation data (Lidar) and new FEMA flood maps (FIRM) to update a vulnerability assessment for Dukes County, identifying and quantifying structures and critical facilities affected by natural hazards such as flooding, storm surges (SLOSH), and wildfire. We are also adding a vulnerability

assessment arising from sea-level rise. The maps will be shared with towns and the public over the summer with a view to completing the update this fall. Having an updated PDM plan is a prerequisite for receiving certain federal funding for town projects.

### **Massachusetts Estuaries Project and Water Resources**

Water Resources Planner Sheri Caseau and GIS Coordinator Chris Seidel continue to work with the researchers at the UMass School for Marine Science and Technology in preparing MEP studies for each of the Island's watersheds. These studies identify the extent of nitrogen pollution in each pond and outline possible actions to reduce the nitrogen to safe levels. We are now preparing land use and build-out analyses for the Menemsha, Squibnocket, Chilmark and Oyster Ponds, and Katama Bay watersheds. We continue to work with town committees and pond associations and the Water Alliance in prioritizing efforts to implement proposals for ponds whose reports have been completed, such as Lagoon, Sengekontacket and Tisbury Great Ponds. An initial new coastal ponds section of the MVC website was prepared, the first step in what will be an extensive new Coastal Ponds website to provide clear and simple information to stakeholders and the public as an aid to decision making. We are also starting water quality sampling for the summer season.

### **Transportation Planning**

Senior Planner Bill Veno and new Transportation Planner Priscilla Leclerc are working with the Joint Transportation Committee on a number of transportation projects. The Transportation Improvement Program for the next four years includes the reconfiguration of the Old County

Road / State Road intersection in West Tisbury for Fiscal Year 2014 and the extension of the Beach Road shared-use path and other improvements in Tisbury starting in FY2017. We are exploring with MDOT a potential project involving the resurfacing of the Edgartown – Vineyard Haven Road in Tisbury, Oak Bluffs, and Edgartown. We facilitate the work of the Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee, representing the Island in its relations with MassDOT; work on the drawbridge will begin this fall. We are also working with the Safe-Routes to Schools Committee as part of the bicycle- pedestrian advisory committee efforts.

### **Arts Martha's Vineyard**

Executive Director Mark London and Economic Development and Affordable Housing Planner Christine Flynn are working with the Arts Martha's Vineyard on a number of initiatives to help stimulate the Vineyard economy, especially in the off-season. One is a proposal for Commonwealth designation of a Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District. Another is to make October's Fall for the Arts a permanent and important part of the Vineyard calendar of events, in collaboration with the Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod, and Nantucket Chambers of Commerce.

### **Emergency Response**

GIS Coordinator Chris Seidel is working with MassGIS as part of a state-wide unique address project to assist emergency responders. We are also working with Chilmark on an online interactive map to assist emergency responders.

### **Developments of Regional Impact**

The Commission and DRI Coordinator Paul Foley completed review of 11 projects so far this year and have 5 projects currently under review. Several other projects were reviewed for compliance.

- In Edgartown, we remanded two modifications back to the Town (Chadwick Inn conversion and Field House Affordable Housing change). A proposed change to the Houlahan

subdivision is poised for review and the Compliance Committee has been dealing with the Kidder and Leland Subdivisions.

- In Oak Bluffs, the Commission approved one project with conditions (Oak Bluffs Fueling Facility) and one landscape plan (MVTV). We are currently reviewing an expansion to a church on Ryan's Way (Nova Vida/Alliance Church) and the Compliance Committee has looked at the Kupersmith Subdivision affordable housing condition.
- In Tisbury, the Commission approved three projects with conditions (new building at 10 State Road, addition on Evelyn Way, and a new hybrid undersea cable). The demolition of a small commercial building on Beach Road was returned to the Town as a non-concurrence and the MVC is currently reviewing a proposed large expansion of the Tisbury Stop & Shop.
- In West Tisbury, the Commission remanded a proposal to create a home-site lot at the Plum Bush Point subdivision and approved with conditions a new Verizon Wireless Cell Tower. We are now looking at a proposed medical office building and 90' monopole at the airport.

### **Other Projects**

We are also working on the following:

- New state fertilizer regulations and the potential for Vineyard towns to adopt their own regulations;
- Review of zoning by-laws to promote affordable housing with Chilmark, Oak Bluffs, and Tisbury affordable housing committees;
- Update of towns' Community Development Strategies, in collaboration with six towns' Board of Selectmen and gathering supplemental materials and coordinating public hearings for FY2014 CDBG Applications (prepared by Bailey Boyd Associates), assisting town administrators.