



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 8
SEPTEMBER 2004

The MVC Website

The MVC website – www.mvcommission.org – has a wide range of useful information. Here are some examples:

- The **Commission** explains various facets of the organization.
- The **Calendar** lists upcoming meetings and events. We are experimenting with making background material related to public hearings available.
- The **Planning** section gives explains the range of MVC planning efforts in various fields.
- The **DRI** and **DCPC** sections include guidance documents for applicants and the public as well as searchable lists of previous applications.
- The **Resource Center** includes downloadable planning and scientific documents about a whole host of subjects in pdf format.

Community Development Plans

For the past year, the MVC assisted each of the six Vineyard towns in preparing Community Development (CD) Plans, completed at the end of July. The plans used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping to evaluate land suitability, in order to help to plan for appropriate growth management. Working with all six towns simultaneously allowed MVC staff to develop a single methodology, thereby facilitating comparable analysis and coordination of future Island-wide planning efforts.

Each plan identified the town's primary land use issues and goals, as well as the town's recent growth, conservation, housing and economic trends in the context of the entire Island. The suitability plans focused on land that presently is neither conserved nor developed, but "available".



The plans evaluated 13 characteristics of these lands—such as habitat and proximity to existing commercial centers—to create suitability maps for open space, housing and economic development.

This information can be used by decision makers, landowners and the community in weighing the relative value of undeveloped land for development or for permanent conservation. Towns can use the information to shape other planning documents such as open space plans, master plans and affordable housing strategies. The computerized mapping allows for quicker updating of town records and the provision of digital maps and a database available to all town departments. An approved CD plan also allows a town to receive bonus points for competitive state grant programs, including the popular self-help grants.

The MVC is distributing paper and digital copies of the CD plans to the Towns and public libraries. Digital copies on computer disk may be purchased for \$5. Due to the many maps, the plans are too large to e-mail. The MVC hopes to soon post the plans on its website, but must overcome the file size issue. Please contact the MVC if you would like additional information about the Community Development plans.

www.mvcommission.org

Vineyard Surveys

In mid-August, the MVC conducted an origin-destination survey as part of a broader traffic study requested by the Town of Tisbury Planning Board. For two days, Commission staff handed out cards to motorists at the intersection of State Road and the Edgartown – Vineyard Haven Road, asking where that journey began and ended. The information is used to project likely impacts of possible alternations to the road network such as a connector road that would allow some traffic to bypass this intersection. It will also be used to calibrate a computer model being developed by the Commission to simulate Island traffic.

A second survey carried out in August was an extensive questionnaire distributed to residents and visitors through both local newspapers. This survey included questions about the nature and location of households, their travel patterns, and their opinions about the Vineyard today and in the future.

This major survey of Island residents and visitors is the last in a series of surveys carried out by the Martha's Vineyard Commission over the past two years. The purpose is to provide Island decision makers a better understanding of the activities and attitudes of the people who live on and visit Martha's Vineyard. Previous surveys were directed to people traveling off-Island and to businesses.

The surveys were funded in part by MassHighway and the National Highway Administration.

MVC Completes 2004 Pond Sampling

This summer four rounds of water samples were collected from 40 stations in Chilmark, Cape Pogue, Poucha, Sengekontacket, Farm, Lagoon and Tashmoo ponds with funding support from the DEP and the Massachusetts Estuaries Project. Additional samples were collected from 25 stations in Edgartown Great Pond, Crackatuxet, Tisbury Great Pond and Oak Bluffs Harbor. These samples will be analyzed for dissolved and particulate nutrients and chlorophyll to the parts per billion level at the UMass School of Marine Science lab. In addition, data was collected on temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen from the surface to the bottom each time out. All of this data will become the basis for an in-depth, state of the art evaluation of the health of the ponds.

Another forty water samples were collected from 13 fresh water ponds and analyzed for nutrients, chlorophyll and methyl mercury with funding from the Edey Foundation. Bill Wilcox, Water Resource Planner, Tonya Jilek, Summer Intern, and School of Marine Science personnel carried out the sampling program.

The Blob in Fresh Pond

An unusual colonial bryozoan was found in Fresh Pond, Oak Bluffs this summer. For pictures and discussion go to mvcommission.org and search for the word "blob".

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DRI Status Report

The following are current Developments of Regional Impact.

Vineyard Home Center – Change of use, Tisbury (#339M-3), non-concurrence September 9, 2004

Dukes County Savings Bank at Nobnocket – New bank branch and back office with a small daycare, Tisbury (#578) DD September 30, 2004

4 Causeway Road – Construction of an office building with apartments, Tisbury (#574): PH October 7, 2004

Vineyard Golf Club Housing - 16 units of housing, Edgartown (#484M-4) Referral received June 15, 2004

1986 Evelyn Way Trust - construction of warehouse and office space, Tisbury (#576) On hold at Applicant's request

Tarkiln Subdivision – Edgartown (#470M-3) On hold at Applicant's request

*LUPC Land Use Planning Committee review
PH Commission Public Hearing
DD Commission deliberation and decision
WD Commission vote on written decision*

All meetings at the Commission offices unless otherwise noted. (Information: Paul Foley at extension 18 and Jo-Ann Taylor at extension 19)

DCPC Status Report

Town of Aquinnah Amendments to Regulations – Aquinnah; Found in conformance September 9, 2004

Meetings

Thursday, September 29, 5 p.m.

All-Island Conservation Commissions

Dr. Brian Howes

Wednesday, October 6 5 p.m.

All-Island Affordable Housing Groups