Cape Cod Commission
Executive Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting

September 2, 2026

Call to Order - Chairman Tom Wilson called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. He announced that the meeting is being held virtually pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, as amended. He read some instructions for meeting participation:

> If anyone wishes to speak, please raise your hand and wait to be recognized. He asked members to make sure their camera is turned on if they are raising their hand to speak.
>
> To raise hand, click on the "Raise Hand" icon. On some versions of ZOOM, the raise hand may be under the "More" icon on the bottom of your screen. For those who called in by telephone by press *9. You will be recognized by name when it is your time to speak. If anyone is having a technical issue, use either the chat box on your screen or call (508) 362–3828 and staff will assist you.

He noted that the names of members who are remotely participating will be announced as attendance roll call is taken.

Attendance Roll Call
Tom Wilson – Present
Douglas Fromm – Present
Dennis Prebensen – Present
Kevin Grunwald – Present
Elizabeth Taylor – Present

Review & Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes –Upon a motion by Dennis Prebensen, seconded by Kevin Grunwald, members voted to approve the 8/6/2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes as follows:
Tom Wilson – Yes
Douglas Fromm – Abstain
Dennis Prebensen – Yes
Kevin Grunwald – Abstain
Elizabeth Taylor – Abstain

Upon a motion by Dennis Prebensen, seconded by Kevin Grunwald, members voted to approve the 8/6/2026 Executive Committee Executive Session minutes as follows:
Tom Wilson – Yes
Douglas Fromm – Abstain
Dennis Prebensen – Yes
Kevin Grunwald – Abstain
Elizabeth Taylor – Abstain

Executive Director's Report – Kristy Senatori provided an update on recent staff activities.

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- Staff are continuing work on the regional open space plan. This week and next, public meetings are scheduled in Orleans Barnstable, Wellfleet and Sandwich and an online survey was launched with a press release today. The Commission was awarded a $246K grant from EEOEA for open space planning, which will fund an economic analysis of the value of the region's natural and recreational assets. When the grant agreement is executed, the Commission is ready to award a contract to Econsult Solutions, Inc (ESI)I for the economic study. Cape Cod Outdoors, a new interactive online tool providing information about more than 500 recreational sites across all 15 towns, was also made available on the Commission's website.

- Staff continue to participate in meetings of the Canal Bridges Advisory group and the Cape and Islands Bridges Coalition; MassDOT will attend both groups' meetings on September 8th and are scheduled to attend the October 1st Barnstable Town Council meeting. State Senator Dylan Fernandes hosted a public forum on the bridges in Mashpee last week with MassDOT officials. We are coordinating with Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director of MassDOT's Mega Projects Delivery Office, on a presentation at an upcoming Commission meeting, perhaps later this month or October. No information yet on funding for the Bourne bridge replacement.

- Planning continues for the 2026 OneCape Summit. A contract was executed with the Wequassett Resort in Harwich for a November 16th event. Save the Date notices were sent. Staff are working to secure speakers and finalize an agenda.

- The County Commissioners have been scheduling a standing item on its agendas – Cape Cod's carrying capacity. While there may be some discrepancy about the definition of carrying capacity, the commissioners have received public comments with concerns around housing, especially 40B projects, and water supply issues. Ms. Senatori has had conversations with the Commissioners and County Administrator and noted that the most recent Regional Policy Plan addresses both housing and natural resources and defines the work we'll be doing in this area. She expects opportunities to look at both water supply and access. Ms. Senatori also reported that she recently received a copy of a letter from the Harwich Select Board to the County Commissioners requesting them to initiate legislative action to allow the Commission to review 40B projects.

- Some sad news to share. Len Short, former Commission member from Orleans, passed away last month. He served from April 2014 through April 2020. Douglas Fromm noted that there will be a gathering on Friday, 9/11 from 2 to 4 pm at Len's home in Orleans.

- Ms. Senatori reminded members that her current employment agreement ends on October 2nd. The committee met on August 6th to conduct her performance evaluation and submitted a letter dated The Barnstable County Commissioners have not begun contract negotiations on either an extension or new contract. Mark Forest has suggested that he may schedule an executive session to discuss negotiations on an upcoming meeting agenda this month. No performance evaluation has been scheduled yet. Wanted to alert you and will be able to reconvene the committee if warranted.

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Douglas Fromm asked if the Commission was involved in the Governor Prence property in Orleans. Ms. Senatori said it was a 40B project and comments were sent to the town. She said she would share the comment letter with him.

Kevin Grunwald said he attended part of County Commissioners' meeting in Truro last week and agreed there's confusion regarding the Commission's role around development. He suggested that it might be helpful if Ms. Senatori could work with the Commissioners to jointly clarify roles.

Executive Session
Chairman Wilson asked for a motion and roll call vote to go into executive session for purpose (3) of the open meeting law to discuss litigation strategy in the matter of **Aretusa, LLC v. Barnstable County on behalf of the Cape Cod Commission – Barnstable Superior Court Civil Action No. 2672CV00317** because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, with a return to public session.

Elizabeth Taylor moved and Kevin Grunwald seconded the motion. At 11:45 a.m. the motion was approved as follows:
Tom Wilson – Yes
Douglas Fromm – Yes
Dennis Prebensen – Yes
Elizabeth Taylor – Yes
Kevin Grunwald - Yes

Public session resumed at 11:57 a.m.

Cape Cod Environmental Protection Fund (CCEPF) Update Gail Coyne provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2026 Expenditures, Revenues and CCEPF Fund Balance. Revenues totaled $5,610,176 in FY26; Expenditures totaled $5,510,148 from operating ($5,290,148) and capital budgets ($220K). With excess revenue over expenditures of just over $100K she reviewed recommended allocations in fund balance with the committee. After required restrictions on some funds for prior year encumbrances and current year appropriations, she noted that staff recommends the current allocation of funds for legal and personnel expenses and special projects could continue unchanged with an increase in the allocation to the building/capital fund. Building the capital reserves will allow staff to continue searching for a suitable property for its offices. After responding to a question about legal reserves, Ms. Coyne asked if committee members agreed with the recommended allocations. Executive Committee members supported the recommended CCEPF allocations by consensus.

New Business - none

Adjourn
Upon a motion by Elizabeth Taylor seconded by Dennis Prebensen, members voted unanimously to adjourn at 12:05 p.m.

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Documents Used/Received:

- Draft 8/6/26 Executive Committee and Executive Session minutes
- 9/2/2026 Executive Committee PowerPoint slides

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