

**CAPE COD AND THE ISLANDS SELECTMEN AND
COUNCILORS ASSOCIATION**

REPRESENTING 105 ELECTED OFFICIALS AND 22 MUNICIPALITIES

Meeting Minutes, April 12, 2019
PB Boulangerie, Wellfleet, MA

Executive Board Member Andrew Gottlieb called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM and called for the roll call.

Roll Call.

Clerk Ed McManus called the roll. Barnstable, Brewster, Bourne, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, Wellfleet.

With 13 Towns represented the Clerk declared a quorum Present.

Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Don Picard presented the finance report. Motion to approve was made and was passed unanimously.

Minutes.

The minutes of the March 08, 2019 meeting was presented. A motion to approve was made and passed unanimously.

Representative's Comments.

Representative Sara K. Peake, Sarah.Peake@mahouse.gov

Representative Peake spoke on the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative ((MSI) and specifically the MSI Task Force. She and Senator Vinny deMacedo are members of the task Force.

See http://www.massshellfishinitiative.org/uploads/1/0/4/9/104987295/cccf-a_msi_update_-_barnstable_3.20.19.pdf for an overview of the MSI.

The MSI Task Force first meeting was held on January 2, 2019 and undertook the following initiatives:

1. Determined that it needed more research and input on the current resources, challenges, and needs before proceeding;
2. Created an Assessment Committee to complete research and report back to the Task Force, comprised of Task Force appointees

and volunteers; and 3. Created a Steering Committee to organize meetings and take direction from Task Force.

Representative Peake noted that the Massachusetts Aquaculture Association <http://www.massaquaculture.org/index.html> recently introduced a proposal to the Massachusetts Legislature to allow the current holder vested-use Rights to Aquaculture without end: these Rights would be able to be passed on generation to generation.

The MSI is opposed to this legislation going forward. The next meeting of the MSI is 10AM in Duxbury April 16 at 457 Washington St, Duxbury, MA 02332 at the Function Hall of the Duxbury Bay Maritime School.

MSI calendar and documents are available online: www.massshellfishinitiative.org/meetings.html www.massshellfishinitiative.org/resources.html

Educational Funding Update.

“Education Funding in Massachusetts and Cape Cod: Where Do We Stand?”

Marilyn Bemis, mbemis@massteacher.org, Cape and Islands Senate District Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) Legislative and Political Action Team Coordinator for Cape and the Islands Senate District, Senator Julian Cyr.

From the MTA website, “Legislative and Political Action Team members advocate for issues that matter to you and your students — high-stakes testing, funding and the future of charter schools, to name a few. Legislative and Political Action Teams are overseen by Senate district coordinators — one for each of the 40 state Senate districts.”

Handouts:

“Education Funding in Massachusetts and Cape Cod: Where Do We Stand?” by Colin Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, at Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center Somerville, Massachusetts.

“Fund our Future. Promise Act Compared to Baker and Tucker School Funding Bills”

“Foundation Budget Review Commission Recommendations: Key Provisions of Current School Funding Bills” comparing S. 238/H.586, H.576 and H.70.

“Highlights: Foundation Budget Review Commission Report, October 2015”
www.doe.mass.edu/fomamce/chapter70/fbrc-report.docx

The Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 called for dramatic changes in public education over a seven-year period. Among the major provisions of the Act are greater and more equitable funding to schools, accountability for student learning, and statewide standards for students, educators, schools and districts.

Ms. Bemis spoke on the 1993 Education Reform Act. Referring to the “Education Funding in Massachusetts and Cape Cod” handout (referenced above) she noted the following:

Cost increases since 1993, the Funding progress in Massachusetts has eroded:

(1) Health Insurance. Actual spending on employee health insurance far exceeds the current foundation budget allotment for such costs, as noted in several recent studies.

(2) Special Education costs. The Commission found that around 16% of students receive some level of in-district special education services statewide, which suggests that the foundation budget understates the number of in-district special education students.

(3) Chapter 70 Contributions. The report suggests that the system is fiscally strained by the failure to substantively reconsider the adequacy of the foundation budget since 1993, and that the formula may need re-tooling to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

Ms. Bemis outlined a comparison of two Districts: Chelsea and Monomoy. Comparisons of Chapter 70 Funding were compared; and funding of two Cape Districts, Dennis-Yarmouth and Barnstable. Chapter 70 Funding for two additional Cape Districts, Monomoy and Cape Cod Tech were presented.

Fixing Chapter 70, what would it look like? The Fix: Mass Budget examined the impact of implementing the Massachusetts Foundation Budget Commission (FBRC) for cities and towns. Reforms this large would likely be phased in over several years.

A complete scenario includes all four major FBRC pillars: (1) Updating Health Care, (2) Special Education, (3) Support for English Language Learners and Low Income in Massachusetts

The most robust scenario also includes minimum aid and charter reimbursements with the FBRC

Kristen Hayden, School Counselor, khayden@monomoy.edu Monomoy Regional Middle School.

Ms. Hayden spoke of the changing issues and workload counselors now face: She counsels 450 students; the school is presently without a School Psychologist. The issues facing the students include trauma, bullying, depression, and anxiety. This is a very different job today. The counseling resource is not only for the school’s students, but for families, faculty and the school community as a whole. A counselor is also in-

volved in the middle school and high school curricula and must stay current in the field by learning about new techniques regarding adolescent and societal issues and concerns.

Comments on Education Funding in Massachusetts and Cape Cod: Where Do We Stand?"

Representative Sara K. Peake, Sarah.Peake@mahouse.gov

Representative Peake mentioned amendments for increased spending on Regional Transit statewide.

Rep. Peake felt that school regionalization in general may not be a solution. Sensitivity to enrollment-linked increases is important as it is recognized that enrollment on Cape Cod is generally falling. Increased dollars for Regional Transportation costs, Special Education, inputs are needed on pieces of the House Bill and Senate Bill.

Rep. Peake also mentioned an affordable Housing Bill that included a change to the 2/3's threshold requirement for town meeting voting on zoning articles.

Ronald Bergstrom, Barnstable County Commissioner, Ronald.bergstrom@barnstable-county.org, suggested that the elephant in the room continues to be proposition 2-1/2, placing residents to decide a School Budget against a Town (General Government) Budget.

Susan L. Moran, Chairman Falmouth Board of Selectmen, susan.moran@falmouthma.gov commented that the Transportation Initiative is important.

Massachusetts Municipal Association Report.

School Foundation Budget, being covered by MMA John Robertson, Legislative Division Director.

The House Ways and Means Reports were released on April 11, 2019. The Legislature has made Fixing Chapter 70 and Fixing Charter Schools a priority.

Reviewing the House Ways and Means budget vs. the Governor's budget, the House has increased dollars for Chapter 70 Foundation Budget with minimum aid amounts of \$20 to \$30 per student.

Regarding Charter Schools, 80 communities are actually seeing a negative impact due to Charter School funding. Transportation is under discussion.

The budget process includes approximately 1,500 amendments; by the end of April we expect a final House recommendation .

Please reach out to MMA's legislative team with questions or concerns that come up in your communities so that we may more effectively advocate on your behalf, www.mma.org.

Cape Cod Commission Report.

Kristy Senatori, ksenatori@capecodcommission.org Executive Director of the Commission, Cape Cod Commission Meetings, Hearings:

OneCape Summit will be held Monday, Tuesday July 29-30, 2019 at the Wequassett Resort, 2173 Route 28, Harwich, MA 02645. The Commission will again sponsor the Cape Selectman's Breakfast on the morning of the 30th.

This year the OneCape Summit will explore the built, natural and community systems of Cape cod and ongoing efforts to become a more resilient region.

See <http://onecape.capecodcommission.org/>

Meeting adjourned 9:30 AM.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is on May 10, 2019 in Nantucket.

The Steamship Authority has offered to provide passage from Hyannis to Nantucket at no cost to members of the Cape Cod Selectmen and Councilors Association on the 8:15 AM departure arriving in Nantucket at 9:15 AM. Departure is planned for the 3:30 PM from Nantucket back to Hyannis arriving at 4:30 PM.

Additional details will be sent to all members.

For more information, meeting agendas and copies of minutes please go to the CCSCA website, <http://capecodsca.org/>

Submitted,

Stephen Mealy, Acting Clerk