

From The President

Those of you who were among the one hundred plus members who attended the July 9 Member meeting at the Elks Club heard another informative talk by Town Administrator Sheila Vanderhoef about important topics and issues in Eastham. Selectman Martin McDonald updated us on municipal water and wastewater progress. About 25 questions from the floor were answered by Sheila.

I encourage you all to attend the second Member meeting on Saturday August 27th, also at the Elks Club at 9 AM. As usual we will hear updates from the police and fire chiefs, and more from Sheila Vanderhoef.

In recognition of the 50th birthday of the Cape Cod National Seashore this year, we will feature a talk by Bill Burke, the park historian. It promises to be another interesting meeting. Please join us.

Dick Andrews

EPRTA Board of Directors

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Larry Pasco
Joel Sachs
Mary St. Cyr
Eugene Tierney
Karl Weiss

Member Meeting

Saturday August 27, 2011, 9 A.M.

Elks Club - McKoy Road - Eastham

CAPE LIGHT COMPACT PROGRAM

Cape Energy Bills Too High?

The solution may well be the Cape Light Compact (CLC). The Cape Light Compact is a public entity formed in 1997 to advance the interests of consumers on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. The Compact offers competitive electric rates, with effective consumer advocacy; and proven energy efficiency programs as well as energy education.

Electric energy efficiency is a great investment for residential ratepayers on the Cape and Vineyard. The Cape Light Compact offers several programs designed to help manage energy costs while making the home more comfortable.

For example, the Cape Light Compact offers a **FREE** home energy assessment, compact fluorescent light bulbs installed at no cost, as well as important air sealing. Generous incentives and resources are offered to make weatherizing your home and installing energy efficient upgrades affordable.

The Cape Light Compact offers the following residential rebates:

- \$100 to \$500 rebate: High Efficient Oil and Propane Heating Systems and Water Heaters.
- \$300 to \$500 rebate: High Efficient Central Air Conditioning.
- \$500 to \$1500 rebate: Solar Domestic Hot Water to Replace Electric Hot Water.
- \$50 rebate for an ENERGY STAR® refrigerator or freezer.
- \$25 rebate for Programmable Thermostat, for oil or propane ratepayers.

The Cape Light Compact also offers interest free loans up to \$25,000 for up to 7 years for approved energy efficiency work on your Cape home for bank qualified energy rate payers.

To learn more about these programs or to set up a free home energy assessment on your Cape Cod home call Cape Light Compact at **800-797-6699**.

Single Family Homes

- The first 6 months of 2011 had 46 closings, vs. 52 for the same period in 2010, down 11.5%.
- The average selling price for 1H11 was \$455,933, up 1.6% from 1H10. (see Commentary, below)

There are currently 110 single family homes for sale in Eastham, with an average price of \$534K and a median price of \$446K. (Note: The July 2010 'active' number was 100). There are, also, 19 homes that are "Pending" (i.e. have a closing scheduled).

Condos

There were 7 condos sold in the first half of 2011, with an average sales price of \$242K. In 2010 there were only 3 condos sold in the first half.

There are currently 16 condos for sale in Eastham. These range from \$98K to \$365K.

Residential Land

- No parcels of land were sold in Eastham in 1H11. Last year had 3 parcels sold during the first half.

There are, currently, 25 residential building lots available, ranging from \$170K to \$500K.

Commentary

Although 2010 probably couldn't be called a 'normal' year, it felt more normal than 2011 does. The sales, by number, are down about 12% from last year, putting the year-end total sales at about 100, about where we were before the 2009 'down' year.

You can see from the bottom chart that the distribution of the sales seems as expected. Last

year we had a higher percentage of sales in the \$300K's. This year we're seeing a near-void in the \$700K and above range.

The *median* sales prices are showing strength, with an increase of about 11.1% over the first half 2010 numbers. With 110 homes for sale in Eastham, the average days-on-market is 216, down from 233 for 1H2010. The 110 represents greater than a year's worth of inventory. Ugh!

While I'm thrilled to report an 11.1% improvement in the median sale prices, I'm reluctant to declare victory just yet. I still see hesitation for Buyers to Buy. This is caused, I believe, by the continued economic uncertainty.

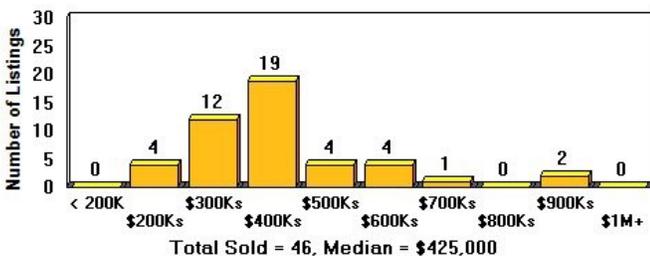
The uncertainty, in my opinion, has shifted from the housing 'bubble' mess to the greater unknowns of jobs and taxes. There are simply fewer buyers looking for vacation homes. I'm hoping that this corrects itself as summer progresses.

I know the 2nd half (of 2011) has just begun, but I've been fairly busy. Summer is a busy time. We are deeply entrenched in a "buyer's market", so I expect that the good inventory and low mortgage rates will convince some potential buyers that this is 'their' opportunity. This year will be very interesting!

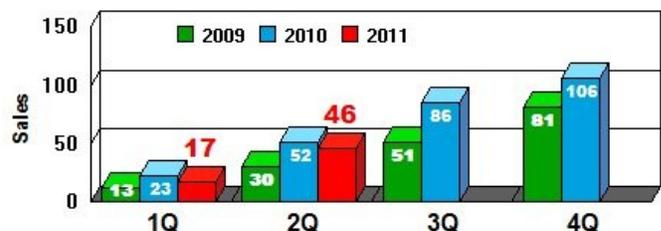
I've been publishing a monthly version of this report for over 8 years. E-mail me to get on my mailing list.

Bob Sheldon, Broker Associate, ABR, e-PRO
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Sold Prices for Eastham Single Family Homes
 Jan - June 2011



Eastham Year-to-Date Sales by Quarter
 Single Family Homes



RECAP OF JULY 9, 2011 MEMBER MEETING

We held our first member meeting of 2011 on a beautiful Saturday morning. Guest speakers were Selectmen Linda Burt and Martin McDonald and Town Administrator Sheila Vanderhoef.

Selectman McDonald provided the following overview:

1. Municipal water issue a) the town has sufficient water capacity from existing wells for normal usage and b) they have the ability to buy additional water from Orleans to meet high demands.
2. Nothing much is happening at this point with the wastewater project which will be a multi-year project.
3. Solar power - see separate write-up under Eastham news.

Sheila Vanderhoef addressed the following items:

- Several streets in town are being rubber chip sealed instead of the old fashion oil and sand. This process uses old tires and is much cleaner.
- They are still looking at doing further work at Rock Harbor.
- The Selectmen's Meetings and other town meetings will be videoed and can be viewed on the town's web page. You will be able to zero in on an item on the agenda rather than have to watch the whole meeting.
- They had a ribbon cutting ceremony the first of July opening the new bathhouse at Cooks Brook Beach. Depending on future budgets the next beach in line to have a new bathhouse is First Encounter Beach.
- All union contracts with town employees are now three years and all expire at the same time which will provide for more consistent and fair negotiating.
- The NStar issue dealing with vegetation under their power lines is still unresolved. Sheila mentioned that if residents were concerned

(Continued on page 7)

REGIONAL ISSUES

National Seashore: continued concern over predators effecting piper plovers and other endangered species has prompted the Seashore to draft a comprehensive shorebird management plan considering shorebird protection and predator management.

At one point the Seashore was planning on using poison-laced chicken eggs at two spots in Wellfleet but the Humane Society of the United States threatened to sue and put a stop to this plan. Stay tuned!!!

The Seashore will celebrate their 50th birthday with a birthday bash on the weekend of August 6-7. Go to www.nps.gov/caco for further details.

The Seashore is inviting the public to participate in an electronic photo album project by sharing their pictures and reminiscences with others on their 50th Anniversary Memories Album at www.fccns.org.

This site is sponsored by the Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore and postings can be made through September 30, 2011. For additional information about this project contact Event Planner Ranger Molly Williams at 508-957-0704.

Cape Wind Project: The Dept. of Energy notified Cape Wind that their application for a federal loan was put on hold and were further informed by Jonathan Silver, the Director of the Dept. of Energy's Loan Program's Office "if in the future the Loan Program's Office has sufficient budget resources, we would be pleased to continue our evaluation of your project (but) there is no assurances that we will ever be in a position to continue evaluation of your project." Cape Wind in a statement said "they will continue to pursue the matter."

Whale Watching: This season the number of rare whales spotted has reached record numbers. Areas that have been particularly popular for viewing from the shore are: Hatches Harbor, Herring Cove Beach and Wood End Lighthouse in Provincetown and the Head of the Meadow Beach in Truro.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Brewster: The “wishing well” is an historic 1800s church bell that was found and restored by Paul Carlson who owns the Tool Shop in Orleans. The Brewster VFW is the repository of this bell when it is not on tour raising money for charity. They have elected to turn over the funds raised to the Lower Cape Outreach Council when it is not on loan to a specific charity.

Dennis: The Cape Cod Museum of Art celebrated their 30th anniversary. It's the only American museum founded by artists to showcase the works of past and present artists who lived on Cape Cod. The museum is located at 60 Hope Lane, Dennis off of Rte. 6A on the grounds of Cape Cod Center for the Arts. For more information call 508-385-4477 or go to www.ccmoa.org.

Harwichport: WE CAN is offering a new program, Financial Empowerment which is aimed at women who need financial planning and counseling sessions but are unable to pay. For more information contact info@wecancenter.org or by calling 508-430-8111.

Orleans: there is a Farmer's Market open every Saturday from May 14th through November 19th from 8 AM to Noon. This is located at 21 Old Colony Way across the street from Capt. Elmer's Restaurant. For more information go to www.orleansfarmersmarket.com.

Provincetown: The 7th annual Provincetown Jazz Festival will be held on August 12,13 and 15th. For more information call 508-274-2513.

Wellfleet: The new Outer Cape Health Services (OCHS) Pharmacy at Doc Callis Courtyard, Rte. 6 and Main Street opened the beginning of July. It plans on being open 7 days a week during the summer months with scaled back hours in the winter.

The former Catholic church on Main Street re-opened on May 15 as the Wellfleet Preservation Hall and will serve as a new community center for the town.



EASTHAM-MAY TOWN MEETING RECAP

- Approved \$4.5 million library expansion and renovation project
- Approved \$500,000 operating budget override

Both of the above articles needed ballot approval and were subsequently approved by the voters on May 17th. The library project is still subject to obtaining a \$4.7 million grant from the Commonwealth of Mass. The Massachusetts Board of Libraries through their Mass. Public Library Construction Program announced on July 14 that the Board had awarded grants to eight communities and an additional 15 communities were placed on a waiting list. (Eastham is #13). Wait-listed libraries will receive their grants as funds become available through the state's five-year capital plan.

- Rejected an article to accept Hay Road as a town road.
- Approved an article that would allow the selectmen to file special legislation to amend the charter to allow them to make appointments to Boards for more than three terms when no one is available to serve on committees that require special training, certification and skills.
- Approved \$345,000 in community preservation act funds to acquire property for affordable housing.
- Approved \$40,000 in CPA funds to survey 200 historical structures and sites.
- Approved a petitioned article to preserve remaining land on the town-owned Roach property as open space rather than letting the town keep it available for municipal use.

Town Election May 17th Recap

- 1,398 residents voted or a total of 33.5% of registered voters
- Selectmen Linda Burt and Aimee Eckman were both re-elected to a three year term
- David Schropfer was elected moderator for a three year term
- Mary Shaw was elected library trustee
- Linda Freeman and Joanne Irish were both re-elected to the Eastham School Committee

Board of Selectmen: After the May election the Board reorganized and re-named Linda Burt as the Chair, Aimee Eckman as Vice Chair and Martin McDonald was appointed as Clerk.

Windmill Weekend

This wonderful event is scheduled for the weekend of September 9-11.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!!

This free event includes a talent show, square dance, sand art contests, parade and much more. For further details, or to volunteer, go to www.easthamwindmillweekend.com.

BRIEF HISTORY OF EPRTA

By Dick Parrett, (*Atty. Parrett is a past president and charter member of EPRTA)*

The Eastham Part-time Residents Taxpayers Association has an interesting history that dates back to the middle 1960's when a group of Eastham taxpayers, who lived in Eastham during the summer months and were paying seventy percent of the Real Estate Taxes, became interested in obtaining the right to vote on fiscal matters at Town Meetings and they formed a group known as The Eastham Non-Resident Taxpayers Association.

The two main leaders of this group of taxpayers were Leo Leveille and Fred Eimert who strongly voiced their concerns about the "taxation without representation" situation that exists in Massachusetts while other New England states, such as Connecticut, allow anyone owning property in a town that is assessed at more than one thousand dollars to vote at town meetings. The Connecticut statute authorizing such voting dates back to 1902 and probably was a codification of existing common law and custom.

In Eastham, the part time resident taxpayers were not only denied the right to vote at town meetings but were also not even allowed to speak at Town meetings or to serve on Town Boards. Because of this "closed door" situation, the part time resident taxpayers who were interested in becoming more active in helping to make Eastham a better place to live, felt that they were being kept "on the outside looking in" without a voice in town affairs although they were paying most of the town's taxes. This situation quickly caused this informal taxpayers group to steadily grow to over one thousand members and on October 29, 1973 they became one of the very first non-resident taxpayer associations to be legally incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and were granted the name of Eastham Non-Resident Taxpayers Association, Inc. by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The Association's main effort to obtain non-resident taxpayers voting rights on non-elective issues at town meetings came to an end in 1981 when a bill to do so, introduced by Representative Edward Connelly of Agawam, who was also a summer resident of North Eastham, failed to get legislative approval. Among the many reasons given for the legislation's failure was the strong opposition from Berkshire counties that also have large non-resident taxpayer populations.

During the 1980's the Association kept members informed of town activities by newsletters, and the cooperation with the town continued to improve with the mutual realization that in many areas the part and full time residents have a common interest in keeping taxes low and preserving the unique beauty of Eastham. In addition to making annual gifts to the town of items that were not provided by taxes, the association created a large legal defense fund to be available for use when projects harmful to the town or environment were proposed.

In 1991 the Town of Eastham approved a Home Rule Charter that created the position of Town Administrator with broad powers and duties as the chief administrative officer of the town. The charter provided for "a town meeting open to all voters" but did not contain any residency or voter requirements for any of the towns' appointed officers, board and committee members or employees. As a result of this new charter, many Association members, who were able to come to the Cape during the winter, were appointed to serve on town boards and committees. The cooperation with the town continued to improve with the Town Administrator, Selectmen and town officers regularly attending the Associations meetings which were moved from the Town Hall to the larger Elks Club.

By the turn of the century, the Association continued to provide a voice for its members in the affairs of the town and established its own internet web site with a paid association administrator to facilitate and coordinate the Associations' membership activities on a year round basis. In 2004 the membership voted to change its name to Eastham Part-Time Residents Taxpayers Association, (EPRTA) and subsequently became a 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation with a Community Outreach Fund that has given large gifts to local charities, the library and service organizations in accordance with one of the Associations' primary goals of improving the quality of life for both full and part time residents of Eastham.

Recognition

Our thanks go to the following individuals who over the years have guided our organization and provided the level of leadership that has helped to provide a "representative" voice to the part time residents of Eastham.

1973	Frederick J. Eimert
1974-1976	Richard J. Parrett
1977-1978	Leo Leveille
1979-1981	Katherine S. Burrows
1982-1984	James Meckenzie
1985-1986	Joseph Oneschuk
1987-1988	David P. Connolly
1989-1990	Audry C. Smith
1991-1992	James Hosking
1993-1995	Kristina M. Grant
1996-1998	Paul A. Marier
1999-2002	Joel Sachs
2003-2004	Eugene Tierney
2005-2008	Robert E. Overton
2008-2010	Larry Pasco
2011	Richard Andrews

TRIVIA

Did you know that the Cape Cod Seashore loses about 5 acres a year to erosion!!!!

EASTHAM

Eastham Forum Flower Island: One of the first things you notice when traveling along Rte. 6 in Eastham are the lovely flower islands. All of this work is done on a volunteer basis by a group of close to 160 part time and full time residents who take great pride in adding beauty to not only Rte. 6 but other islands throughout the town, in all 20 islands. This group was started almost 27 years ago by Vida DeMaly and another woman. Vida is still at the helm after all these years and now shares the work with Carol Burton and Margaret Connolly. There is a captain and team for each island and each group is responsible for planting, decorating, weeding and constant watering of their island. This entire endeavor is supported by volunteers and contributions from the public.

There are no town funds used for any of the plantings or work done by the volunteers. Most of the funds are raised during the summer by collecting redeemable bottles from the blue barrels at the town beaches, at the N. Eastham General Store or from the transfer station throughout the year. This whole program requires an enormous amount of volunteer work. Like any other volunteer group they are constantly looking for help. If you would like to help out as a volunteer please call Carol Burton at 508-240-3360. Contributions to help defray the \$000s of dollars of costs can be made out to EFFI and mailed to EFFI c/o Carol Burton at PO Box 191, North Eastham, MA 02651.

Eastham Museums: The Eastham Historical Society, Schoolhouse Museum and the Swifton Daley House Museum are all open for the summer. Admission is free. Donations welcome. For more information go to www.easthamhistorical.org.

Eastham Police: On April 4th the Eastham police began putting local traffic crash reports on line. Most reports should be uploaded within 24 hours of the accident and can be searched by date, location, victim or case number. To access reports go to www.eastham-ma.gov.

Transfer Station: Selectmen approved changing the closing hours of the transfer station from 4:00 PM to 3:30 PM. The station which normally is closed on Thursday and Fridays during the regular year will be open on Fridays during the summer from July 1 thru September 2.

Selectmen approved using Capital Control Energy to install solar panels in conjunction with Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative at the transfer station. Preliminary studies indicate that the town could make up to as much as \$30,000 the first year and increasing to as much as \$60,000 at the end of a 20 year lease. The installation will be subject to approval by the Dept. of Environmental Protection. There will be no cost to this project aside from those costs associated with an attorney reviewing the contracts.

REMEMBER WHEN ...

The name of the target ship located off the beach in Eastham is The James Longstreet which was built as a transport ship by the Houston Shipbuilding Corp. in Houston Texas.

She was launched on October 31, 1942 and delivered cargo to such areas as Australia, India, Canada and England before she was beached and broken during a severe storm off the coast of Sandy Hook, N.J. in late October 1943.



The James Longstreet

She was declared a total loss but the Navy Dept. picked her as a target ship to be used in one of their early guided missile programs called "Project Dove".

She was towed to Cape Cod where she was used as a target ship for many years.

At low tide one can still see remnants of her off our coast.

FOR CHANGES & NEW MEMBERS ONLY

(Please print)

E-mail: (Please print carefully)

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Dues: \$20.00

Make Checks Payable to:
EPRTA, PO Box 122, N. Eastham, MA 02651

New Member: Yes ___ No ___

Note: cut on dotted line to include your address label on back of this page.

Changes or New Members Only!

RECAP OF JULY 9, MEETING *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

about use of poisons by NStar under power lines near their properties they could trim vegetation near their homes to avoid any potential issues.

- Every Friday there is a food collection at the town hall with the donations being given to the local food bank.

Words of Appreciation

Once again we extend our thanks to Fleming’s Donut Shack & Bakery who provided free coffee and donuts to this meeting.

Fleming’s has provided this service for a number of years and we on the Board and our members are really appreciative of their support. They are located in Eastham at 4860 Rte. 6 near Willy’s Gym and on Rte. 6A in Brewster in Dennis Village. Please stop by and patronize their shops.

Wildcare of Cape Cod

The mission of this group is to take care of wildlife that have been hurt or stranded and to put them back in the wild. A new director, Jackson Zee was recently named to head up this group. If you discover injured wildlife please call their hot line at 508-240-2255.

CAPE COD CHILDREN’S PLACE

The Children’s Place is located at 10 Ballwic Road in North Eastham. This is a non-profit resource, referral and education center providing high quality care, support and advocacy for families with young children.

For more information on their programs contact www.capecodchildrensplace.com.



LET YOUR FINGERS DO THE WALKING

Informative Web sites

- EPRTA..... www.eprta.org
- Eastham Library www.easthamlibrary.org
- Town of Eastham..... www.eastham-ma.gov
- Eastham Chamber of Commerce
..... www.easthamchamber.com
- National Seashore www.nps.gov/caco

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IT'S ALL ON THE LABEL

If your address label has an "11" (including quotation marks) on it, your dues are up to date for 2011. Thank you. If your label has a "10", your 2011 dues are now due. Please use the enclosed pre-addressed envelope to forward your dues for 2011.

Also on the label you will find an e-mail status code. An "E-Yes" means your e-mail address is in our file and is accepting our periodic e-alerts. An "E-X" means that we have an address for you but our last e-mail alert was returned to EPRTA as undeliverable. An "E-No" indicates that we do not have an e-mail address for you. If you are in the "E-X" or "E-No" category, the surest way to update your e-mail address in our database is to send an e-mail to rgrady2@comcast.net.

Sending an e-mail to this address will do two things. First, we will avoid typo errors at this end as we transcribe your address into the database. Secondly, your computer will henceforth recognize rgrady2@comcast.net as a friendly source (as against a spam sender), and will allow our e-mails to register on your computer.

We continue to receive complaints from those who have advised us (2 and 3 times) of their new e-mail

address. We enter these changes when we receive them but unless you add the address (rgrady2@comcast.net) to your "address book" or "friends list," your computer may continue to block our e-mail.

Please note that the Dues Payment form on the previous page of this newsletter is for address and other data changes, and for new member's data only. When you cut out the dues payment form to send along with your dues, your mailing label will be on the reverse.

We will identify your dues payment from the mailing label. If you need to update the mail label, you can enter the changes on the form (ditto for new e-mail addresses). If your label is correct and your e-mail address is up to date, you need only write "No Change" on the form and mail it with your dues using the enclosed envelope.

Unless you add the e-mail address rgrady2@comcast.net to your *address book* or *friends list*, your computer may block our e-mail.