

CAPE COD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT - ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Barnstable County Complex
Eastwing Conference Center @ 4:00 P.M.
3195 Main Street, Route 6A
Barnstable, MA 02630

APPROVED Journal of Proceedings - August 21, 2019

Call to Order

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Welcome, everyone. This is the Cape Cod Regional Government, Assembly of Delegates regular meeting for Wednesday, August 21, 2019, at the Barnstable County Complex.

I'd like to call the meeting to order and start with a moment of silence to honor our troops who have died in service to our country and all those serving our country in the Armed Forces.

(Moment of silence.)

Deputy Speaker MORAN: And next we'll have the Pledge of Allegiance. Please rise.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Thank you. Will the Clerk please call the roll?

Roll Call Attendance

Present (61.13%): Mary Chaffee (4.55% - Brewster), J. Terence Gallagher (2.30% - Eastham), Lilli-Ann Green - (1.27% - Wellfleet), Elizabeth Harder (5.67% - Harwich), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), Susan Moran (14.61% - Falmouth), Thomas O'Hara (6.49% - Mashpee), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Linda Zuern (9.15% - Bourne).

Absent (38.87%): Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans), E. Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02%-Yarmouth), Brian O'Malley (1.36% - Provincetown), Randi Potash (2.84% - Chatham), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable).

Clerk O'CONNELL: Madam Speaker, you have a quorum with 61.13 percent of the Delegates present; 38.87 percent are absent.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Thank you.

Approval of the Calendar of Business

Deputy Speaker MORAN: May I have a motion to approve the Calendar of Business?

Delegate OHMAN: So moved.

Delegate O'HARA: Second.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: All those in favor? Aye.

(Motion carried.)

Approval of the Journal of Proceedings

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Motion to approve the Journal of August 7, 2019.

Delegate GREEN: So moved.

Delegate O'HARA: Second.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: All those in favor? Aye.

(Motion carried.)

Summary of Communications from County Administration

- Assistant County Administrator Steve Tebo update the Delegates on actions taken by Commissioners at the past two board meetings
- Bathroom will be added to AmeriCorps housing in Bourne
- Requesting capacity increase for AmeriCorps housing located in Barnstable
- Steve Tebo provided a brief update on the status of the county dredges

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Mr. Tebo, welcome.

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: Good afternoon. Just real briefly, last week the Commissioners had voted a few agenda items. One of the bigger ones was just authorizing the agreement with the grant for the AmeriCorps house for this coming season for the AmeriCorps people to come in and use that.

There was a discussion about the AmeriCorps housing status. They're looking to improve the current house in Bourne. They're going to add a bathroom hopefully within the next couple weeks here. They're just adding a bathroom right now. The individuals that lived there had shared a bathroom so they're just trying to add another shower stall to make it, obviously, more efficient for them.

They're also working with the Town of Barnstable to see if they could get one more person able to live within the place that we're renting from the Town of Barnstable for their accommodations. I think they have a member of eight and they were looking for nine. It just seemed to work better within their -- in their groups to have nine in the house. So they're just trying to get that approved through the Town of Barnstable.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Is there a septic?

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: There is a septic, but I think it's also a code violation of nonrelatives living in one house. I think there's an actual number that has to be met. So once you get passed that number, you have to get some form of a variance on that. I'm not a hundred percent familiar with it but that's the gist of what I've got from just that conversation that they were having about it.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Thank you.

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: The other thing, we had a nice presentation, or they had a nice presentation from Mike Maguire and his staff for the Marine program just giving us up-to-dates on what they see becoming trending in seeds and the seedling programs that they run. It went on for about 20 minutes, but it was really good insight on what they're doing and the direction they're taking that program in.

That was pretty much it. There were some other grants, just some bookkeeping on the grants, just a formal roll-over to next year grant fundings and things of that nature but that was basically it for that meeting.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Any questions for Mr. Tebo? Jim.

Delegate KILLION: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mr. Tebo, do you have any updates on the County Dredge? I know it went in for repairs and some work to be done.

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: Yes, actually, I just got pictures this morning. The new County Dredge is in Minnesota; I think its Minnesota. It's all apart. They've had everything stripped out and they started sandblasting it and half of it is painted again. So

they're ahead of schedule from what they had promised us. We've been getting almost daily updates from them on the progress, so that's going well.

The new Codfish that we purchased is underway. It's under pre-assembly so all the components are there. All the engine's there and they're starting to do the inspection on the motor before they put it into the vessel.

The old Codfish is in Fairhaven. That was painted, I believe, yesterday and we should be getting that back in probably two weeks and that's all been checked out. It's been certified. It's been all metal fatigued, everything passed. There were a few patches we had to do but all in all it's coming back. So that's where we're at with that.

Delegate KILLION: And just to follow-up, realistically, are the repaired -- the old Codfish -- what do you see as the remaining serviceable life of that?

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: We're on borrowed time with it right now.

Delegate KILLION: Okay.

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: We're going to use that as a backup dredge for going forward, and then at some point we're going to -- we will make a decision whether we sell it off or trade it in, one or the other, what we have to do with that. But for right now, from the experience we had last year with the Sand Shifter, we felt that it was necessary just to have two working dredges. We know the Codfish will work. It's been on the water for 25 years. You can do maintenance and you can get it to a certain point, but you're close to the catastrophic failure on some of the bigger components that are in it. You know, knock on wood, it won't happen. We know it's seaworthy, which was my biggest concern with pulling it out of the water and having it inspected. So we know it's safe to go on the water. And then from there, I would say, realistically speaking, if we get two seasons out of it, we'd be really pushing our luck.

But this year we're going to rely on it as a -- strictly as a backup. We have it programmed kind of pegged in for a couple smaller, little jobs. It just made more sense to set it up there so we're not wasting time moving from one job to the other, especially when you're going from the north side to the south side of the Cape.

But it's also going to be kind of in the que as a stand-in so we can just plug it into anything that we own and just have it run if it comes out to that again.

Delegate KILLION: And the delivery of the other two units is on schedule?

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: Yes. The Sand Shifter right now is ahead of schedule, fingers crossed, which is very nice to see but the other one -- everything else they're checking the boxes according to the timeframe that they gave us so we're looking good.

Delegate KILLION: Okay. Thank you.

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: Yes.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: On the dredge, it occurs to me with having sort of rehab time delays, what's the process for prioritizing jobs for the next season with things backed up and towns vying for attention and certainly taxpayers vying for attention, how are the decisions made in terms of where you put it first?

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: Right. So the first priority this year was to finish the jobs that we weren't able to get to last year for obvious reasons. There were some MassWorks grant programs that were run through the state last year. So I think there was three of those projects that we couldn't get to, so those are, obviously, high on the list.

And then MassWorks launched another program this year and only two -- three people

got money from that this year from the MassWorks program, two of which we are under or we're going to be under contract to do those programs. So those, call it the five projects, had the priority on it.

And then we have just our typical list of yearly maintenance projects that we do that are on the list right now. From that, we're going to see what we can do, fit in to the end of schedule.

On those particular jobs, the majority of the time of year restrictions are from October 1 to January 14 and that's where like the bulk of the work has to come into. And then after that we can kind of fill and play wherever the numbers fit in, wherever -- if someone has either an extension on their contract, I mean, extension on the time of year or just doesn't have the time of year we'll go to those projects.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: And would there be a possibility of fitting a Plymouth machine in or is there another dredge available to kind of --

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: I think at one point with the three dredges that we have available to us we'll be running out of staff to staff them properly. So I don't think it's going to be a matter of machine; it's just literally time or hours in the day. Our biggest concern and my luck is if we have a bad winter, if it starts in November and we get ice or we get blizzards so we can't work. I mean, the time of year restrictions don't change because we had bad weather. They only change if we're on the project and we get bad weather, you know, they grant us a grace period of 10 or 15 days.

But we're pretty aggressive in the strategy this year, but it could all just go away if the weather doesn't do us any favors.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Is there a possibility of some sort of special legislation to accommodate --

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: For the time of year?

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Or in this particular year since we've had this emergency situation being behind?

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: To be quite honest with you, I think there's too many parties involved. You have the feds, local, state, Audubon, like you kind of check all your boxes. So it takes usually, the town, a couple years just to get a permit for it. So to get some form -- there is usually a grace period of a waiver of the time of year where they'll give you three or four days, I mean, within reason. But to get anything further, the extension on that, I don't think that would happen in this years' time.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Okay. Any other questions for Mr. Tebo?

Great report. I appreciate you being here.

Asst. Administrator STEVE TEBO: Great. Nice to be here.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Thank you, very much.

Summary of Communications from Director Sean O'Brien of Health and Environment and recap on the Cape Cod Tornadoes of 2019

- **Health & Environment Director Sean O'Brien updated the Delegates on the events leading up to the county's response to the 2019 Cape Cod tornadoes and planning strategies going forward into the future**
- **Yarmouth was the first town to request assistance after the tornadoes hit**
- **The County's Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) was officially opened**

on 7/23/19 at approximately 1:00 p.m.

- **Approximately 56,000 were without power at the height of this event and over 1000 power crews responding on the Cape**
- **The Dennis-Yarmouth shelter was opened by 7 p.m. on the day the tornados hit and Andrew Platt, Emergency Preparedness Specialist for the County provided a recap on the shelter and volunteer response effort**
- **The response from all agencies involved was tremendous and enabled the Cape to get back up and conducting business during the busiest time of the year**
- **Response reinforced how important it is to have a regional asset, like the county, to help the 15 Cape communities**
- **Federal emergency aid was denied because we didn't meet the financial threshold**
- **Damage estimate on Cape Cod was between 4 and 5 million dollars**
- **In the future will look at how to improve advance warning and notification of this type of event**

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Next on the agenda, we have communications from Barnstable County Health and Environment Director Sean O'Brien regarding a recap and follow-up to the Cape Cod tornados of July 2019.

Welcome, Mr. O'Brien.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Great. Thank you. Good afternoon, everybody. How are you? I also brought with me today Andrew Platt. It seems like when Andrew started with the REPC a couple of weeks ago, he's been going nonstop ever since between gasoline spills and tornados and then even today they were out at Scargo Lake for a little while. So he came on at the right time and has been assisting us with a lot of different emergency programs.

So what I thought we'd do today is just talk quickly about what happened during the tornado, how the County's response went, and a little bit about the sheltering program and our volunteer agencies. And then when we get to that, I'll hand that over to Andrew.

First of all, just for the record, I'm Sean O'Brien; I'm the Director of the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment, and I'm the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the County as well.

In my career, I never expected one tornado to be on my résumé, never mind three living here on Cape Cod. So it was a really out of the ordinary day for us back on the 23rd of July. It was very interesting because it was an event that happened, you know, the previous day as well, that previous evening, we had tornado warnings in the Mid-Cape that same evening. And, luckily, in that case, we did not have anything really create, you know, too much damage. We did have a power substation go down in the town of Wellfleet the night before the tornados. But that, in some ways, actually benefited us because we had a lot of Eversource crews on Cape that day to be able to deploy very quickly. So it was interesting the day before.

The next day about 10:30-11:00 a.m., we started looking at the weather system on the 23rd, that Tuesday. We started to see this weather system coming across the Cape. It was a pretty interesting day and a pretty intense system coming through.

So we here in the jail actually were in our basement, down in the basement of the jail because that's what we do. We keep our staff safe and we evacuated both the laboratory and the administrative part of the jail, and we spent the time below. And it's very nice that we all

have cell phones so we can kind of keep track as to what's going on during these situations.

So for about 20 minutes, and to be very frank, we even had laboratory clients that we had within the department in our -- and we have a small, little tunnel area between the two buildings and that's what we use for emergency sheltering for the laboratory. And between Human Services, the laboratory staff, and a few clients, we had a pretty packed house.

And so by about 11:00-11:15-11:30, we started to get word that, yes, pretty much here in the village things passed over us, but the phones started to light up from towns like Harwich, towns like -- we actually right away had a call at 11:30 from the -- actually quarter of 12 from the Police Chief from the Town of Yarmouth who basically said to me that, "Listen, something really bad happened here." We have buildings that have been damaged. We have a lot of trees down, and we have a lot of power lines down. And just so you know, we are going to need some assistance.

So as you all know, during winter storm events we set up an area on the second floor called the Multi-Agency Coordination Center, and that "MACC," as you know we love acronyms, that MACC is basically what becomes storm central for the County during winter storms. Well, for this time, it was storm central for the tornados.

We were opened within -- well, actually, we were opened within an hour of touchdown on the tornados but probably within a half an hour we started to take resource requests from the town as to what they needed.

So the MACC is there and what it does is it, Number 1, assists the communities with resource requests during storm events. We started receiving these requests pretty much immediately after the tornados were out of the area and the first one to call was the Town of Harwich, and we started to look at what resources we had on Cape to be able to fulfill their request. They were looking for dump trucks, and they were looking for front-end loaders. And so we started calling everything by about 12:15. The MACC officially opened at 1 o'clock and we were ready, and we were working.

This facility also became a central location for the state response as well. Because, you know, unlike most winter storms, this was only targeted to the, you know, this only happened on the Cape. So we saw a lot of assets come in directly from the state and come in and set up in our Multi-Agency Coordination Center. So we had the Mass. Emergency Management Agency there.

What we also realized very early on was that Eversource was going to be a huge player in this event, and we, right away, had Eversource in there as well. So really by about 1 o'clock the MACC was fully staffed and operational.

Between working with folks like Mike Walker, Andrew, Steve Tebo helped out, Jack Yunits was there, Phil Burt was there, some folks from the Fire Academy, we were really able to get this thing up, moving, and able to get situational awareness to know exactly what had happened.

Quite honestly, at the beginning of the situation, we thought we were dealing with one tornado, and we thought it was something that was originally a waterspout. And in the case of Yarmouth, it was coming ashore and then going -- and the moving across. It basically came off of Lewis Bay. But it took a few days for us to really know about that.

So we got the MACC up and running and we started to realize that we had major power outages and major lines down across the Cape. One of the initial concerns was Harwich was hit -- all towns were hit severely, but it really seemed like we had a lot of

problems in Harwich when it came to down power lines and trees, especially in the center of town. So in the center of town, we have our Town Hall, or the Town Hall and we have a police and fire station. So we actually worked because originally there was discussion about shutting down power to the entire town at that point.

Now, really, it was -- there was probably a good number of customers without power anyways, but it can be really difficult to just shut power down because the grid is not set up by town lines. So it may have affected other towns and communities. And I will say to you right off the bat, the folks from Eversource just were instrumental on what they were able to do to, to Number 1, get those areas where there are lines down shut down and areas that may have still had power without any damage still up and that may have included long-term care facilities, things like that. So it really played such an important role.

Initially, we saw 56,000 customers without power in those towns. So the towns that we saw more severely hit, and I'm going to go from the Upper-Cape to the Outer-Cape, we had significant outages in Mashpee. Most of New Seabury was out during this event. We had some major issues in the Town of Barnstable, Osterville, that village saw quite a bit of damage. Yarmouth and Yarmouth had lost the roof of a hotel and had some other significant damage and even driving around afterwards many cars under trees, many houses under trees and things like that.

And then we saw Dennis and Dennis had some major issues as well. Just driving through Dennis Port to a meeting at the fire station the next day, it was just amazing the amount of damage that you could see in that area, and it was mostly trees and not young trees, old trees. You know, these are 150-year-old trees that were just torn apart.

Additionally, we saw really significant problems as I mentioned in Harwich and Chatham. Chatham, there were areas that were just -- roads were blocked and that was one of the other major concerns we had. When you have roads blocked and major intersections and roadways, how do you get emergency responders in there should there be an emergency? So really the strategy was not necessarily, you know, it was two-pronged. It was restoring power but also trying to cut and clear roads to make sure that first responders could get into all those areas. And then additionally, we had a little bit of a problem in Brewster and we saw some trees down there but also part of the grid from Harwich was connected in Brewster, so we had some power outages in the Town of Brewster as well.

So it was a really interesting day to say the least with this storm. But as I had mentioned, we had about 56,000 people without power for electric. Back in March of 2018, that number just for the winter storms was up around -- I think we had I think 105,000 customers without power during the winter storms. So we saw just absolute devastation in those towns.

The other thing that occurred which we had never dealt with before, but we had such an excellent response with all of the utility companies was when a lot of these trees went down if they were blown down and the roots came up, they were uprooting gas lines. So we had, especially in the West Yarmouth area, we had quite a few gas lines that were compromised as a part of this. And so we saw National Grid who handles our gas and we saw Eversource working hand-in-hand with trying to solve all of the problems.

Now, additionally, you have to throw another organization in here as well when it comes to power restorations and poles. Most of our poles are actually owned by Verizon and so telephone poles, Verizon. And so we also had to have quite a few folks helping us out

from Verizon as well.

The overall response that we saw from the utility agencies, from Eversource, from National Grid to Verizon and to Comcast who is trying to make sure that the police stations and fire stations were still up online, it was absolutely incredible. And so, you know, we saw that within -- by Thursday afternoon, going through the whole restoration process for power, we saw about 200 customers left by Thursday -- by Thursday afternoon, and I think that was -- we may have even been closer to a hundred but I'll use 200 to be on the safe side of properties restored. We still had, you know, these ones and twos and homes where services may have been ripped off of the side, but we saw just a really good, a really good response for bringing this back up.

At one point, we had over a thousand power crews on the Cape trying to restore power. That doesn't happen in winter storms because it's a wide swath that gets it. But because of the way this worked out, Eversource -- Eversource had a person in our MACC by 1 o'clock that afternoon.

So, we worked with the towns; we worked with the response. We kept looking at situational awareness; we had people listening to radios, listening to what may have been needed by first responders out there. And we also had to sit back and think about what happens if people cannot stay in their homes and so we realized that we had to open up a shelter. Originally, we looked at two. We looked at the potential of opening up Cape Tech in Harwich along with Dennis-Yarmouth, but it was Dennis-Yarmouth that ended up getting the nod.

So what we usually do is when we have this type of event, we start to go into conference calls fairly quickly. By 3 p.m., we had a Cape-wide conference call with probably about 500 different -- 500 different people on the call probably representing 150 different agencies to start discussing what the damage was. And this also allowed us to start to get this information out to state agencies, so they knew the type of damage that we were seeing down here.

We had our first conference call at three, but I'll be very frank, we had a really good idea that the shelters were going to open up by 1 o'clock. We had a pretty good idea and we had a pretty good idea that we had enough volunteers and then that shelter would open up.

We also saw quickly, you know, we knew that after that conference call we were going to need to have volunteers at those shelters by 4 p.m. and the shelters would be open by 7. We had no problems with food. We had no problems with the facility. We had no problems with volunteers. As a matter of fact, and Andrew will get into more detail, we had a lot more volunteers than we had people and that's okay. It was there. It was a backup and that's what we needed. So, you know, we got this shelter going.

Now, in addition to all of this, we also saw quite a bit of power restoration happening. It didn't happen a lot during the first day. Really, it couldn't because the way the trees were twisted because of the tornado -- think of almost a line of thread when it falls on the floor and you wrap it back up again. The trunks of the trees were just -- had power lines wrapped around them. So we knew pretty much the first job was a thing called "cut and clear." And that's Number 1, power is off; we're trying to get the tree out of the powerlines, out of the road, and then be able then to start getting crews out there and minding and getting things set up so we could start power restoration.

Now, also, during the day, this was kind of delayed as I mentioned, but by that

evening, because it wasn't a winter storm, we had crews working all through the night. We had light out there. We had power crews out there just trying to go through the restoration process and it was a tornado; it wasn't a blizzard where we have 35 mile an hour winds lingering for a few days, which keeps people from going up in bucket trucks. So they were -- when Eversource and all of the other utility companies were here, they were ready to go. They were ready to jump into it.

And then what really helped out too was from the night before we had those 15 crews that were sitting in Wellfleet that were able to get down -- I think they went to Harwich right off the bat. We saw a lot of assistance from all of the different state agencies that were around whether it be Mass. State Police State; Mass. State Police was in our Multi-Agency Coordination Center helping us out. We had MEMA, the Mass. Emergency Management Agency. We even had the secretary -- the undersecretary of Public Safety down here working with us on this. We saw DCR, the Department of Conservation and Recreation out there with chainsaws trying to clear trees. There were prisoners out from Department of Corrections in towns that were helping to clean things up, and we saw a lot of assistance from communities off Cape and on Cape.

You know, one of the first things that we did was we looked to see what resources were on Cape to make them available further down. So if we had a truck that we could get out of Sandwich and get it down to Harwich, we would do it and vice versa and trying to do things like that like we normally do.

So we feel -- and we really saw a great response from all of the communities, from all of the state agencies and, yes, it took a few days. And what was also very good was, you know, the response from the Executive Office, the Governor and what the Governor was able to do when it came to making sure that we had the resources that we needed to get this set up, between the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of Public Safety and then, you know, just making sure that we even had that FEMA support and the support from our federal partners as well, our Congressmen and our Senators were all involved in this, and it really helped us out a lot because we were able to get some things done.

So, what happened was two days later after the tornado we pretty much had a good amount of power restoration completed. We started to deal with -- the term we use is "onesies and twosies," these other properties, but we also saw some other major issues out there.

There is just an incredibly strong network of volunteer agencies that come out and assist during these disasters. There's also quite a bit of support that we see from our own folks as well.

So we had a group coming down here called "Team Rubicon," and Team Rubicon came out and helped with a lot of the clearing of brush and a lot of clearing of trees and things like that.

What was interesting here and what had never been done before was MEMA and the state took an active role as to how they were going to handle this. And, basically, a lot of this was if folks brought their debris, their trees, their branches and everything else to the side of the road, it would be picked up and handled somehow. A lot of times that would fall on the homeowner, but everybody realized that we needed to get the Cape back up and running. Number 1, it's a summer weekend. There are businesses still trying to keep moving to stay open. And then Number 2, there are a lot of people who are going to be coming back down here because Thursday/Friday is kind of -- you get into Saturday, it's a changeover day and we

wanted, you know, and there was this big push to try to keep the Cape open for business as well. And that's where the state response really helped us. It really allowed us to look at making sure folks knew the Cape was here and we're ready to keep business coming in.

And I think -- I don't think it was as, you know, and I've yet to see the stats, but I don't think it may have been as bad as people thought it could be and people were able to come down. There was maybe a hotel or two that weren't able to take people in but, hopefully, things were worked out.

This group from Team Rubicon -- this group called "Team Rubicon" came down here and they really assisted the homeowner as well and they worked in a couple of our different communities. I think they were in Harwich and I think they were in -- I want to say Yarmouth. They stayed at the Centerville/Osterville/Marstons Mills fire station. They were great. They came in -- honestly, the Davenport companies were able to help out a little bit and they actually offered them hotel rooms at one of their resorts, but they do so much equipment cleaning and everything afterwards that that just didn't seem like a good option and they declined; Team Rubicon declined. We also saw folks from the Southern Baptists come in and offer some of that as well.

So just to kind of conclude, the response that we saw coming down here to help us was absolutely incredible. Yes, there's still some things that need to be cleaned up. There may be still some homeowners that need a little bit of help and those things are going to happen. I mean just probably about two weeks ago I was driving through West Yarmouth and I still saw a car under a tree and those things are going to take a little bit of time because, don't forget, insurance adjusters come out and things like that. I don't think Liberty Mutual would be happy if that was my truck either but, you know, these things happen. We have these types of disasters, these types of situations.

But the response that we saw from the Executive Office down and the towns, the towns were just admirable the way they handed it. And we supported them whenever -- wherever we could, and it just reinforced how important it is to have a regional asset like this to help the 15 communities.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Thank you, Sean. That does sound like an incredible amount of people coming together and kind of the real benefit of commonsense coming in in terms of having the Cape up and operating as quickly as possible given the fact that it was high season.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Just a couple of questions, you know, being really about homeowners' constituents. So fitting together really the thought that, you know, why wasn't there more of an early warning is something we've all heard. So that's just one question.

And then in terms of the follow-up, folks, you know, as you mentioned, are trying to put their lives back together and I'm kind of just curious. It was reported, I believe, that we didn't get the federal emergency aid; we didn't come to that threshold that where you get lower interest loans and various assistance.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Sure.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: So I'm just wondering how close we did come? So those two questions.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: We were off a little bit. On the first one. just in regard to notifications, you know, Emergency Management was originally called a thing -- it was

originally called "civil defense." And civil defense really also meant because at the time in our country's history we had a concern with a Cold War so just about every school had a siren on it. And I can remember growing up in Springfield and every Friday at noon or once a month or twice a month that siren would go off.

We've really kind of gone away from that, and we don't have a lot of those notifications systems anymore. Not every school has a siren on it. So we're really relying on these and those notifications that come through. The difficulty with these situations is, yeah, there's got to be a better way. We're relying on weather. We're relying on National Weather Service, and I thought National Weather Service did a pretty good job but sometimes these things also just form.

So, you know, today there was another warning in Essex County. There was a tornado warning that occurred right before we all decided, you know, came in to meet. That doesn't -- when you have a tornado warning, it also doesn't necessarily mean that there's a tornado on the ground. It could also mean that you have convections spinning in the air. So these are things that we're going to discuss in an After Action that we're going to be having next Wednesday. I think what's really important for us is to figure out, okay, is it time for us to start to think about, Number 1, do we go back to something like sirens that you may see in the mid-West? My wife lived in Iowa for years, and she said, "I would have expected a siren." And that's just not necessarily the case here unless you're closer to the power plant in Plymouth.

So these are things that we're going to have to consider, and I think we should be doing pretty well, and we'll get some good ideas from the towns about that and maybe even have the possibility of trying to find some grant money to do this. And we've had some discussions with some of our state partners about this afterwards.

In regard to FEMA, FEMA, we, basically, had to show a \$9.8 million damage assessment for that region and this is also uninsured-type damage that -- so we couldn't really count properties where homeowners have insurance and things like that. So what it really comes down to is, you know, Number 1, municipal building damage, what it's going to cost to do all the cleanup and everything. So, unfortunately, we looked at, you know, and the towns looked at it and we were out encouraging the towns like count trees. Trees count when they're on a golf course, okay. It's a managed -- it's a managed facility. So count your number of trees and we knew Harwich had something like 187 trees that went down at their golf course. But it just wasn't able to do that in the type of damage that it was. So we were, I would say, probably between 4 or \$5 million short.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: And just a quick follow-up on communication.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Sure.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Considering how often cell phones go out, it's a little bit scary.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes. It is really scary, and that's the tough thing because, you know, this is the other thing we need to do is to encourage and educate our homeowners as well. And quite honestly is how many of us still have a copper wire phone in our house? And if we did and our community has a reverse 9-1-1 system or a notification system like Code Red, what do we give them? We give them our cell phone, and we don't necessarily give them a hard-line phone or a lot of us are using Voice Over IP. I have a Comcast number at my house as well. And so if lines are down there, you know, it makes it very difficult.

With cell phone coverage, we did see some issues during this storm. I think we were in pretty good shape with the Verizon and with most of the major carriers. I'm not going to single out a carrier, but we did have some outages and they actually -- we had them in the MACC working with us to get those situations squared away. You know, I mean, unfortunately, that's the one thing that we've kind of dragged behind with this whole technology change is just some of the old-fashioned ways of trying to get information out and whether it be -- and so part of it may be more education for us, making sure people have a good handle on information just from their radio and what they know.

So, it's a dilemma and it's something that we're working on. And it's also a way of, you know, because there are still folks that don't have smartphones and trying to make sure that they get notifications in some ways. And so it's going to take us a bit of time to figure that out.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: And better, more reliable coverage is important for other issues, beach safety, for example.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Absolutely. More bandwidth is always going to benefit us. Having better coverage, yes, absolutely. I mean there are still some areas where we go where, yeah, okay, you're going to have a little bit of a drop. And to make that a little bit more robust is good.

The other possibility is making sure there's backup with wireless, you know, with Wi-Fi sites. During this event, Comcast was excellent because what they did was they opened up their whole Wi-Fi system for people to use. So those things were out there, and we were trying to get that information out in press releases, and they were as well just making sure people knew that Xfinity Wi-Fi was available if people needed it.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Other questions? Mary.

Delegate CHAFFEE: Thank you for this very detailed and impressive report. I think what you've shared with us shows that the County's response was fast and broad and really made a difference in people's lives and safety.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Thank you.

Delegate CHAFFEE: So hats off to you and thank you to the entire County team. I was actually impressed with the notification process. The televisions had the standard emergency broadcasts. I got notifications on my watch and cell phone very quickly, and it was a fast-moving storm.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: It was very quick.

Delegate CHAFFEE: Like 30 minutes across the Cape.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: It really was, yes.

Delegate CHAFFEE: And one other partner in response, I wanted to make sure that we mention -- the Joint Base Cape Cod National Guard.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: The National Guard was phenomenal. Thank you for bringing them up. So General Faux was available probably we saw him on Wednesday and just the services -- and we have the Guard in the MACC as well, so my apologies for -- the Guard was just absolutely incredible what they were able to do getting their people out there, getting equipment out there, it just was really good. And the areas they were able to clear and the areas they were able to help and, quite honestly, it was -- I don't think the state has ever responded. The Commonwealth has never responded like this before, and in a lot of ways they just really provided good support even down to the homeowner in a lot of ways. It was

really nice, and the guard was very good that way.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Jim.

Delegate KILLION: Thank you. Again, congratulations on your success.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Thank you.

Delegate KILLION: As you mentioned earlier, we're typically used to weather events here that are days, weeks in the making for us and this was not. Is this something you train for to be able to get up and running so quickly?

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: You know, you train for all, all incidents. So, quite honestly, being able to mobilize for a missing person is usually a quick setup of -- it may not be a Multi-Agency Coordination Center here, but it could be a Multi-Agency Coordination Center out at Nickerson State Forest or at Scargo Lake, like it was today. Andrew was there today.

So some of it is incident, yes. Some of it is training, yes. Some of it is just making sure that, you know, what you've been able to do is approve budgets and things like that where we can have the staffing to be available.

Now in this case, poor Andrew was in Plymouth actually taking a hurricane class when the tornado hit and so it was a few of us setting that up quickly. But by having folks and partners and people who are close by, you know, you kind of get these things set up quick. And so we've had experience with the long-term storms, but with some of the incidents that we respond to and some of the exercises we have, we've been able to do the short-term storms as well. And I'll let Andrew tell his story when he talks a little bit about sheltering.

But it's, you know, we have the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition for Southeastern Massachusetts has an office right here in the village. We had Chrystal Lapine from there; she and I were in the MACC already fielding resource requests within 15-20 minutes after the tornado was gone and the initial assessment started to happen. And that's, you know, and that's just we're central and people know what we do and don't be surprised if you see this MACC concept moved to other areas of the Commonwealth. I think there are other areas around here that are looking and saying, you know, maybe we should not necessarily in other areas bring counties back but have something more regional to be able to respond to these events and help to coordinate.

Delegate KILLION: Just one more; in this particular instance, you had the benefit of this occurring during business hours.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: We really did. Yes, you're right.

Delegate KILLION: So do you have some plans in place if it doesn't, if it occurs on a weekend or at midnight; is it the same thing? Do you have some --

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: The plan is basically we would come in here but, quite honestly, everybody has my cell phone number. And so a lot of times, I mean there were times when we were not here in this building and we were in trailers where my dining room table was where we were running storms from maybe 7-8 years back. It's how we did it.

So, yes, and there may be a timeframe though. You bring up a really good point. There may be a timeframe where, yeah, there's a little bit of a delay for us to get in here, but even as we're driving in or whatever or getting ready to come in, we're sometimes even just on the cell phone trying to, you know, make those calls because with hands-free and everything now, you can say, "Sandwich DPW Director" or whatever and we can try to make that cell phone call in. So the fact it was business hours, it was really optimal. You're absolutely a

hundred percent right. It probably would've taken us maybe a half an hour more at the most. I live in Marstons Mills so it's just a matter of getting in here.

Delegate KILLION: Thank you.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Depending upon road debris.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Elizabeth.

Delegate HARDER: Hi. As the Delegate from Harwich, I just -- I cannot express how amazing everyone was.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: It was amazing.

Delegate HARDER: It hit. We had -- my husband and I had plenty of time to go into the basement, although I admit we didn't; we watched but I mean the town was absolutely devastated Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday we went out to lunch.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes.

Delegate HARDER: I mean Harwich Port was open for lunch/for dinner within 24 hours of the tornado.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes.

Delegate HARDER: So art which, you know, very important to our tourism business and I just -- I can't speak -- never thought I'd praise Eversource, but they were beyond amazing. Is there anything in the future that you need us, our towns, to do better to help the County? Is there something --

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: No. I think I, quite honestly, you know, we have a great relationship with every town. You know initially when we started doing this may be back in 2006-2007, you know, there were a few towns that may not have worked with us as hard but now every town works with us. We even got a call in from Nantucket. So they didn't have a tornado, but we do get calls from them.

So, our towns are, I mean, Number 1, every single town has got the most incredible professional Police Chief or Fire Chief working there and Emergency Manager in some cases. In some cases it may be the Police Chief or the Fire Chief. But also there are some incredible Emergency Managers out there as yours, Lee Culver, is. He's fantastic. So, you know, we've really over the years just developed such a strong network between Police, Fire, and Emergency Management, DPW, Public Health, and all of these agencies to just really have this strong structure that can respond very quickly.

Now I also wanted to point out one other thing too. You had mentioned the timeframe. The National Weather Service was phenomenal during this storm, but I also need to give a shout out to two other people as well. We use National Weather Service here, but we also use two of our own meteorologists as well when it comes to these types of events. So we have, Number 1, we have Philip Burt over at the Fire Training Academy who is a meteorologist as well who helps us out quite a bit with these events.

And then in the case of this tornado that afternoon or that morning when it was occurring, most of the time I was in the basement I was talking to a gentleman, Frank O'Laughlin, and Frank is a volunteer with us who helps us out with a lot of -- with these weather events as well.

And so, you know, by having that extra assistance, not just from National Weather Service but having these folks that we can count on that are good, strong meteorologists, like Frank and Phil, it allows us to mobilize fairly quickly as well.

You know, the night before, and this is just a small story about the Springfield

tornado. I'm from Springfield originally, and the day of the Springfield tornado, Phil Burt called my office. He wasn't working for us at the County Health Department yet and he said, "Does your mother live in Springfield?" And I said, "Why as a matter of fact she does." He said, "Tell her to get in the basement. There's going to be a tornado." And within about 25 minutes, that tornado was a half a mile from my mother's house in Springfield. That's the type of people that we have, the type of people that know weather that help us out and are actually -- and the fact that we can get a quick heads up on a weather system developing, that also assists us with that timeframe and it also assists with the early warnings as well.

Delegate HARDER: Because there were no injuries.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: That was the miraculous thing, and I'm sorry I forgot to say that, the fact there were no serious injuries. I mean there may have been a few little things here and there, but we heard of no EMS, major EMS calls or anything like that during this whole event. That is just miraculous during this type of a thing.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Mary.

Delegate CHAFFEE: One other group I wanted to mention because they operate in the background very quietly and that's Barnstable County Amateur Radio Operators.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Same folks, yes.

Delegate CHAFFEE: Cape Cod ARES.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes, so ARES is also -- and that's where Frank O'Laughlin comes in because Frank runs ARES. And so we had constant contact. We run a ham radio in every one of our shelters. Why do we? Well, it's an old technology, yes, but it's also probably the most reliable. We've seen storms happen and situations happen where we've lost our police and radio system, our police and fire radio system, and we've been able to keep in contact with all of our shelters with ham radio. Ham radio is great.

We have other volunteers too and Andrew will talk a little bit about them because when we talk about the sheltering and then I think he's just got about five minutes just to give a quick head's up.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: That would be helpful. One more and then we'll go -- two more and we'll go to that. Linda.

Delegate ZUERN: You mentioned the sirens. I have been in towns where the sirens have gone off. Do you know how expensive that is and would you need just one or two per town?

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: We would have to -- it would have to be a whole research thing. It really is. That's just something -- it's a whole different, you know, I remember them on just about every elementary school in the city of Springfield. Looking at that little -- that yellow General Mills sign that was -- or whatever it looked like at the time at the top of a building.

So it would be something, you know, and then the other way too is looking is there a way for us to have a better notification even with National Weather Service and the Emergency Alert System? I think it did a pretty good job with this, but this tornado came up so quick. And like we said, this was a 35-minute event that happened across the County or the Mid-Cape. And so there are going to be occasionally those situations. So this is going to be a lot of the assessment that we have to do in After Actions. You usually take a little bit of a breather after the event occurs, and then you start really thinking of the planning that you need to do in order to make this happen.

Delegate ZUERN: Thank you.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Well, we'll ask the Speaker to please have you back when you have a chance to assimilate that information.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Terry.

Delegate GALLAGHER: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Sean, that was really insightful. I learned a lot. I have one perhaps somewhat frivolous question and one more serious question.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Sure.

Delegate GALLAGHER: The frivolous question is I haven't seen an image of a funnel cloud on Cape Cod; have you?

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: You know, honestly, I don't think I have. I think I saw the funnel via radar, but I have not seen it. You know, like the Springfield tornado, you saw it go across the Connecticut River. I have not seen it and I don't know if anybody really got a picture except for maybe close-ups of winds moving in a circular --

Delegate GALLAGHER: Yes, so there was the guy in Chatham on the boat. He was rocking around.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes.

Delegate GALLAGHER: And there was one cloud that was out near the Bourne Bridge I think it was.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes.

Delegate GALLAGHER: And it was sort of, you know, not really there but nothing in Harwich.

Delegate HARDER: There was one picture of it on Bass River.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes.

Delegate GALLAGHER: Okay. I want to see that. Anyway, but you were at OpenCape and Eric Fisher was there and he was talking about how everybody with a cell phone can take photographs of everything and how he has pictures of the meteorite for the 11 o'clock news; I was kind of surprised that I didn't see images that showed this cloud. Anyway, that's perhaps frivolous.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Sure. No, not at all.

Delegate GALLAGHER: You talked a lot about communications --

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes.

Delegate GALLAGHER: And I'm trying to imagine a conference call with 500 people on it.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: It's manageable. It really is.

Delegate GALLAGHER: I'm amazed. I'm really impressed.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: We make people mute. We make people mute.

Delegate GALLAGHER: Okay. But more seriously, you talked about the several modes of communication we have that we use every day in our lives.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Right. Yes.

Delegate GALLAGHER: And you mostly talk about the limitations of these --

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Sure.

Delegate GALLAGHER: -- the limitations of landlines, cell phones, VoIP, Internet --

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Sure, everything --

Delegate GALLAGHER: -- sirens, ham radio.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Yes.

Delegate GALLAGHER: There's a lot of modes of communications. They all have problems. I'm wondering if you have a comprehensive strategy for reaching the maximum number of people the most effectively.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: I think it has to be a combination, and I think that's what we're going to start to address is a combination of ways of trying to get information out to people. I'll be very frank; for us, now in this case, it was a short-term storm. It was a quick event that happened and within a half-an-hour it was gone. In most cases when we are in a -- when we're trying to get information out to the public, radio works best for us.

Delegate GALLAGHER: Yes.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: WQRC, WXTK because that's the technology that most people have. But what we also have to do is we have to layer it with other technologies as well. And some of it may be our website, some of it may be notification systems that are being used in communities. But we're at the mercy of what our technologies are able and unable to do.

You know, if we look at emerging technologies later down the road, and this may be for powers to be above us, is there any way, not that there was a problem, but looking at the Emergency Alert System and saying, all right, are there other ways of making sure that -- I mean everybody got the beep. It's just that's what happens with these phones, with our cell phones these days, but are there ways of, you know, even making it louder on the cell phone.

You know, I had somebody -- I gave a talk last night at a library and they said, "It wasn't loud enough" or you know and I'm like, "Okay. Check your phone settings" on that one and I even looked at the phone afterwards.

But is there a way, you know, and so I think you have to look at something and, fortunately, with this because, Number 1, we have aboveground power, a lot of our phone system is aboveground, a lot of our fiber is aboveground, most of our fiber is aboveground, most of our power's aboveground. So when you think about wind-damaging events, you have to look at different ways of communication, and I think you have to look at the potential where the best way to do it may be multiple ways.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Very good point. We do have a presentation after. Let's move on quickly to Scargo. It sounds interesting.

Mr. ANDREW PLATT: Oh, for the sheltering.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Please.

Mr. ANDREW PLATT: So Andrew Platt, Emergency Preparedness Specialist for Barnstable County. So we have six regional shelters that the Regional Emergency Planning Committee manages on Cape Cod. As Sean said in this storm around -- we knew by one but we kind of -- the final notification went out around three or four that we were going to open shelters at 7 p.m., a shelter at Dennis-Yarmouth High School. You know, we have a lot of volunteer agencies that come together to make the shelters run. In a lot of other areas of the country, the Red Cross kind of comes in and manages the shelters as a whole. But here we have partner shelters. So we have a lot of partner agencies that come together to manage our shelters, that includes the Red Cross. It includes the Medical Reserve Corps, the MRC; it includes AmeriCorps, that includes Cape Cod DAR, the Disaster Animal Response Team, our local CERT Teams will come in. We have an MOU with Cape Cod Hospital to have nurses

come in. In this instance, they also provided us with oxygen for the shelters to be able to provide for anyone who needs oxygen. We have just a lot of agencies that come in. I'm probably forgetting one at this point, but we have so many that come together.

In this case, we had upwards of 20 volunteers that came in to one shelter and, you know, this was -- we were kind of lucky in this case because in a winter storm with all these, you know, a hundred thousand people without power, it's cold, people -- a lot of people need a place to go. We have a much older population here on the Cape that maybe can't stay in their homes or deal with the cold for multiple nights, so they need to go to shelters.

In this case and a couple weeks prior, we had a pretty bad heat wave. You think about power being out, people losing AC will need a place to go. Well, the weather following the tornado, it wasn't as warm, so we didn't see as many people have that overnight need, which was a good thing. People were able to stay in their homes, but we did have the shelter open just in case.

We had a few clients overnight. A lot of it was people coming in during the day to charge their phones, you know, they didn't have power and they wanted to charge up their phones. They may have wanted a place to shower so we had a local athletic club that we were able to send them to, and we had a partnership there so that they could shower. So we were able to provide those services. It was a good opportunity for our partner agencies to get out and set up a shelter and then make sure that we're ready to go.

And just like with the REPC with the whole event, we'll be debriefing with the shelter and making sure that we can continue to strengthen the program for the other shelters as well.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: And mention your grant.

Mr. ANDREW PLATT: Oh yes. And so we did also just get notification from MEMA that there is a grant that the communities of Cape Cod did receive, \$25,000, directly for shelter supplies.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Would that go towards a shower potentially?

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: This was just an, unfortunately, a strange situation where they were in the process of rebuilding the showers at Dennis-Yarmouth High School when this event happened.

Mr. ANDREW PLATT: Yes.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: So it shouldn't be a problem in the future. So we had to do that. But in this grant there will be multi-bay cell phone charges, two of them I think we priced out, for each facility.

Mr. ANDREW PLATT: Yes, and we're going to look at a few other things. Obviously, with these shelters, the people coming in, a lot of them have access to functional needs so things like more wheelchairs, better medical cots. You know, a lot of those old Army cots that are not comfortable to sleep on; I, myself, slept on one overnight in the Multi Agency Coordination Center so I can tell you it's not the most comfortable thing when you have someone who's a little bit older, might have some functional needs, can't really sleep on those. So they have what are called medical cots there. They're designed -- they're just better designed for people who have that need to sleep on. As well as looking at other ways to deploy, maybe a few trailers, ways to deploy our resources and get more resources to our shelters.

Because our six regional shelters are spread out across the Cape and we need to be able to get, you know, a lot of our resources are staged at the shelters in conex boxes or

shipping containers that are either at the school or can be brought to the school by the DPW. But being able to get more resources out there because those conex boxes, they'll give us a start in the shelter but, you know, if we get the big one and we've got a lot of people in shelters, we're going to need to be able to get more resources to them.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: More questions? Oh, some curiosity on Scargo.

Delegate GALLAGHER: Yes.

Mr. ANDREW PLATT: Oh, well, the BIMT was called out. The Incident Management Team was called out actually last evening. This morning you may have saw a news article. There was a potential for someone missing in the lake and so there was a response from our Technical Rescue Team/Dive Team went out, State Police, all the local fire/police from towns from Hyannis up to -- all the way up to I think Harwich, and everyone was out there. So we had a lot of teams come out and go search for an individual.

In the end, they were unable to find anyone out there. There were no missing person's reports that had gone out either. So given that and given the fact that it had been so long, and the report was -- just came in from people. They didn't end up finding anyone but our team goes out, our Incident Management Team, headed up by Mike Walker, goes out to provide assistance during these to provide kind of that Incident Command System assistance whether it's logistics or planning or whatever they need to be able to help our police and fire and our other resources with these sorts of events and even smaller things like someone missing or something like that we can get a call out for.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: I appreciate that. Any other questions? Thank you, gentlemen.

Mr. ANDREW PLATT: Thank you.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Thank you.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Really great presentation. Much appreciated.

Delegate ZUERN: Thank you.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Important.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Great. Thank you so much.

Mr. ANDREW PLATT: Thank you.

Director SEAN O'BRIEN: Have a great afternoon.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Thank you, Sean.

Summary of Communications and Presentation from Tales of Cape Cod

- **Tales of Cape Cod Board Member Phineas Fiske addressed the delegates and spoke about the efforts being made to annually recognized Barnstable County Independence Day on September 27th**
- **A video presentation was provided and is being used to educate the public regarding local history**
-

Deputy Speaker MORAN: The next item on the agenda is communications and presentation from Tales of Cape Cod including background on historical events, recognition of Barnstable County Independence Day 2019, and other upcoming events to commemorate the 400th anniversary celebration in 2020. Welcome.

Mr. PHINEAS FISKE: Good afternoon. I am Phineas Fiske. I'm a member of the

board of Tales of Cape Cod. Tales owns the Olde Colonial Courthouse, a half a mile that way or so, maybe less, and over the years has realized that the building has remarkable historical significance which has kind of been a little bit -- recognized a little bit but has much more than had been originally realized.

We are to make sure that the public is fully aware of the significance to the building. I can't think of any better way to do it than have the County recognize this.

It had a good start last year when Leo arranged a fairly spectacular event at the courthouse. We had -- it looked like we were being beset at some point by people from the 18th century, but they were just reenactors. It was perfectly all right.

So, our goal here -- having a one-year observation was useful. We would really hope that this could be recognized annually in some way, and I think the resolution that you all would be considering would help a lot to achieve that.

I would also try to get to the schools to inform them that they have a resource right in their backyard in the case of Barnstable and Sandwich that can inform the grades that are required to understand be presented with a local history, third grade and high school and the state curriculum is supposed to take -- be aware of the historic -- historicity of their communities. And we started in Barnstable and we kind of, after a while when we get to find out what really works best, we hope to get the rest of the school districts on the Cape.

Other than my trying to explain anymore of the historical significance here, we have a short video which we'd like to show you. I think also I will -- there will be questions; I can answer questions afterwards. I'm going to leave -- if anybody has further questions -- leave some cards here so anybody who wants to can pick them up and give me an email, better than a call. I have a cell phone that isn't that reliable. And there are lots of resources online if you were interested in knowing more about what happened at the courthouse.

If you put into Google "Barnstable and Revolution of 1774," the thing that will pop up at the top will be the Tales' website account of the entire event from start to finish and its significance.

It's our contention there is no building on the Cape that is more historically significant than the courthouse, the Olde Courthouse. We think the people of the Cape ought to know about that, and I think you all help make that happen.

So let me see if I can figure out how to play the video.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Thank you.

(Video played.)

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Congratulations, great presentation. Questions?

Delegate CHAFFEE: Bravo.

Mr. PHINEAS FISKE: I'm happy to answer any questions anybody may have now or later on if you want to get ahold of me sometime.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: And I understand there are business cards to be taken at the end of the counter.

Mr. PHINEAS FISKE: There are cards, right.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Really important work and, you know, really going to be appreciated by generations to come.

Mr. PHINEAS FISKE: I hope so. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Thank you.

Delegate ZUERN: I have a one.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Oh, please, sorry.

Delegate ZUERN: Do you have a preview of what you're planning to do for the 400th anniversary?

Mr. PHINEAS FISKE: We do not. I'm not privy to what the plans are at this point, so I can't help you on that.

Delegate ZUERN: Okay.

Mr. PHINEAS FISKE: I'm sorry.

Delegate ZUERN: Thank you, very much.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: We'll be on the edge of our -- John.

Delegate OHMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, how's your funding situation? How are you doing keeping the building up to code, preservation-wise?

Mr. PHINEAS FISKE: This is a constant problem. We have been depending on grants from various sources. One of them also funded this as it turned out. The building is being -- it has a new roof on it. It's had the exterior has been redone, repainted, and some architectural features that were missing have been replaced. We are always on the lookout for more financial assistance, but which is part of the motivation for making sure people understand what we have here. But at the moment, we sort of have the resources to catch up with our needs.

Delegate OHMAN: And, you know, the Community Preservation Committees have money, and I'm sure you've applied to them but that's a resource that you could go regional to, don't just depend on Barnstable. There are other towns that are equally invested in the history of Cape Cod that you might spread your wings out.

Mr. PHINEAS FISKE: Most of our support has come from the state level, not the state necessarily but organizations at that level, so, yes, good. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Thank you, very much, for the presentation. Much appreciated.

Mr. PHINEAS FISKE: Thank you. And do give a call if you have any questions. Or, as I say, if you just put in Google "Barnstable Revolution of 1774," it's the first thing you'll be offered.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Excellent. Thanks.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: The next item, communications from public officials. Seeing none.

Communications from members of the public. Seeing none.

Assembly Convenes

Deputy Speaker MORAN: We'll convene the Assembly.

And look first to Committee Reports. No committee reports today.

Report from the Clerk.

Clerk O'CONNELL: Madam Speaker, I have nothing to report today. Status quo.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Status quo. I will just say that one of the subcommittees for the Charter Review did meet today and, essentially, just looking at the concept of whether

it's censure or some kind of process for elected officials whether it be the County Commissioners or the Assembly in the County so that is progressing. And I don't think there have been any other committee meetings on review of the Charter. So just one so far, so more to come on that.

Summary of Other Business

- **Copy of a Letter to the Cape Cod Times Editor submitted by Delegate Ohman and request to forward to delegates in regard to Charter change**
- **Sandwich Delegate James Killion submitted Proposed Resolution 19-03 to establish and recognize September 27th as Barnstable County Independence Day and the Cape Cod Liberty Bell**

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Is there any "Other Business" that folks would like to bring up? John.

Delegate OHMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, I just wanted to let you know that there was an article about -- a Letter to the Editor by one of our County Commissioners last week that basically challenged the very thought of changing the Charter in quite specific ways. And I don't know if anybody has had it, but I'd be more than happy to hand it into the Speaker so that we could disseminate it to the Assembly to digest.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: I think I will leave that to the Speaker to accept, but I think that that might be interesting information as we go forward. So it certainly is publicly available.

Elizabeth.

Delegate HARDER: What day was the letter in the -- it was in the Cape Cod Times so we could look for it? If anyone wanted to look it up, how would one do so?

Delegate OHMAN: My copy came from the regional copy of the Cape Cod Register. It was August 15th, last week, and usually those do circulate to the other regional papers but I'm not a member of those of the regional things, but it was last week, and these tend to be picked up by the other regional papers.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: And yet review of the Charter is proceeding.

Jim.

Delegate KILLION: Just other business; I'm just submitting a resolution based on the presentation by the Cape Cod -- Tales of Cape Cod.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: And I note it must have been quite a privilege to ring the bell.

Delegate KILLION: Yes, it was.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: That looked very fun. I appreciate you doing that.

Delegate KILLION: I do that on an annual basis.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: Nice, really nice. Any other business coming? Then I'll take a motion.

Delegate CHAFFEE: Move to adjourn.

Delegate HARDER: Second.

Deputy Speaker MORAN: All those in favor? Aye. Thank you, all.

Whereupon, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the Assembly of Delegates at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

**Janice O’Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates**

List of materials used at the meeting:

- **Business Calendar of 8/21/19**
- **Unapproved Journal of Proceedings of 8/7/19**
- **8/15/19 Cape Cod Times Letter to the Editor**
- **Proposed Resolution 19-03 submitted by Sandwich Delegate James Killion**