



Overview of the Planning Process

Updated September 28, 2006

The preparation of an Island Plan is underway. The mission statement is:

The Island Plan will chart – in simple but compelling ways – a course to the kind of future that the Vineyard community wants and design a series of actions to help us navigate that course.

It is anticipated that it will take about two years to complete the plan. The intention is to seek consensus on goals and policies, and to emphasize public commitment to bold, achievable solutions. The aim is to identify achievable objectives and measurable targets for the plan as a whole and within specific topic areas, and to outline specific strategies to reach them. These could include programs, incentives, regulations, and other actions to be carried out by the Martha's Vineyard Commission, by the towns, and by other entities. The Martha's Vineyard Commission will adopt the plan as the official regional plan.

Themes: The plan will deal with four broad themes and how they interact:

- Economy
- Community
- Ecology
- Land

Topics: The plan will focus on specific topic areas, with the help of work groups. Efforts on the first wave of topics begin in October 2006. These topics are:

- Energy & Waste
- Livelihood & Commerce
- Natural Environment
- Water Resources
- Housing

The second wave of topics, whose work groups should begin next spring, are:

- Built Environment
- Culture & History
- Governance
- Health & Education
- Transportation

Who's Who

Steering Committee: A Steering Committee was set up by the Martha's Vineyard Commission to oversee both the content and the process of the plan. It will be responsible for:

- Overarching, interdisciplinary vision, goals, and strategies.
- Identification and analysis of major alternatives.
- Coordination of interdependencies and trade-offs between topic areas.
- Finalize the planning documents and recommend them for adoption to the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

The members of the Steering Committee are: Jim Athearn (Chair) John Abrams, Clarissa Allen, Prudence Burt, Tom Chase, Steve Ewing, Ann Floyd, Ray LaPorte, Ned Orleans, Kerry Scott, Linda Sibley, Elio Silva, Russell Smith, Bret Stearns, Henry Stephenson, Paul Strauss, Richard Toole, Woody Vanderhoop, Susan Wasserman

Network of Planning Advisors: A group of several hundred Vineyarders, open to anyone who wishes to participate, who closely follow the planning process and give their input at key times. Members will:

- Receive a survey every couple of months and should be willing to respond,
- Be invited to participate in forums, work groups, and other planning activities,
- Receive draft documents and will be invited to comment on them.

Work Groups: Work groups are being set up to focus efforts on specific topics. The mandate is to identify overall goals and objectives, to identify short, medium, and long-term measurable benchmarks, and to outline strategies to achieve them such as policies, incentives, regulations, projects, and other actions.

Staff: The planning effort will be supported by the specialized expertise of the Martha's Vineyard Commission staff, and outside expertise and assistance (consultants, interns, etc.) will be brought in as needed.

Facilitators: A group of Vineyarders has volunteered to help facilitate various activities. Robert Leaver of New Commons is advising on the overall process and is facilitating major events.

Funding: The Island Plan is funded by the towns, by grants, and by donations from foundations and individuals.

ISLAND PLAN - OVERALL WORK PROGRAM - Updated on June 8, 2006

