

Cotuit Village



To many, Cotuit's peninsular location and intimate relationship with the sea is one of its greatest assets, has shaped its history, and now creates some of its biggest challenges. Although Cotuit has 12 miles of coastline, comparable in length to its 10 miles of scenic roadways, the 8 town-owned beaches, landings and ways to the water in the village combine to only 3.16 acres. Once renowned for its abundant shellfish, today one third of the surface of Cotuit Harbor and North Bay are occupied by boat moorings. There is a long waiting list for moorings in these areas, as well as in Shoestring Bay.

In addition to its treasured waters, the residents of Cotuit put an extremely high premium on open areas. These include central water protection lands, Mosswood Cemetery, and conservation areas such as Eagle Pond, Lower Little River, the Hovey property, Sampson's Island, and Crocker Neck Reservation, plus various wetlands and bogs. Four fresh water ponds, the largest being Lovell's Pond, cover an area of over 60 acres.

Cotuit, one of the less densely populated of the villages, has a year round population of roughly 2600, with an additional 1600 summer residents. Since the last report written in 1994, the number of homes has increased by 100. This construction has been in all areas.

Moreover, because of increasingly limited availability of buildable land, especially waterfront, there have been growing numbers of smaller properties purchased and immediately replaced with newer, larger structures. At the same time, the priority for developing affordable housing has become a key concern in community planning.

There are two business districts in Cotuit, with over 161 known historically significant structures in the village. One, located along Main and School Streets within the newer village center, is characterized by rustic charm and a laid back atmosphere. Most of the district is residential, heavily populated by homes of significant historic and architectural importance. Bruce Hall of The Cotuit Federated Church, Freedom Hall, Mariners Hall, the Historical Society, and Lowell Park, home of the Cotuit Kettleers, serve as foci

Introduction

Cotuit is among the smallest of the seven Barnstable villages, covering about 5 square miles. The major part of the village is bound on three sides by water. The direct outside connection for most is either over the newly reconstructed School Street Bridge at the head of Shoestring Bay into Mashpee, or more directly, to Route 28 on Main Street, Putnam Avenue or Old Post Road. The proximity of Mashpee with its large scale development and expansion of high density housing, commercial and resort facilities has had a significant impact on Cotuit; hence, the once pristine waters of Shoestring and Popponesset Bays and the Santuit River, shared by the two communities have degraded and now represent a mutual opportunity for restoration and preservation.

for regularly scheduled activities and events. The Library and Memorial Park are central to village life. The district also has a post office, a nine-hole golf course, a quaint village grocery store, an oyster company, a local bar and restaurant and a handful of other small businesses. The only public school and the fire station are within walking distance of the village center.

The Santuit district, the original village center, runs along Route 28 and is zoned as a residential area. Its relatively undeveloped character is unusual in the corridor. In addition to private homes, it is an eclectic mix of family owned and occupied businesses, along with the jewels of the area, the Cahoon Art Museum and the Cotuit Center for the Arts.

The following details the resident's view of the status of Village waterways and conservation lands, Village business districts and Village infrastructure, including the elementary school, and plans for affordable housing.

Section 1 Land Use

Cotuit Business District

The Cotuit/Santuit Business Area encompasses 4 (four) distinct business areas. The first is largely in Santuit, located along a 3/4-mile stretch of Route 28, including a section of Main Street, and contains an estimated 26 businesses; several of whose buildings are recorded on the National Historic Register. The area originated during the 18th and 19th centuries as the first village center, with a post office, tavern, church and stores. The area has always been a low intensity business area that predates the adoption of zoning or the 1983 rezoning of the area to residential use. Several businesses have a region-wide attraction due to their unique nature, and the quality of services provided.

In the most recent survey of village desires, 64% favored the creation of a limited business (commercial) district. The proposed area would be an area along Rte 28 from Newtown Road to the

cranberry bog and well fields. The rest of Rte 28 to the Mashpee line would remain residentially zoned.

GOAL: A limited Business district that will provide both a degree of flexibility to the businesses and a mechanism to ensure the continuation of compatible uses within the district and the surrounding neighborhoods. Provide protection and preservation of historic structures.

Strategy: Develop a zone that would provide for the above goals.

Action: Create a limited Historic/Business district that allows for mixed-use development of office and residential approved by Town Council with an Historical Overlay.

The second area is along Route 28 at the east end of the village, at the junction of Putnam Avenue.

The 73-acre Service and Distribution Zoning District developed as the Marstons Mills Marketplace is in this area and serves both the villages of Cotuit and Marstons Mills. The district is accessed from Route 28 by the traffic signal located at Putnam Avenue. The location and proximity to Route 149 also provides access to Marstons Mills. Putnam Avenue, as well as Old Post Road, provides easy access to Cotuit residences. The area is currently designated one of three (3) 'growth' areas in the town.

The Village would request that, since this area has reached its growth limits and is predicted to be a steadily increasing traffic generator affecting Cotuit residents, it no longer be considered a designated 'growth area'.

Both of these districts on Route 28 are major traffic links between Falmouth, Mashpee, Sandwich and Barnstable. It distributes traffic to the Mid-Cape Highway via Routes 149 and 130. Turning movements from side streets and private drives onto Route 28 impact the traffic flow which can present a dangerous condition. The area has several hazardous intersections that have resulted in numerous accidents.

At present, there exist three non-conforming business sites along Route 28 in the middle of the previous 2 districts that are somewhat isolated from the Cotuit/Santuit Business Area. Safe and convenient access and egress to these businesses is a concern as is the maintenance of the traffic flow on Route 28.

GOAL: Discourage any new roadways and private drives off Route 28. Continue to have this business area be residentially zoned. As existing non-conforming businesses located along Route 28 change over time, the special permitting process by which they change should ensure that the new business results in less traffic generation and lessens cross-traffic movements on Route 28. High traffic generating activities should be discouraged. The hope is to preserve the local character of this Santuit area by attention to the issues of lighting, signage and building architecture.

Strategy: To no longer consider the 73-acre Service and Distribution (S&D) zoning district a designated growth area.

Action: Have Town Council eliminate reference to this area as a 'growth area'.

The third area is the location of the Main and School Street Businesses.

Within the area around the intersection of Main and School Streets, there exist six businesses including retail sales, a restaurant, offices, a church and our Post Office. The area is in the center of a National Historic Register District and is also bordered by institutional and government uses permitted as-of-right. Respondents to a village survey expressed the desire to maintain these businesses, as they presently exist and to ensure its historic integrity both architecturally and functionally.

GOAL: This business district should remain residentially zoned. The special permitting process should ensure the desires of the residents are respected, and that the quaint nature of the village center is preserved.

Strategy: Keep residentially zoned. Explore ways to prevent non-conforming uses from expanding and reduce the amount of area that

is zoned commercial to prevent new uses from being established within the defined commercial district.

Action: Maintain residential zoning to reflect the types of uses Cotuit residents want in the commercial districts.

The fourth area is the Main Street Business Area.

This area, located along Main Street just off Cotuit Bay, contains 7 scattered businesses and several institutional uses, including the village library, a meeting hall, a Church, a Masonic Lodge, a tennis club. The 1.19-acre Memorial Park, located at the intersection of Main Street and School Street, serves as an identifiable village green. Lowell Park is located on Main Street and Lowell Avenue between Putnam Avenue and Main Street. To the west is the newer densely developed residential neighborhood of the village and to the south is the residential neighborhood of Cotuit Highground. The Main Street Business Area is predominantly residential. Most homes are of significant historic and architectural importance; many are on the National Historic Register.

This historic area, its homes, streetscapes and settings need to be protected from potential adverse impacts. Today it is affected by summer traffic to the beaches and the town dock, pressures for business expansion, lack of or deteriorated sidewalks and insufficient parking. The area has suffered from some loss of character both architecturally and culturally. To maintain its unique sense of place, village residents wish to conserve the historic buildings in a setting of spacious grounds and waterfront.

GOAL: Maintain residential zoning. There is a strong desire to protect the Main Street Business Area and to retain it "as it exists today". The existing businesses are seen as compatible because they fulfill the need for neighborhood convenience. The sidewalks and parking problems should be resolved and consideration given to "overflow parking areas" or off-site parking and shuttle bus service for use during the summer and blue fishing seasons.

Strategy: Keep residentially zoned. Explore ways to prevent non-conforming uses from expanding and reduce the amount of area zoned commercial to prevent new uses from being established.

Action: Maintain residential zoning to reflect the uses the Cotuit Village residents want to encourage.

There is a consultant's proposal, which includes the closing of the Cotuit School within about 10 years, something that local residents would not like to see. Cotuit has had at least one school and sometimes more dating back to the 1700's and it is hoped that the effort toward establishing a Horace Mann charter school or maintaining the status quo will be the outcome. It is also hoped that the 13.6-acre parcel including the playground and tennis courts should remain as recreational in perpetuity.

GOAL: Continue the Cotuit School as a vital part of the Village scene

Strategy: Keep the Cotuit School an active educational resource.

Action: Maintain the elementary school or offer it as an alternative educational institution, or some other public facility, while keeping the playground and tennis courts available to all Town residents.

Although Cotuit had a library in Santuit as early as 1796, the Cotuit Library, as we know it today, was founded as a private institution in 1874 as the Lyceum Society. The facility, located in the heart of the Village, provides computer services, a wonderful children's program, video, and traditional book and periodical services either from its own collection or through a network known as CLAMS. The Library's Kirkman Room houses a collection of rare books and ship models as well as provides significant shelf space for books and periodicals. In addition, it is used extensively by various community organizations as a meeting area.

Each of the Town of Barnstable's villages has its own private library, a unique service not found in many areas. While a significant share of their funding comes from private sources, they depend on substantial financial support from the Town. Unfortunately, the Town's fiscal problems have led to level funding, of late, and the

possibility of actual reductions in the future. Cotuit's financial requirements continue to grow to keep up with on going operating and maintenance costs, as well as to provide for needed improvements in layout both inside and out.

Despite its good fortune in having an important endowment level, Cotuit Library's assets do not throw off enough income to supplement the present support level of the Town let alone provide for improvements. Consequently, without strong and growing support from the Town of Barnstable and community friends, some essential services may have to be cut, necessary improvements abandoned and/or badly needed maintenance/repairs postponed.

GOAL: An injection of funds to insure continuing operation of the Village Library at levels commensurate with the needs of the community.

Strategy: Earmark public funds for distribution to the Cotuit Library.

Action: Participate in the budget approval process with the Town Council, and the Cotuit Fire District to insure public funds are available.

Community Character

Cotuit Village residents are proud of the village's character. It is the main objective of this plan to preserve as much of Cotuit's ambiance as possible. Over the last ten years this goal has become increasingly difficult to attain. Development has added both residences and businesses. Traffic has become more congested. Criminal activity has intensified. Waterways have absorbed large doses of pollutants. However, the funds needed to address these issues have become more difficult to obtain.

The residents realize that the clock cannot be rolled back; that Cotuit has to play its part in helping the Town meet its needs for the twenty-first century. Residents are conscious that the Village has to cooperate with the several layers of government that oversee the region. Nevertheless, Cotuit residents believe all of this can be

undertaken while maintaining most, if not all, of the historic character and charm of Cotuit Village.

However, to accomplish this village goal properly, the town and the region will have to assist the Village. Cotuit is affected by many actions that take place outside of the village borders, which can impact its quality of life as well as hampering its ability to provide benefits to town and regional residents. For example, if traffic around the Mashpee rotary on a busy summer weekend escalates from its present 3600 vehicles per hour to 5400 per hour by 2008, as the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod predicts, Cotuit Village's intersections with Route 28 could become grid locked, reducing, among other things, the ability to provide easy access to affordable housing and recreational facilities. Creative traffic engineering is needed.

Another example of the regional impact upon Cotuit is the adverse affects from nitrogenous waste. The explosion of new home construction over the past decade in Marstons Mills, West Barnstable, Mashpee and Sandwich, as well as in Cotuit Village, has resulted in a sharp increase in nitrogen-related pollution. The Mashpee, Santuit, Little, and Mills rivers all carry this waste into the ponds, bays, and harbors of Cotuit. One of the results is serious nitrogen overload and pollution of the Town of Barnstable's premier harbor system. With over 50% of moorings in Cotuit waters belonging to non-village residents, and with a string of beautiful beaches available to town residents, the onrush of pollution threatens one of the region's most cherished and most utilized recreational areas. Therefore, installation of nitrogenous waste removal facilities in the area feeding into the Cotuit watershed is a vital requirement if Cotuit is to continue to offer its scenic and recreational facilities.

The daily issues, such as more police protection, maintenance of local fire, rescue, and water services, as well as upkeep of the local road network, are undeniably important to Cotuit citizens. The broader issues such as education, pollution control, and traffic

guidance are equally important. Together, they can ensure that village character is preserved, that quality of life is maintained, and that Cotuit residents are able to be good citizens within the region.

It was decided in 1860 that Cotuit needed "a suitable place for all well disposed persons to assemble in, hold meetings, lectures, assemblies, parties, lyceums etc." This was the beginning of Freedom Hall, which has been a familiar spot for Scout activities, penny sales, auctions, plays, dances, etc. It is owned by the Cotuit Fire District and continues to be used extensively by various groups including the Town as a voting location for much of the Village. Maintenance at least at the level suitable for supporting election needs will require continued Town support.

GOAL: Improvements at Freedom Hall so that it becomes even more of an inviting community meeting place.

Strategy: Maintain the structure as quasi-public building.

Action: Provide financial/volunteer support to both the Cotuit Fire District and the Town Clerks Office to continue the use for voting needs.

Cotuit is fortunate to have privately sponsored cultural organizations such as the Cotuit Center for the Arts where music, theatrical, and art programs are available. The Cahoon Museum of American Art is a well-known organization featuring the whimsical works of Ralph Cahoon and the primitive creations of Martha Cahoon. The Cahoon facility has a museum store and changing displays of many fine artists. The Village also has an excellent historical museum housed in the early American Dottridge home and adjacent barn where Village historical memorabilia and a museum store can be found.

GOAL: Continued support by those in the Village and the Town of Barnstable for our cultural organizations, such as the Cotuit Center for the Arts and the Cahoon Museum.

Strategy: Maintain the public/private support of the cultural organizations.

Action: Provide financial/volunteer support to the cultural organizations.

Section 2 Natural Resources

The Village of Cotuit needs to protect its natural resources in order to assure an adequate and pure drinking water supply and to assure that the public has the use of quality recreational areas:

Drinking Water - The need for drinking water continues to increase. Contamination is of great concern: one well has closed due to MTBE pollution and close monitoring of nitrate and sodium is now required due to presence of significant levels.

Dense development should be limited due to the limited water supply available and to the possibility of wells exceeding the 5 p.p.m. maximum nitrate level allowed. Such development must incorporate the latest wastewater treatment systems to reduce nitrogen.

The residents of Cotuit strongly believe that the Cotuit Fire District (Water & Fire Departments) should remain autonomous. This was shown by the voting on the ballot question in 1996 when 97% of the voters opposed a study of consolidation.

GOAL: Protect against contamination of the aquifer.

Strategy: Maintain strict control of real estate zoning and property uses.

Action: Minimize industrial activities, which threaten the aquifer.

Action: Enforce existing zoning ordinances.

Strategy: Eliminate the storage and sale of petroleum products.

Action: If the opportunity arises to change the use of such existing businesses, the advantages of this change should be seriously considered.

Action: Change zoning to prohibit changes of use that re-establish prohibited uses.

Fresh Water Ponds & Rivers - Lovell's Pond is a 54-acre pond with a bathing beach, toilets and parking area. There is a small boat-

launching ramp with parking area. The pond is well known for its fishing. It also in the zone of contribution to Cotuit Water Dept. wells. Lovell's Pond presently suffers from eutrophication and has not been used for bathing for several years. The fishing has also been seriously diminished.

GOAL: Reopen the beach and staff with a lifeguard.

Strategy: Draft and initiate action plan to reduce eutrophication of the pond.

Action: Install a water treatment system at Lovell's Pond.

Action: Resume stocking the pond.

Santuit Pond - The Towns of Barnstable and Mashpee acquired a 290-acre conservation area, with State assistance, in 2000. A portion of the land is in Cotuit and Santuit Pond is adjacent to the land. Santuit Pond is used for bathing and fishing. Herring migrate and spawn in the pond via the Santuit River. It also in the zone of contribution to Cotuit Water Dept. wells. Therefore, the water quality of Santuit Pond is very important and is a factor in achieving the Nitrogen TMDL for Shoestring Bay.

GOAL: Upgrade water quality by reducing algae.

Strategy: Work with the Town of Mashpee to implement some remedial action. **Action:** If found necessary by water testing, then do remedial action.

Strategy: More attention to the importance of herring to recreational and commercial striped bass and bluefish fishing.

Action: Repair the herring ladder at the southern end of the pond damaged through vandalization.

Santuit River - The Santuit River travels about 2 miles from Santuit Pond to Shoestring Bay. The river is full of branches and fallen trees. It is also much shallower than in the past because the river is now wider. This is due to breaking down of the riverbanks by rushing water caused by quick releases from upstream cranberry bogs.

GOAL: Restore the riverbanks and normal river flow

GOAL: Restore historic fishing.

Strategy: Initiate a riverbank restoration plan.

Action: Secure permitting and obtain grant monies, along with volunteer efforts.

Little River - The River has had major impacts on its flow due to damming and residential development. It was once a herring run with fish traveling to Lovell's Pond. Mosquito control is required along portions of the river path.

GOAL: Restore a natural flow to Little River.

Strategy: Initiate a river flow restoration plan.

Action: Secure permitting and obtain grant monies, along with volunteer efforts.

Bays and Estuaries - Cotuit Bay, is the main saltwater bay of Cotuit. The bay is used for a variety of boating purposes and is a significant shellfishing area. There are several commercial shellfishing grants being worked. Water quality is a key issue in Cotuit Bay. Closure of some shellfishing areas occurs every summer and the closures are increasing. Excessive algae growth is also a concern, with nitrogen overload predicted in the future in areas along the western shoreline. A zoning ordinance is in place, which prevents any new piers along the western shore of the Bay, and adherence to this bylaw is crucial to the water quality and shellfishing along that shore, as well as to recreational boating in the area. The Town should move immediately to pass the regulations and ordinances necessary to control the proliferation of piers and the impact of piers on the public uses, especially commercial and recreational shellfishing. The mooring area is large and crowded and additional moorings should be prohibited. Cotuit Bay and the Narrows should be included in Town plans for nitrogen reduction, based on the Massachusetts Estuaries Project report on the Three Bays.

GOAL: Maximize shellfishing in the area.

Strategy: Control the excessive algae growth.

Action: Implement the Nitrogen TMDL's from the State Estuaries Study. Action: Educate the public about future funding needs for wastewater treatment.

Strategy: No new pier construction, which would affect the natural flushing of the area available for shellfishing.

Action: Adhere to the zoning ordinance prohibiting new pier construction.

GOAL: Maintain recreational value of the Bay.

Strategy: Prohibit additional moorings thereby reducing boat traffic. Action: Do not permit any more moorings.

Strategy: Prohibit additional pier construction.

Action: Adhere to the zoning ordinance prohibiting new pier construction.

Action: Craft new ordinance limiting the replacement of existing piers by providing incentives for shared piers.

Sampson's Island - Sampson' Island is on the south side of Cotuit Bay and is an Audubon wildlife reserve. The beach is enjoyed by many in the summer.

Goal: Providing safety for boaters and swimmers is a major concern. Maintain dredging to insure tidal flow.

Strategy: Use information already gathered by Three Bays Preservation as a guideline. **Action:** Remove sand from tip of Sampson's and place spoils from dredging on Sampson's island or Dead Neck.

Rushy Marsh - Rushy Marsh is an area in the southern part of Cotuit adjacent to Nantucket Sound. At one time the area was open to the ocean, was flushed by the ocean and was important to marine life (fish and shellfish).

Goal: Permanently restore the opening to the sea.

Strategy: Secure funding to all the dredging of the area to restore the opening to the sea.

Action: Implement the dredging operation.

Shoestring/Popponeset Bay - Shoestring and Popponeset Bays are historic and famous shellfishing areas. For many years much of Shoestring Bay has been closed to shellfishing year round. The closures are now creeping toward Popponeset Bay. Shoestring Bay has had major spring and summer algae blooms in recent years eutrophication has been found and it is severely overloaded with nitrogen. The Town of Mashpee is working on a wastewater management plan to reduce the nitrogen load on these areas.

GOAL: Improve the shellfishing and recreational uses of the Bays.
Strategy: Implement the Nitrogen TMDL's defined for Shoestring Bay and Popponeset Bay by the Mass Estuaries Project.
Action: The Town of Barnstable should work with the Town of Mashpee in implementing necessary wastewater management and other nitrogen reduction policies.
Action: Involve the Cape Cod Commission as necessary to solve this regional problem.
Strategy: Improve flushing at the bays.
Action: Dredge the area in Barnstable south of Pinquisset Cove to improve the flushing in the bay.
Action: Limit new piers, especially in the narrows, to prevent reduction of flushing flow and impacts on shellfishing.

Conservation Land

Crocker Neck

GOAL: Protect this conservation land.
Strategy: Observe uses of the property to verify that land is not being damaged and yet is readily accessible to the public.
Action: Closely police this area because of a history of "partying". Hovey Property and Santuit Pond Area
GOAL: Achieve responsible public access.
Strategy: Develop a Management Plan.
Action: Implement the management plan.

Old Oyster Road Area - There are several contiguous pieces of Conservation land on Old Oyster Road opposite the Cotuit Elementary School. A cedar swamp is on the land.

GOAL: Protect the conservation land and nearby public well.
Strategy: Control nearby development to minimize the impact on the cedar swamp.
Action: Observe present zoning and property uses.

The Town also provides a pump out boat manned by the Harbormaster's office. This essential service is important for health and pollution reasons and should be very well publicized and a must for all who have septic facilities on their boats. The Harbormaster's office also administers the Town's mooring regulations, which limit the number of boats that can be permanently anchored in Cotuit and other bays of the Town. There are complaints, however, that staffing limitations have made it impossible for full enforcement of the rules.

GOAL: Improve water quality.
Strategy: Encourage use of pump out boat.
Action: Educate the public about the Three Bays No-Discharge Zone and pump-out boat through signage.
Action: Improve enforcement of the mooring use/increase non-resident fees.

Recreation

The Town of Barnstable provides road and public beach maintenance services, which are under more and more financial pressure due to budgetary constraints. In addition to traditional services of this nature, the Town generously supports such community warm weather organizations as the Cotuit Rowing Club with a building and water, and the adjacent Cotuit Mosquito Yacht Club with their water needs. The condition of some roads to the water is of special concern; especially those in the more remote area such as the dirt access to Oregon Beach. Fishermen use it extensively in the spring and fall, swimmers in the summer; given the traffic periodic scraping is necessary. There are other dirt roads in residential areas, which are considered private and kept

underdeveloped, but here again the Town has supplied on-going scraping services. In addition to roads to water issues, there is concern that town owned waterfront property be maintained regularly from an ecological as well as a recreational standpoint.

GOAL: To give the natural vegetation on Town owned land a chance to rejuvenate.

Strategy: Facilitate funding and develop an ongoing process for the removal of all dinghys and other small boats during the winter months.

Action: Removal of dinghys and other abandoned small boats during winter months.

GOAL: Improve and maintain beaches and beach parking.

Strategy: Concentrate on Loop Beach, Oregon Beach, Ropes Beach, Rileys Beach, Lovell's Pond, Crocker Neck Reservation and the Town Ways to Water.

Action: Utilize DPW for beach and road maintenance, as well as road grading. This would include elimination of unwanted grasses.

Lowell Park, the home of the Cotuit Kettleers is a public park financially supported by private funds. Its main function is to provide baseball entertainment from June to mid August. On a summer evening one can see many cars from near and far indicating the keen interest of many who like to watch young college baseball stars participating in the Cape League in hopes of making it into the majors. The problem of vandalism of cars mentioned above has been a problem during the Kettleer games and one that could be helped with more police coverage.

GOAL: Support the continuing Kettleer presence.

Strategy: Provide an active police presence for parking enforcement.

Action: Cooperatively lobby both the Town Council and the Police Department to assign an officer.

Section 3 Economic Development

See Local Comprehensive Plan Section 3

Section 4 Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

Services:

The Town of Barnstable has independent fire and water services, something that the citizens of Cotuit wish to see maintained. Cotuit values the quality of its water, which is administered by the Cotuit Water Department, which was formed in the mid-thirties within the Cotuit Fire District. The Cotuit Fire District was created by special enabling legislation at the State level in 1926 after a number of disastrous fires within the Village. It is staffed today by a dedicated group of paid professionals who not only provide fire fighting services but also emergency ambulance, water rescue and similar support activities. In the past, volunteers provided these functions and although this has changed to full-time service, the close community spirit engendered by volunteer fire fighters continues.

GOAL: The Cotuit Fire District remains an independent viable organization serving the needs of the Village residents.

Strategy: To avoid degradation of services, the Village residents should financially support the District.

Action: Encourage involvement of Village residents with the management of the District.

The Town of Barnstable's police force serves all of the Town's seven (7) villages but given budget constraints and the somewhat remote location of Cotuit, the Village residents have felt that this service has not matched the needs of the Village. The Village is located some distance from the Town's more populated areas of police need and as a consequence regular patrols in Cotuit Village have not been possible. In the past, summer constables assigned to the Village were helpful but no longer practical. With vandalism and theft both in homes and cars, it would be helpful to have a full time police officer assigned to Cotuit.

The Town also provides police boat coverage on summer weekends, a very essential activity as Cotuit's harbor is considered one of the finest anchorage and boating locations in the area. People from remote locations moor their boats in Cotuit and ply the waters throughout the summer months because of the inviting conditions. This not only puts a strain on available space for all boat activities but also taxes the police boat services.

Roads leading to the shore are a particular summer problem as well, and when coupled with some speeding problems, present a year round difficulty. Fines for violations should be put at a level that would invite compliance.

GOAL: Expanded police coverage on land throughout the year and more complete police boat coverage during the busy days of summer.

Strategy: Assign dedicated policemen to staff the Cotuit sector.

Action: Initiate year-round patrols.

Transportation

The B-Bus Line service provides those without their own transportation a means to visit shopping areas, medical and other services unavailable within the Village. While the bus does not come directly into the village center, the ability to call the company to arrange for a pickup is important particularly to the elderly who are unable to drive.

GOAL: Continued bus facilities serving this and other Town villages.

Strategy: Cooperate with the CCRTA offering advice on location of routes and support in terms of getting the word out that it exists through sufficient signage.

Action: Support the CCRTA by increasing ridership of buses along established routes. Publish schedules widely.

Traffic

The Village of Cotuit has always carried vehicle traffic from Falmouth and points west to Hyannis and points east. Before the present Rt. 28 was built, traffic went through the center of Cotuit via Quinaquissett Ave, School St., Main St., and Putnam Ave/Old Post Rd. These roads are still heavily traveled as Cotuit and the adjacent areas have grown and people use the center of Cotuit as a means of bypassing traffic problems along Rt. 28.

The Rt. 28 problems are greatest at Rt. 130 and at Newtown Road in both east and west directions. Major backups also occur on Rt. 28 at the Mashpee rotary in the westbound direction. It is expected that backups at the Putnam Ave. intersection will increase significantly as businesses are added to the Marstons Mills Marketplace and as the use of the stores increases (expected when greater traffic problems at the Mashpee rotary deter travelers to that area). Travel through Cotuit via Old Post Road/Prince Ave. and Quinaquissett Ave avoids these problem areas.

Traffic on Cotuit roads is of great concern to residents. The roads are narrow, dimly lit and have poor sidewalks. There are a lot of walkers and bikers at all hours. It has been difficult to prevent speeding on the main roads.

GOAL: Reduce traffic on Cotuit roads.

Strategy: Minimize new businesses and curb cuts along the roadways. Discourage traveling to and through the Cotuit region by minimizing new businesses in the area around the Putnam Ave intersection (Marstons Mills Marketplace, Windmill Square, Industry Road).

Action: Improve traffic flow on Rt. 28

The State DPW has no plans to signalize Rt. 28 intersections in Cotuit/Santuit. Three nearby intersections are being considered for signalization in Marstons Mills (Lumbert's Mill Rd/ South County Rd/ Rt. 149) and one in Mashpee (Orchard Rd). The intersection of Quinaquissett Ave and Rt. 28 is planned for right-turn-only from Quinaquissett Ave in the westbound direction.

GOAL: Improve safety of Cotuit roads by law enforcement and improved sidewalks. **Strategy:** Review the town wide Sidewalk Plan for consistency with goals. **Action:** Implement sidewalk plan by DPW.
Strategy: Closely monitor the traffic flow and accident statistics at the Rt. 28 intersections with Main St and Newtown Rd. Explore signalization if improved Rt. 28 traffic flow or significant accident reduction would be achieved by the signals.
Action: Review recent DRI proposals for signalization and see if they should be implemented.

GOAL: Reduce truck traffic on village roads.
Strategy: Study truck traffic patterns on specified roadways and establish policy.
Action: Implement "no truck traffic" thru policy.

Section 5 Community Housing

Housing

Cotuit is one of the fastest growing villages with a substantial elderly population. As that population continues to age, there will be an increasing need for alternative housing. Most of those needs are being met today in neighboring multifamily developments close to the village, but as a member of the town's community, we recognize that there will be additional affordable housing in Cotuit.

Village residents have expressed a preference for affordable housing to be located in close proximity to Route 28 and the retail and transportation options it provides.

GOAL: To work with interested developers to address the housing needs, as well as to preserve the small village flavor. Affordable housing for young families needs to be addressed. Privately owned land, close to major traffic routes and existing commercial areas should be reviewed for potential affordable housing sites, not greater than 100 units. Any development should not be destructive to our water supply and should provide an on-site denitrifying wastewater treatment plant.

Strategy: The 6.11 acres on Old Oyster Road owned by the Barnstable Housing Authority should be sold for either open space or single-family dwellings.
Action: Encourage the Barnstable Housing Authority to sell the 6.11 acres for open space or single-family dwellings.
Strategy: Scattered site locations within the village that qualify for the amnesty program should be included in affordable housing.
Action: Assist the Town of Barnstable in securing these locations for documentation under the amnesty program.

Section 6 Heritage Preservation

See Local Comprehensive Plan Section 6