

October 31, 2008

Cape & Islands Small Grant Program
C/O Elaine Davis, Chief Procurement Officer
Barnstable County, Superior Court House
3195 Main Street
PO Box 427
Barnstable, MA 02630

Dear Ms. Davis:

The Dennisport Revitalization Committee on behalf of the Town of Dennis is presenting to you the attached letter of intent for the Cape & Islands Small Grant Program

Cape Cod is facing issues that require comprehensive, regional solutions that can have positive local impact. Dennis, itself, is currently working to overcome a \$850,000.00 fiscal gap. Revitalization in Dennisport would have a significant impact on the total revenue stream available to the Town and on the region as a whole.

The Charrette model is a significant and substantial cutting edge approach to creating a way forward both for our Village, our Town and our County. It is "significant" as a grass-roots approach to community engagement to generate actionable long term solutions. It is "substantial" as a planning modality capable of comprehensive sustainable revitalization of a depressed area therefore yielding a much higher return than any other investment. It is a "way forward" to work through issues in a collaborative process of education, facilitation, negotiation, mediation and advocacy on all the relevant and pressing topics examined during the Charrette.

There is no shorter and simpler approach which allows for elimination of duplication of human effort and reduction of waste of financial and other resources. A Charrette provides the viewpoint and the starting point for generating economies of scale and the comprehensive action plans to achieve the most important results first. With your continued support of \$15,000.00, this Charrette can help Dennisport generate "the right plan, *planned rightly*."

Sincerely,

Hank Bowen, co-chair
Dennisport Revitalization Committee

Tom Huettner, co-chair

Contact Information: Hank Bowen, co-chair hbindennis@verizon.net 508-385-1934
Tom Huettner, co-chair capesolar@verizon.net 508-394-7974

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Barnstable County, Superior Court House
3195 Main Street
PO Box 427
Barnstable, MA 02630

Dear Ms. Davis:

Nobody was surprised when a building in downtown Dennisport collapsed. They cleaned up the rubble, fenced off the hole and went back to business as usual. But this was Dennisport, so it was back to the lack of business as usual.

So much for the days of Henderson Hardware, the gift shop at Denmark Pharmacy and Edson's clothes store. A & P provided the groceries, Bradlees provided the balance and on a good day, maybe you ate lunch at the Brass Kettle. We didn't know then that South Dennis would become the center of commerce, the Dennisport Post Office would move down the street taking what traffic remained with it, the grocery store would change hands only to close forever, and the well-stocked shops would become antique, junk, consignment and thrift shops. Few businesses remain, and the Town has built a successful library here but still, Dennisport evolves like a landscape without a design, a building without a plan. Consequently there has been a mish mash of fits and starts and the populace remains disappointed, disengaged, unmotivated and actively prejudiced towards failure. A successful re-zoning effort that resulted in the Governor's Smart Growth Award to the Town of Dennis allows for more flexibility in building construction and use. But, lacking a shared vision and a coordinated action plan chaos reigns, expressed in disarray, disorder and economic despair evident in the village center.

Since the early 1990's, concerned citizens have been trying to revive Dennisport. The lack of a comprehensive implementation plan has produced the same outcome for all, amounting to essentially nothing. Meanwhile, we watch, we worry, we debate, we wonder. But thanks to an incredibly motivated Dennisport Revitalization Committee (DRC), Dennisport has one more chance - one more chance to shed its reputation as the wrong side of the tracks, one more chance to empower its citizenry to get involved and to make a difference that matters. And it involves a relatively new tool used successfully around the world. It is called a "Design Charrette" (Charrette)

Project Design: In brief, our Charrette involves the organization and hosting of a diverse group of paid and unpaid experts in environmental, civil engineering, architecture, as well as social and related design fields to work with local stakeholders and interested citizenry with the shared goal of re-envisioning a new Dennisport. This collaboration will produce a series of community action plans, a process for future collaboration to act on these plans and a means for results assessment to stay on track or make adjustments as necessary. The Charrette process consists of three phases, they are:

1) The Pre-Charrette community outreach phase. The DRC is currently hosting a series of topical workshop meetings which include: economic development; water/ storm water/ wastewater; land use, including recreation, open space, natural resource preservation; housing, including workforce, affordable, subsidized, rental and owned housing; alternative energy and utilities; transportation, including bike trails, sidewalks, crosswalks, and public transportation; public safety; arts and culture; historic/ heritage/ community character; and social services, including youth, families and seniors. Although only one topic is "economic development," areas are interdependent and thus necessary to address to encourage sustainable economic revitalization in a holistic manner.

2) Charrette Event phase. Collaborative sessions of concentrated design study over four days to develop solutions to address design problems hindering economic development in the village. A minimum of three cycles for public input and feedback are included to permit stakeholders and the general public to critique proposals generated and to guide refinement of the design. The DRC invites local professionals to participate on the Charrette technical team on a volunteer basis.

3) Implementation phase. Production of a final implementation plan roll-out by professional consultants who will conduct trainings with town staff, officials and the general public with respect to such plan, and initiate the Post-Charrette implementation progress evaluation measures.

Throughout each phase of the process, participation by stakeholders and the general public will be enabled through technology such as a frequently-updated website, a Dennisport blog and online surveys.

Comprehensive plans work. One needs only to visit the downtown areas of Falmouth, and Hyannis* to see the positive effects of community engagement and forethought. The ultimate goal of such a plan for Dennisport is to supply the blueprint to replace a severely depressed area with a viable, sustainable community. Dennisport has all the raw materials. Dennisport needs the vision. We are sure that over time, the right plan, *planned rightly*, will attract the necessary investment to realize these changes and Dennisport will, again, proudly take its place as a vibrant and charming village.

Scope of Impact: This Charrette, which goes well beyond the scope of those previously mentioned*, has Cape-wide impact in that it outlines a new mode of interdisciplinary problem identification and resolution and has as its stated purpose to serve as a potential model to be replicated Cape-wide. It impacts services to over 3500 year-round Dennisport residents and approximately 7500 seasonal visitors (who comprise the economic engine of Dennisport) and involves over one billion dollars in real estate assets. Geographically, the project consists of a nearly-circumnavigable island land mass created by the two watersheds of the Herring and Swan rivers and Nantucket Sound. It includes issues of water/waste-water, wildlife habitat and numerous other serious environmental concerns which have an effect on human safety, energy, insurability and regional public policy. This project is specifically designed to generate economic value for Dennisport, West Harwich and the towns of Dennis and Harwich.

Collaboration: The Charrette involves over forty stakeholder groups and organizations that are responsible for the administration of shared resources, shared responsibilities and shared control of the conceptual development and implementation of the Dennisport revitalization effort. It is intended to produce community-formulated action and implementation plans consisting of realistic, practical short-term and long-term goals as well as a mechanism for revisions through future community involvement. Residents and other stakeholders of the village of Dennisport will be prepared to work collaboratively to begin the sustainable revitalization process through utilizing these plans. The DRC is already networking with existing groups. Given the village's proximity to West Harwich, outreach efforts must also include the Town of Harwich.

Leveraging Resources: This investment by the Town through direct participation as well as that of individuals and businesses towards accomplishing their common goals of an economically viable Dennisport region is the most desirable leveraging because the Charrette process is key to all future public and private sources of funding. It is the cornerstone upon which all future innovation in design, construction, and community redevelopment will be leveraged.

Department of Housing and Community Development and the New England Grassroots Environment Fund (pending) and other foundational grants have been sought; however, the DRC is not an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code so some restrictions apply. A workable 501(c)(3) organization is a potential outcome of the Charrette. The DRC and town employees currently host a "Dennisport Revitalization" website and are developing online donations options. Students of Cape Cod Technical Regional High School are currently developing a Dennisport Revitalization information and fund generating brochure. The DRC has a target of \$20,000 in in-kind contributions, which will include information technology services, food services, meeting accommodations, and substantial volunteer time. Volunteers will help organize, manage and facilitate the Pre-Charrette topical meetings, the Charrette Event and Post-Charrette Implementation strategies. They will gather, synthesize and disseminate the resultant data and action plans. Lastly, wherever possible and appropriate, the DRC, which has secured the approval of the Board of Selectmen, utilizes the time, talents and valuable assistance of town employees.

Fiscal Accountability: This revitalization project produces straightforward economic decision making per its design to capture clearly delineated costs, revenues and other fiscal instruments, both private and public. This component of the Charrette process provides for the sustainability of the revitalization of Dennisport through a comprehensive analysis and synthesis procedure with transparent public input and discourse regarding alternatives. The State's requirement of a local comprehensive plan makes fulfillment of the overall vision possible. Because of the specific nature of the results it produces the Charrette products permit successful outcomes via community generated and individually owned revitalization implementation actions.

Documents Need: The Dennisport Revitalization Charrette is the result of years of study and efforts to understand the particular needs which must be resolved to create a healthy community. This project represents a creative, cutting edge response to all the factors involved and to well-defined needs as outlined in the existing Dennis local comprehensive plan and the DRC's charge from the Town of Dennis.

With your support of additional funding of this project, Dennisport and indeed the entire Cape, will have a proven, documented process by which to secure opportunity in the direction of increased prospects to reinvent how people live, work and play in environmentally and economically sustainable ways for years to come.

Your supplementary funding of this project in the amount of \$15,000.00 will help provide Dennisport and the entire Cape Cod population with the tools it needs to solve social, environmental and economic conflicts which are barriers to a healthy community. Our Charrette is a project that promotes a vigorous year round economic climate for Cape Cod that is worthy of funding by proceeds from the sale of the Cape & Islands License Plate funds.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Dennisport Revitalization Committee:

Henry G. Bowen, Co-Chair, Thomas E. Huettner, Co-Chair,
Carlyn M. Carey, Alex P. Kennedy, Linda Orlando

Dennisport Revitalization Charrette

Project Budget

Summary Statement: This DRC-led Charrette to develop a Local Comprehensive plan – Implementation Plan (LCP-IP) is the first step in an ongoing process to create and maintain a viable and sustainable village. It is the basis for all future public and private investment in Dennisport.

Last year, the Cape Cod Economic Development Council generously awarded the Town of Dennis \$12,500 in Cape and Islands license plate funds in support of this Dennisport Revitalization Charrette. Substantive work by the DRC since that time has confirmed that additional financial support is necessary to contract the services of a professional charrette design and facilitation team with relevant prior experience and technical expertise. They will guide the DRC's work to reach, inform and engage the public and key Dennisport stakeholders in the charrette process and beyond. To that end, the DRC in conjunction with the office of the Dennis Town Planner, Mr. Daniel Fortier, is submitting the above letter of intent on behalf of the town of Dennis, Massachusetts to apply for a grant in the sum of \$15,000.00 through the Cape and Islands License Plate Small Grant Program.

The Charrette Event will occur in April or May 2009. It will be designed, in collaboration with the DRC, and facilitated by B. Dennis Town & Building Design, the firm identified by the DRC as a result of a Request for Proposal process.

INCOME

CCC LCP Implementation Grant (Secured)	\$25,000
CCEDC 2007 Small Grant (Secured)	\$12,500
New England Grassroots Environment Fund (pending)	\$2,500
CCEDC 2008 Small Grant (pending)	\$15,000
Additional Grants to be Secured	\$20,000
In-Kind (Non-Cash) Donations	\$20,000

Total Income \$95,000

EXPENSES

Charrette Consultant Team (incl. charrette designer, facilitator, technical experts, etc.)	\$65,000
Advertising, PR and Outreach	\$1,000
Production of Base Data Research Materials	\$2,500
Report Documentation* (publication and general distribution of charrette products)	\$4,500
Information Technology*	\$3,000
Food Service*	\$3,000
Facilities for Charrette Event*	\$2,000
Overnight Accommodations (approx. 20 people)*	\$4,500
Secretarial/Administrative Expenses	\$2,000
Facilitated Post-Charrette Implementation Meetings and Related Instruments	\$2,500
Legal Documentation and Review	\$5,000

Total Expenses \$95,000

* Portions to be donated in-kind.