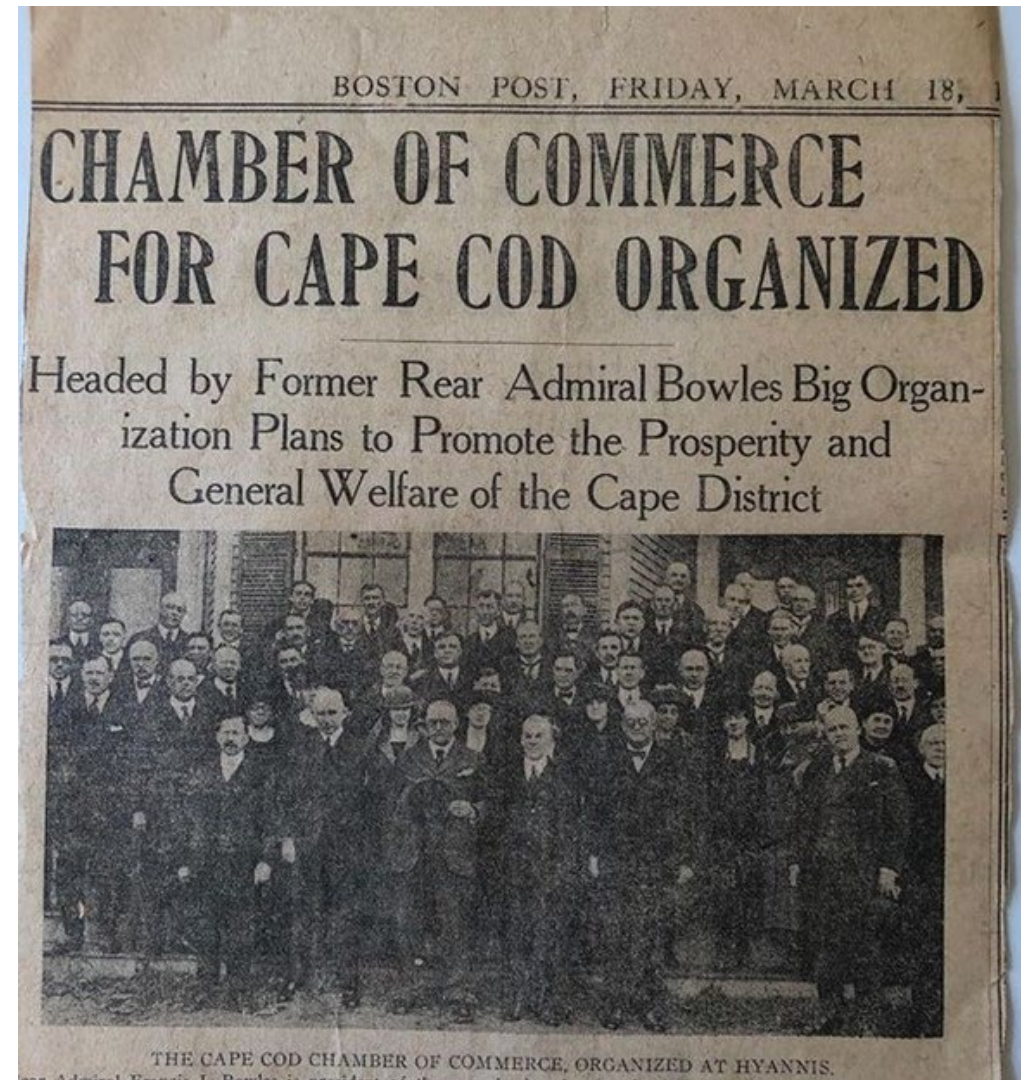


100-Year
Timeline for the
Cape Cod
Chamber of
Commerce



March 17, 1921 Business leaders form regional Chamber and elect Admiral Francis T. Bowles as president. First offices located upstairs in Barnstable town hall, now the JFK Hyannis Museum.

[Click here](#) for a complete listing of all the past presidents and board chairs of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce.





1927 Chamber and Mass. Forestry Association form task force to study forest fire prevention and reforestation, a unique national model.

1929 Chamber raises \$250,000 (equivalent of \$3.9 million in 2021) to create Cape Cod Mosquito Control project, which continues to this day.

1935 Canal widened and new bridges erected; Chamber successfully advocates federal government control to assure maintenance of water, bridges and roadways.



The Barnstable Patriot archives

1930s Chamber issues crop yield reports including peaches and turnips. Files legislation to ban billboards on Cape Cod.

1932 Chamber membership drops from 400 to 40 during the great depression.

1946 Post-war inventory of accommodations, services & facilities for vacationers conducted by Chamber.

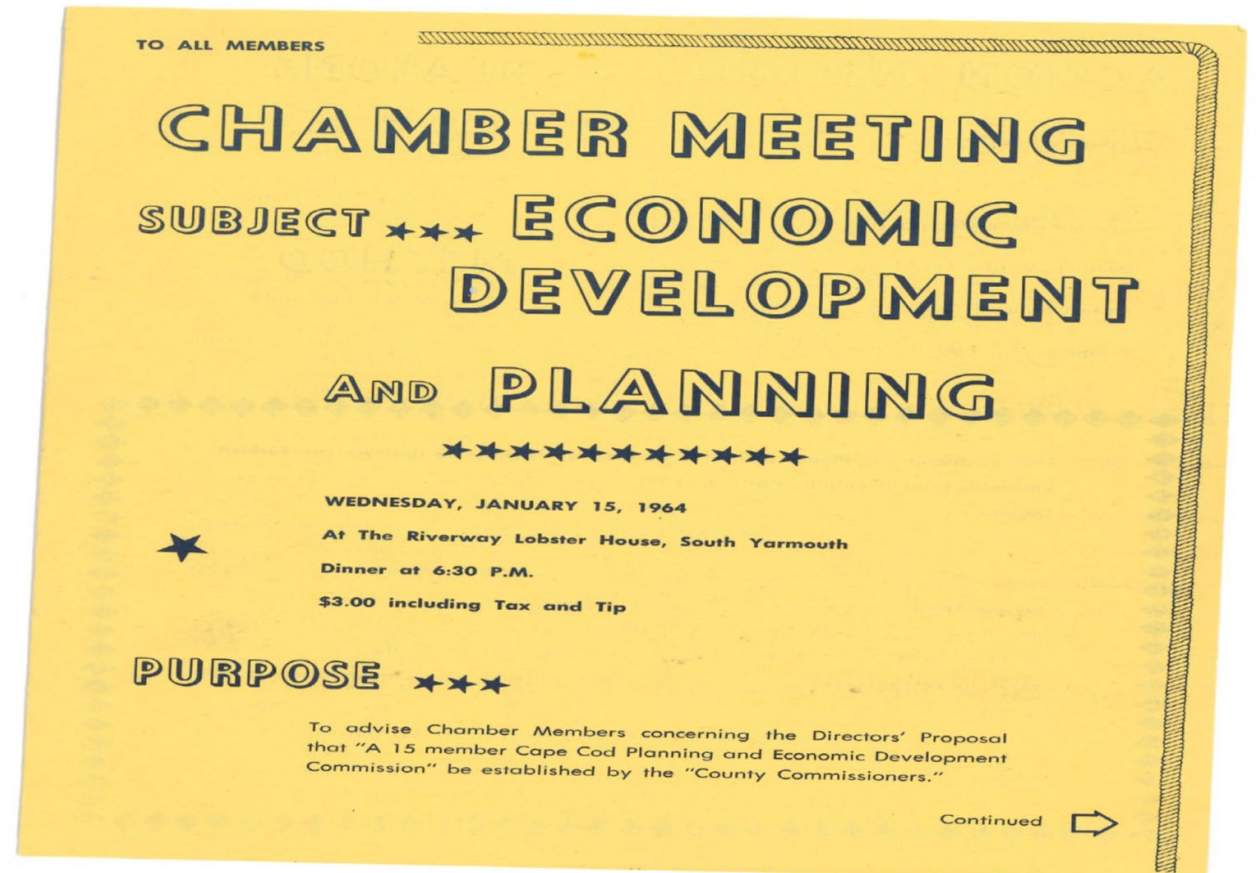
1948 Month-long Cape Cod exhibition at NYC Grand Central Terminal staffed by Chamber office manager Doris Bassett promoted Cape Codder rail service and featured 100' of real Cape Cod sand!

1951 Chamber president Benjamin Atwood promotes "Keep Cape Cod Clean" campaign and calls for "Trash Slingers" fines.

1956 Chamber relocates to a new building at the Rotary at Route 6, W. Barnstable. Nine years later, Exit 6 would be installed, and in 2021, the exit is renumbered to 68. (Chamber site is the small parcel on right hand side just above the former Craigville Motel's "u" shaped building.) Eventually, the U.S. Post Office address is 3 & 5 Patti Page Way, Centerville, MA 02632.



1964 Chamber advocates for a new Cape Cod Planning & Economic Development Commission in county government to “preserve the character of Cape Cod.” Chamber executive, Norman H. Cook becomes first executive director of CCPEDC (forerunner of today’s Cape Cod Commission.)



- 1970** Michael Frucci becomes executive secretary.
- 1980s** Cape Cod experiences unprecedented growth of residential and commercial properties.
- 1990** CCPEDC becomes Cape Cod Commission with regulatory power over land use.
- 1995** Route 25 Visitor Center 3 miles before Bourne Bridge opens.
- 1997** Frucci retires. Wendy Northcross is named interim executive director.
- 1997** Northcross appointed to the Community Working Group which releases consensus land use plan for Mass. Military Reservation (now Joint Base Cape Cod.) Plan forever preserves the northern 15,000 acres for habitat and drinking water protection.
- 1998** Chamber merges with county's Cape Cod Economic Development Council. John D. O'Brien, Council executive, becomes CEO and offices move to 307 Main Street, Hyannis (co-located with Cape Cod Bank & Trust building.)
- 2002** Chamber CEO O'Brien retires, and Northcross tapped to succeed him.



2003 Chamber returns to a renovated and expanded building near exit 6 and constructs new visitor center at same site.





2005 Chamber pushing workforce skills, creative economy initiative, renewable energy, wastewater and transportation improvements in addition to tourism promotion in its annual action plan.

2006 Sagamore flyover replaces rotary. Chamber info booth at base of Sagamore bridge donated to Bourne Historical Society at Aptucxet Trading Post.

2009 Chamber pushes for new Canal bridges and improved road/pedestrian access after maintenance work causes unprecedented backups and delays.

2009 Chamber creates annual Quahog Day on first day of summer, to promote number of beach days ahead!

2010 February 26,
Chamber's address is
changed to Patti Page Way
after the artist who made
famous the song "Olde Cape
Cod." Ms. Page was on site
for the celebration, and
shown here with Chamber
staff and Doug the Quahog.



2012 In March, the board of directors vote to create the Wastewater Task force, concerned about federal lawsuits potentially forcing an overpriced and “under-scienced” sewer solution on Cape Cod.

2013 The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod opens Cotuit/Marstons Mills branch (seen with Cotuit Center for the Arts director David Kuehn, Chamber CEO Wendy Northcross and Barnstable Town Manager Tom Lynch at ribbon cutting.)





2013 CCYP's Back to Business Bash featured a pirate-themed networking presence by the Chamber.

2014 In November, ground is broken for a major renovation at Patti Page Way offices to expand meeting space and enhance ergonomics.



2015

New Sandy Neck Conference Room opens



2015 State House Day
for tourism with the
Chamber crew,
honoring Arthur Ratsy
for his years of service
promoting Cape Cod.





2015 The Blue Economy Project is launched alongside the Creative Economy Initiative including public art installations funded by state grants. Pictured: 'A Whale of a Day' in Orleans for the installation of the whale sculpture in the main business district.



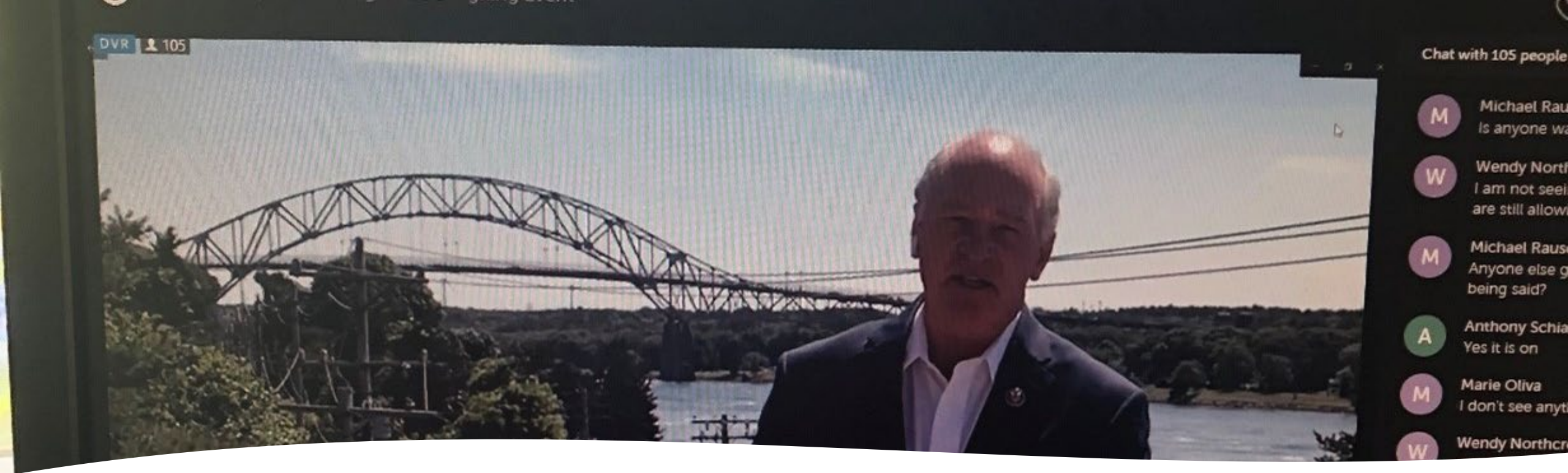
2017 Annual public policy briefings with elected officials held, here, with RTA executive Tom Cahir, Gov. Charlie Baker and past board chair Dick Neitz.



Major Infrastructure Victories

2018 Chamber wastewater task force and Cape legislators draft and pass law for Cape Cod & Islands Water Protection Trust Fund to build wastewater systems, which alleviates tax burden on residents, protects property values and cleans up impaired harbors and bays.





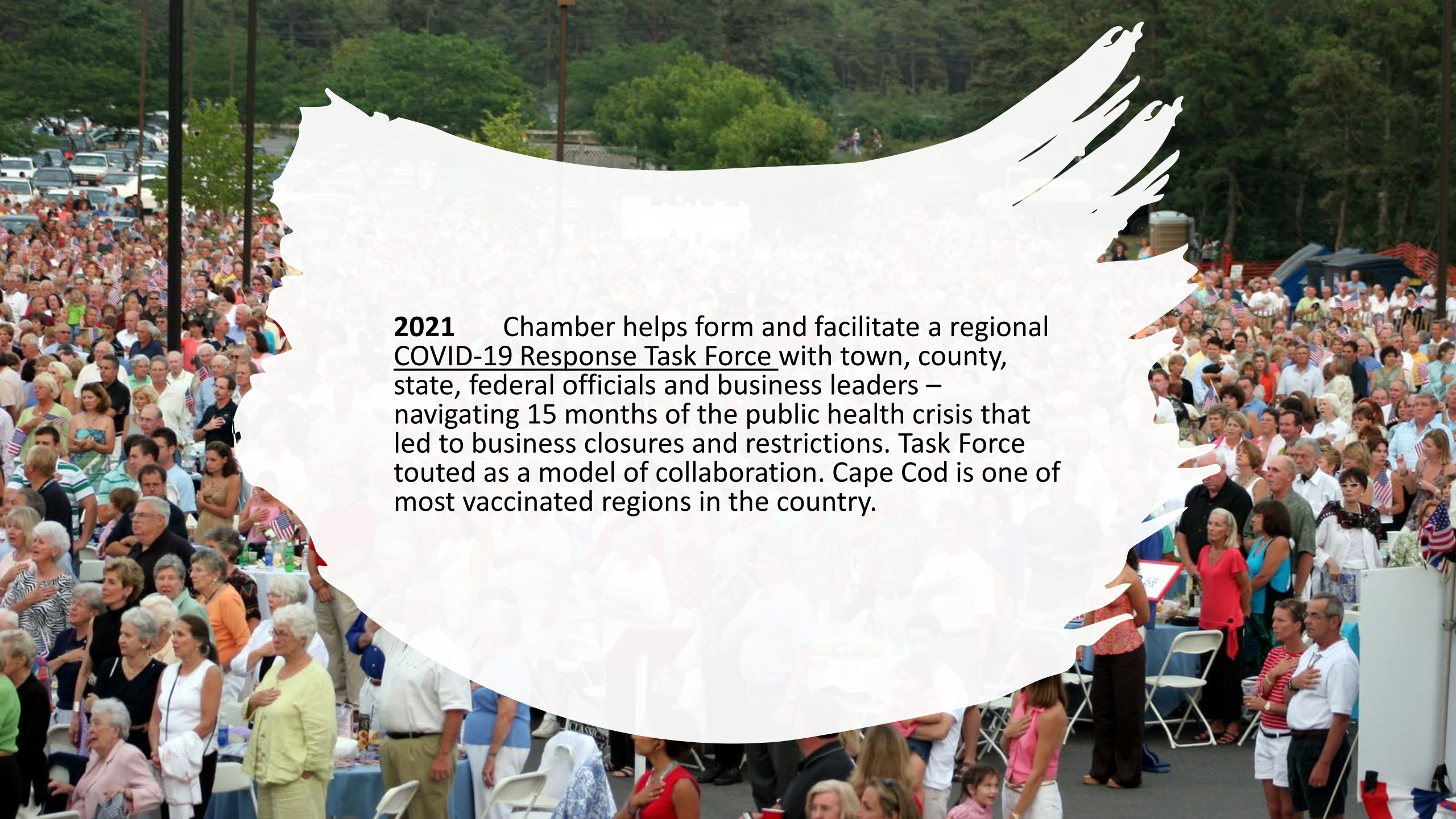
Major Infrastructure Victories

2020 In a virtual ceremony, Gov. Baker, Mass DOT and U.S. Army Corps agree to build/maintain new canal bridges and adjacent ways for bikes/pedestrians/vehicular roads. Federal infrastructure funds are last piece of the puzzle. Pictured: Congressman Bill Keating offers comments at the site of future bridges.



Major Infrastructure Victories

2021 First grants totaling \$71 million dollars flow to Cape towns from the Water Protection Trust Fund, saving property taxpayers same.

A large crowd of people is gathered for an outdoor event, likely a patriotic celebration. Many individuals are wearing American flags or patriotic-themed clothing. The crowd is dense, filling the foreground and background. A large, white, stylized map of Cape Cod is overlaid on the right side of the image, partially obscuring the crowd. The map has a decorative, feather-like edge on its right side. The background shows a line of trees and a parking lot with several cars.

2021 Chamber helps form and facilitate a regional COVID-19 Response Task Force with town, county, state, federal officials and business leaders – navigating 15 months of the public health crisis that led to business closures and restrictions. Task Force touted as a model of collaboration. Cape Cod is one of most vaccinated regions in the country.

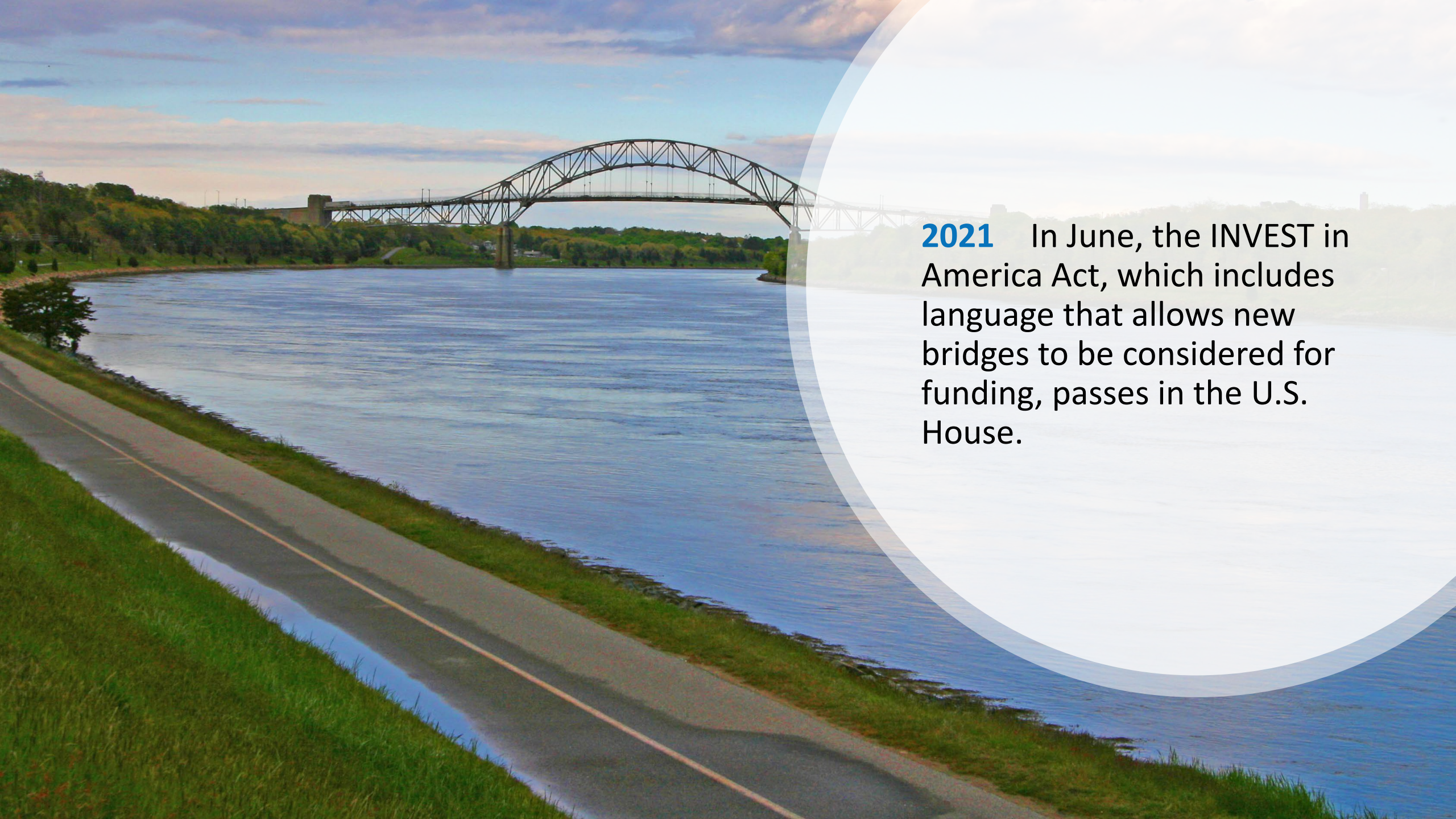
2021 The Chamber's Blue Economy Project constructs Expedition Blue – 10 waypoints in towns across the Cape and Islands showcasing our special connection to the water around us, from both social and economic perspectives.



Expedition Blue –
Bourne site



2021 Chamber's nomination for Old King's Highway OK'd for National Scenic Byway Status, one of only four in Massachusetts!



2021 In June, the INVEST in America Act, which includes language that allows new bridges to be considered for funding, passes in the U.S. House.

2021 Northcross named
Mercy Otis Warren Cape
Cod Woman of the Year



2021 Northcross retires after 24 years and Paul Niedzwiecki, former executive of the Cape Cod Commission, takes the helm as CEO on 7/1/2021.

