



community development partnership

Promoting a vibrant and diverse community on Lower Cape Cod

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ph: 800.220.6202 | ph: 508-240-7873 | fx: 508.240.5085
www.capecdp.org | info@capecdp.org

Eastham

Name of Event: Community Development Partnership – Welcomes New Board Members and Officers

Today's Date: April 30, 2020

For Additional Information Contact:

Jay Coburn, Chief Executive Officer
Community Development Partnership
3 Main Street Mercantile, Unit 7, Eastham MA 02642
508-240-7873 ex 16, jay@capecdp.org

Community Development Partnership Welcomes New Board Members and Elects New Slate of Officers

Eastham, MA – The Community Development Partnership welcomed three new Board members to its Board of Directors and elected new leaders at its Board meeting on April 22, 2020. The announcement was planned to be made and voted upon at the Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for April 30, but was postponed due to the ban on public gatherings due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Matt Cole, President and CEO of Cape Associates, was appointed President of the Board to replace Ben deRuyter, owner of Aqua Bar & Grill and 1620 Brewhouse in Provincetown, who stepped down after three years of service. DeRuyter will continue to serve on the Board as Immediate Past President.

"The CDP is one of those organizations that just makes you feel good because you know that the work you're doing improves lives and helps build community," says deRuyter. "I'm so grateful for having had the opportunity to serve the Lower and Outer Cape in this capacity, and for the incredible people whom I worked alongside. Matt Cole is one of the smartest and most effective leaders on Cape Cod, and I know for certain that he brings energy and an exciting perspective to the role. I'm looking forward to working with him during the next year."

Cole, who has an engineering degree from Bucknell University, re-joined Cape Associates after working in commercial construction out of New York City for seven years. He and his family live in Orleans and he volunteers with several local boards and not-for-profit organizations.

Elizabeth Hardy Wade, Land Acquisition & Permitting Manager for Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod, will be taking Cole's position as Vice-President. Wade is a native of Chatham and has taken an active role with several local non-profit organizations, including Friends of Chatham Affordable Housing and the Chatham Chamber of Commerce.

The Board of Directors also welcomed Jennifer Fennel Cusack, Janet Lesniak, Kristy Senatori and Brett Tolley onto the slate of new Directors.

Cusack is an attorney with ten years of experience in litigation, estate planning, real estate and family law practices. Prior to becoming an Attorney, Cusack worked as a public relations professional, advising corporate technology clients on industry analyst relations, product development, new product launches, crisis communications and press relations. Cusack and her husband live in Eastham.

Lesniak became Wellfleet Preservation Hall's first Executive Director in 2011. She began her career as an Occupational Therapist in mental health and chemical dependency treatment settings using the creative arts as tools for healing. From there she ran her family's historic inn and restaurant on Big Sur in California for over twenty years and during that time helped found the Big Sur Jazz Festival.

Senatori is the Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission which leads the region in designing innovative land use policies, environmental and community resilience strategies, and comprehensive economic development initiatives. After graduating from law school, Senatori worked in the private sector for several years before joining the Commission in 2008 to serve as Chief Regulatory Officer and Deputy Director.

Tolley is the National Program Coordinator for the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA), a fisherman led organization committed to building a movement towards healthier fisheries and fishing communities. He comes from a four-generation commercial fishing family out of Chatham and recently served on the Chatham 365 Task Force. Prior to NAMA Tolley worked in Brooklyn NY, fighting for low-income residents and organizing campaigns around housing and worker's rights. He is currently on the boards of the Chatham Harvesters Cooperative and Local Catch.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Community Development Partnership leads the Lower Cape in building a diverse year-round community of people who can afford to live, work and thrive here.

Our work starts with creating affordable homes—so essential to a healthy economy, but a real challenge in communities like ours where seasonal and vacation dynamics drive the market beyond the reach of many who live and work locally all year round.

We also work to launch entrepreneurs and strengthen local businesses. We believe a vibrant future depends on sustaining traditional industries and inspiring new ones—especially when they're based on renewable natural resources such as fishing, farming and hospitality.

CDP leads a community-based response by stimulating year-round employment and championing the development of affordable rental housing and homeownership. Our goal is to end the decline of the Lower Cape's year-round community; to maintain the region's rich diversity, and to restore a healthy mix of young and older residents through a range of programs and by spurring collaborations with town governments, business and local non-profit partners.

To find out more information about this organization, go to www.capecdp.org.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider.