

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$2,250,000 Federal Grant Awarded to Center Hill Preserve in Plymouth

May 15, 2007 (PLYMOUTH, MASS) The Plymouth Community Preservation Committee is pleased to announce that the Town of Plymouth has been awarded a \$2.25 million dollar grant from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program ("CELCP") toward the preservation of the Center Hill Preserve on Cape Cod Bay. Administered by the National Oceanic and Oceanographic Administration (NOAA), CELCP was created in 2002 to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical or aesthetic values. The program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase significant coastal and estuarine lands, or conservation easements on such lands, from willing sellers. When the application was submitted to NOAA in 2006, The Center Hill Preserve ranked second of forty nine projects chosen from applications received from throughout the U.S., attesting to its outstanding natural resource values.

The Town of Plymouth wishes to commend all the project partners for their contributions and enthusiasm, and also wishes to acknowledge the vital support of our congressional delegation. Congressman William Delahunt and his office provided invaluable assistance in pursuing the CELCP grant, as did Senator Kennedy and Senator Kerry and their staff. There was also substantial local support for the Center Hill Preserve on the part of citizens and town officials

The 78-acre Center Hill Preserve lies along both sides of Center Hill Road in southeast Plymouth and includes 2600' frontage on Cape Cod Bay, extensive dunes, coastal woodland, a portion of Center Hill Pond, dramatic bluffs that provide spectacular views of Cape Cod Bay, and a large tract of upland forest. Long a preservation priority for the town, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and the nonprofit conservation community, the effort to create the preserve forged a diverse coalition including the Community Preservation Committee, The Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Office of Coastal Zone Management.

The town acquired the preserve using Community Preservation Act funds for a total cost of \$5,675,000. In conjunction with the Plymouth Community Preservation Committee, Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation, Coastal Zone Management, and The Wildlands Trust, Plymouth subsequently applied for a CELCP grant hoping to cover part of the purchase price. The DCR also agreed to contribute \$850,000 to the project with the support of the State delegation, Senator Murray, Representative Thomas O'Brien and Representative Vinny DeMacedo. The State CPA Trust fund contributed over 1.2 million in matching funds. Thus, the town's initial expenditure, eventually leveraged over \$4.3 million in state and federal grant monies that significantly reduced the Town total cost. All of this would have been unlikely with Plymouth's adoption of the Community Preservation Act in 2002. This grant serves to repay their foresight and their willingness to expend CPA funds on this outstanding project.

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