

Over the past several years the MVC has been working with the Cape's Blue Economy Project and has partnered with the Cape more recently on workforce development initiatives to include the Island Schools to participate in Blue Economy Workforce Development Surveys and this past January over 34 Island high school students attended the Waterworks Blue Economy Career Day. The Cape's Blue Economy Project covers not only the Cape but also Dukes, Nantucket, and Plymouth counties. Below are two opportunities for the Island Towns to partner and support the Cape's Blue Economy Project:

1. "Expedition: Blue!" is an effort of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and the Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation, Inc. to join with partners across the Cape, Islands and Southern Plymouth County to implement a network of about 20 interpretive sites for a maritime trail network. These sites will reveal the potential of the water-based economy of the region, provide a platform for exploring its rich cultural, economic and historic assets and be a portal for residents and visitors alike to meaningfully engage in the local blue economy.

The "Expedition: Blue!" is funded by the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council which would be a great opportunity to have an Island town featured in the maritime trail network. Back in July, towns were asked to submit potential sites that would help raise awareness and promote how the environment is our Economy – Water as our way of Life. To get started, follow the link to the Expedition: Blue! Partner Portal <https://www.bluecapecod.org/exp-blue-partner-portal>. Feel free to contact Bert Jackson, Director of Community Engagement at (508) 237-5640 or [bert@capecodchamber.org](mailto:bert@capecodchamber.org). I would be happy to make arrangements for the Blue Economy Project Staff to do a presentation at a Board of Selectmen's meeting. This may require some work, so feel free to give me a call.

2. The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce is requesting a letter of support from partnering towns for a REDO Application Grant through the Massachusetts Office of Business Development. The grant will continue to fund Workforce Development initiatives particularly under the Waterworks Blue Economy Career Day and Workforce Development Survey for students as well as other small business initiatives. Attached is a template that you can use. The letter of support can be emailed to *Ms. Nhat Le, Mass office of Business Development*, at [nhat.le@mass.gov](mailto:nhat.le@mass.gov) and if you could copy *Wendy Northcross, CEO, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce*, at [wendy@capecodchamber.org](mailto:wendy@capecodchamber.org). Letters of Support are due by Wednesday September 11, 2019.

At the very least, I would encourage all of the Island towns to submit a letter of support for the Cape's REDO Grant Application. Fostering good working relationships and building partnerships between the Cape and Islands is not only mutually beneficial but also is vitally important to support our Blue Economy. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to give me a call. I am happy to help.

Thanks,

Christine

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