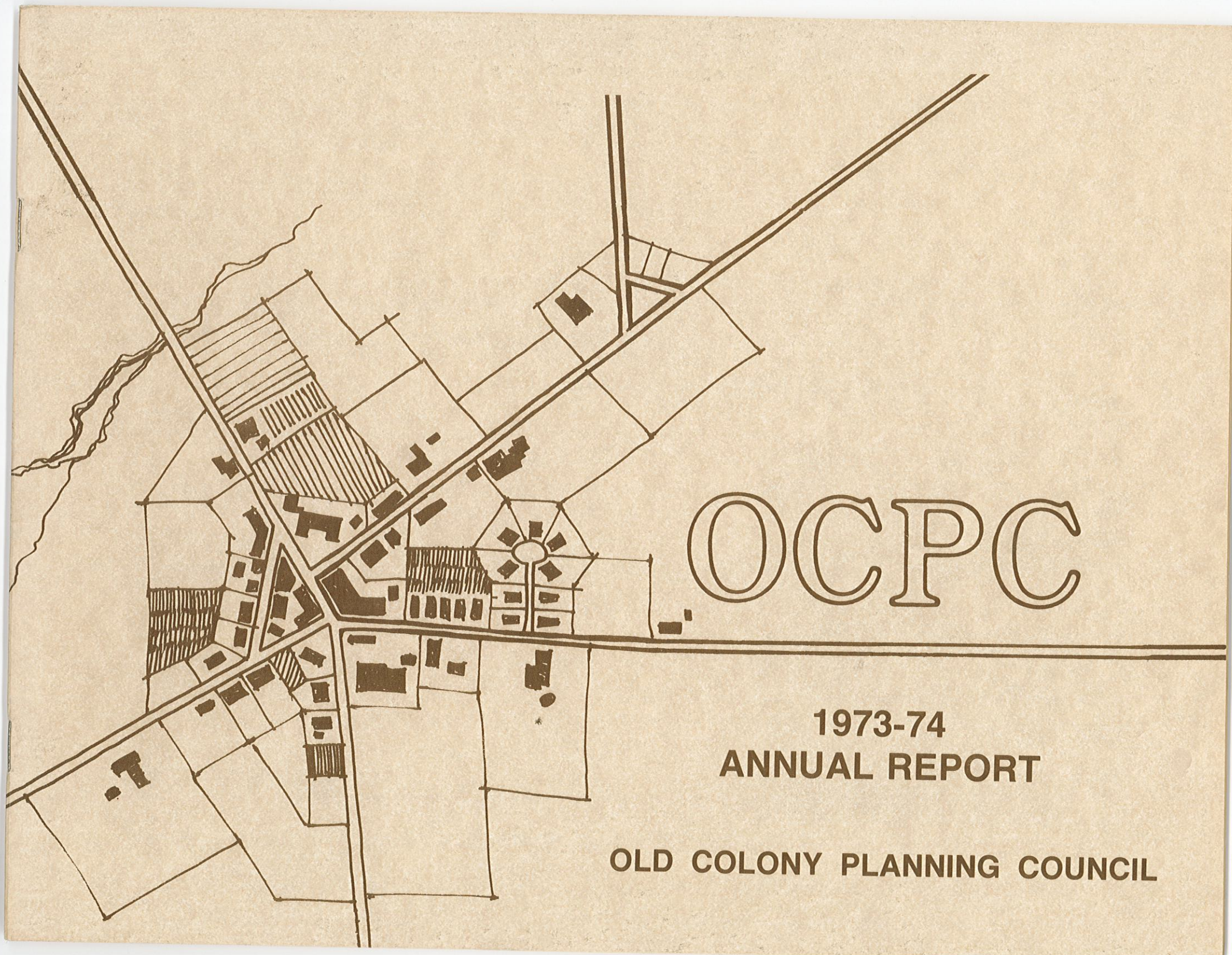




232 MAIN STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02401

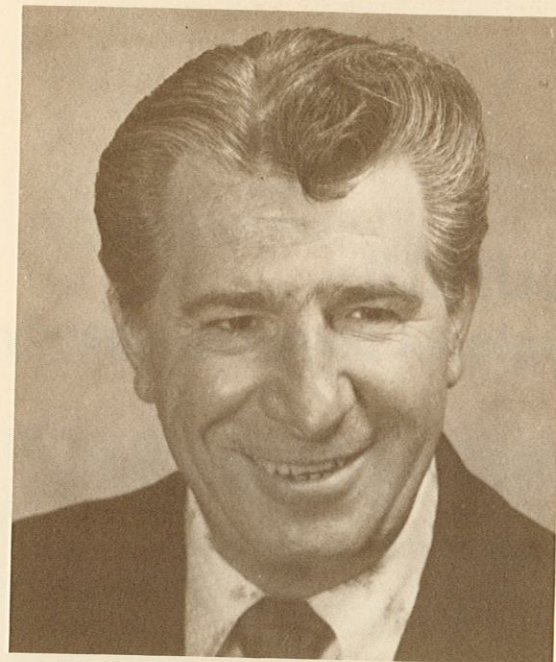


OCPC

1973-74
ANNUAL REPORT

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



John J. DeMarco
President

This past year Old Colony Planning Council completed its seventh year of activity since its establishment in 1967 and it also marked the first year of my tenure as President of the Council. Over these years the Council has laid a strong foundation for playing an increasingly important role in resolving areawide problems and accomplishing positive change for the region. I believe the Council has never been in a stronger position to serve the needs of the area communities than it is at present. Currently, the Council has a highly competent professional staff with demonstrated ability to assist local officials in anticipating problems and in evaluating alternatives.

The direction and program of the Old Colony Planning Council has undergone considerable change in the relatively short time that I have been President of the Council. Increased emphasis has been placed upon the following tasks: providing an increased professional staff capability; achieving more visibility with the general public; providing a high level of service to member communities; implementing Council plans and programs; and, devoting greater attention to economic development activities. To a large extent all of these short term objectives have been accomplished. However, the Council would still like to improve its relationship with local boards and commissions through the provision of more technical assistance.

I believe that the Council is on the threshold of a new era of service for the region that will see the Council become more influential and effective in decisions that affect growth and change for the area. Through its effort on behalf of the region the Council has accomplished the following designations:

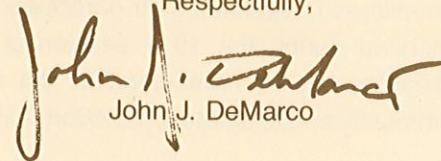
- Certification as an Areawide Planning Organization by the Department of Housing and Urban Development which recognizes that there exists adequate long-range comprehensive planning for the area and that adequate progress has been made in the past year.
- Certification for Water and Sanitary Sewer Planning and Programming by the Department of Housing and Urban

Development and the Environmental Protection Agency. This certification recognizes the existence of adequate sewer and water plans for the region and makes proposed projects eligible for federal assistance.

- Certification for Open Space Functional Planning by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Open Space planning certification makes proposed projects within the region eligible for federal assistance.
- Certification for Transportation Planning by the Department of Transportation which recognizes that certain transportation planning requirements have been completed and makes proposed projects eligible for federal funding.
- Designation of the area by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce as a Redevelopment Area under the provisions of Title IV of the Public Works and Economic Development Assistance Act.

These accomplishments have been substantial and they are reflective of the high level of performance of the Council. However, our job is far from being completed and we must be prepared to meet the challenges that the future will bring. I look forward to your continued support in meeting the challenges of the future.

Respectfully,

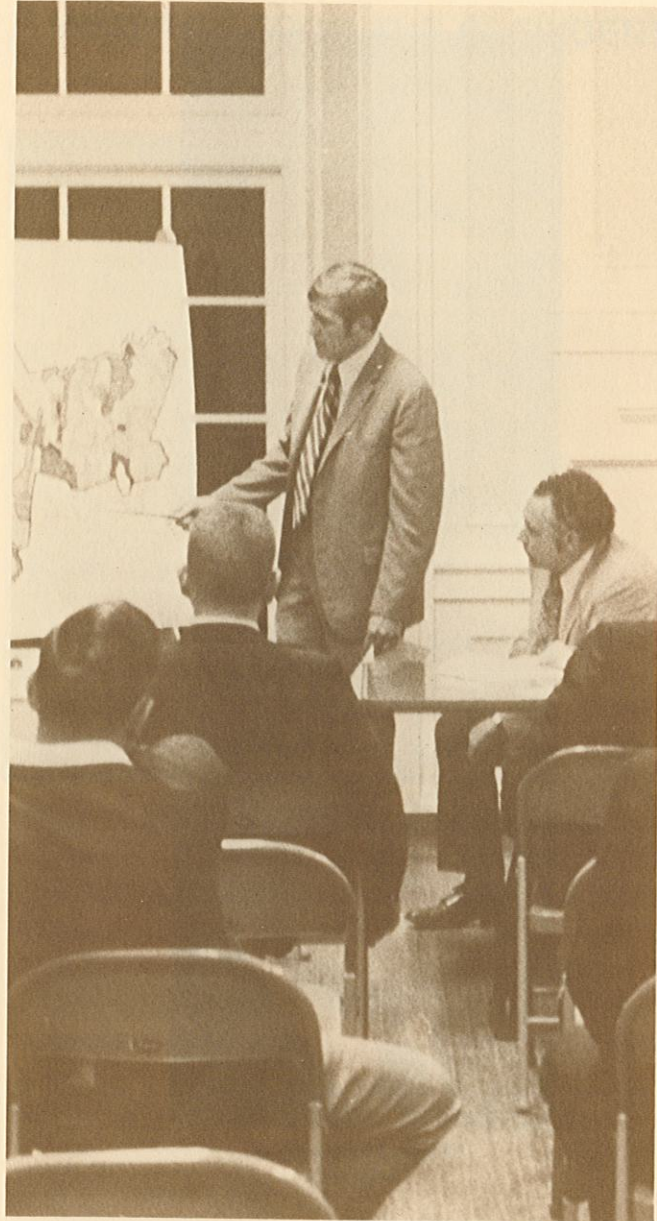

John J. DeMarco



A. Stanley Littlefield
Treasurer



Charles M. Repeta, Jr.
Secretary



ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Old Colony Planning Council was formed in 1967 by concerned Brockton area citizens who recognized that areawide concerns could be effectively dealt with by local governments working together. Chapter 332 of the Acts of 1967 established the Council and authorized the Agency to prepare plans to "improve the physical, social and economic conditions of the district." The policies and programs of the OCPC are determined by the Council members who are appointed by the member municipalities. Each community is represented by a delegate and alternate member who meet each month to conduct the affairs of the Council. From its membership the Council elects a President, Secretary and Treasurer for a one-year term. The activities of the OCPC are funded by local community assessment and from a variety of state and federal grant programs.

The Council during the past seven years has provided alternative solutions to local governments in dealing with a variety of areawide problems. Major efforts have included a three year study of water and sewer problems and alternatives culminating in the Regional Water and Sewer Plan; a Regional Open Space Plan designed to identify critical open space and environmental areas; and a three phase economic base study designed to help the Brockton area emerge from its economic decline.

In the past year the Council has concentrated on implementing specific plans and programs that would correct area deficiencies. A major activity during the past year centered around the establishment of the Old Colony Water Pollution Control District. A bill to create the District was submitted to the General Court and received favorable consideration by the General Court in 1973 and permitted the local communities to consider the proposal at their respective town meetings. As of this writing, three of the eight communities eligible for membership in the District have voted to join while several others have appointed study committees to evaluate their participation in the District. In addition, the enabling Act was amended during the 1974 session of the General Court to provide for the Town of Bridgewater to be reimbursed for the existing municipal sewage treatment plant in that community and to delete a provision that requires three contiguous communities eligible for

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

COMMUNITY

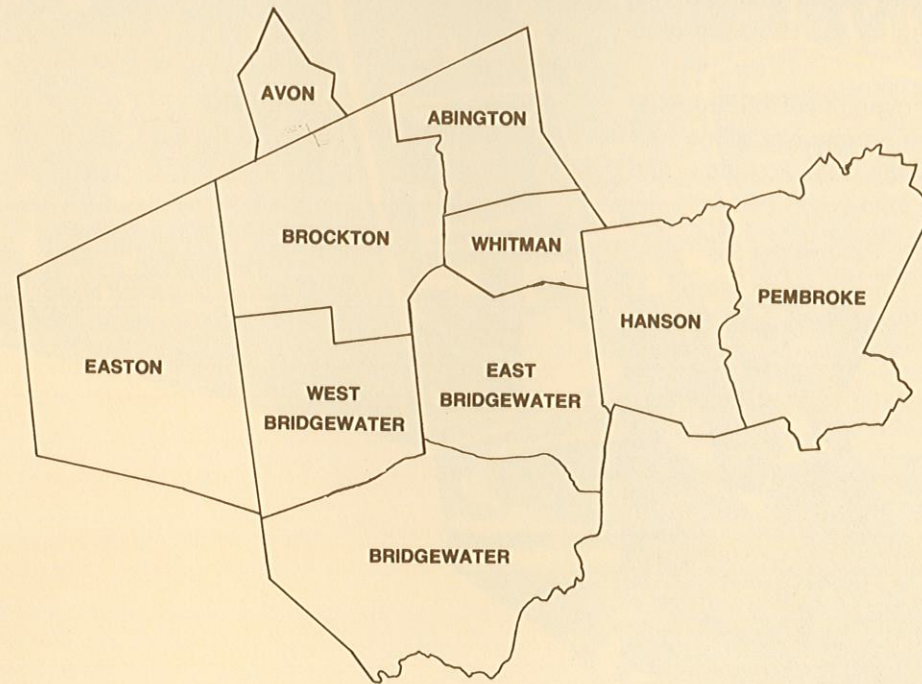
Abington
Avon
Bridgewater
Brockton
East Bridgewater
Easton
Hanson
Pembroke
West Bridgewater
Whitman

DELEGATES

A. Stanley Littlefield
John J. DeMarco
Anthony Anacki
David E. Crosby, Mayor
Charles M. Repeta, Jr.
Richard H. Chase
Robert H. Kenyon
Donald Q. Joyce
Merton H. Ouderkirk
John F. Connolly

ALTERNATES

Rodney D. Henrikson
Robert W. Pursley
Charles A. Dyke
Paul Adams
Charles A. Benson
Charles L. Hattaway
Thomas F. Horan
Peter C. Conley
Ronald P. Snell
Lee F. Welch



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL Population and Land Area Statistics

Community	1970 Population	Square Miles	Persons Per Square Miles
Abington	12,334	9.97	1,237
Avon	5,295	4.35	1,217
Bridgewater	11,829	27.29	433
Brockton	89,040	21.37	4,167
East Bridgewater	8,347	17.28	483
Easton	12,157	29.04	419
Hanson	7,148	15.17	471
Pembroke	11,193	21.53	520
West Bridgewater	7,152	15.49	462
Whitman	<u>13,059</u>	<u>6.70</u>	<u>1,949</u>
O CPC TOTAL	177,554	168.19	1,056

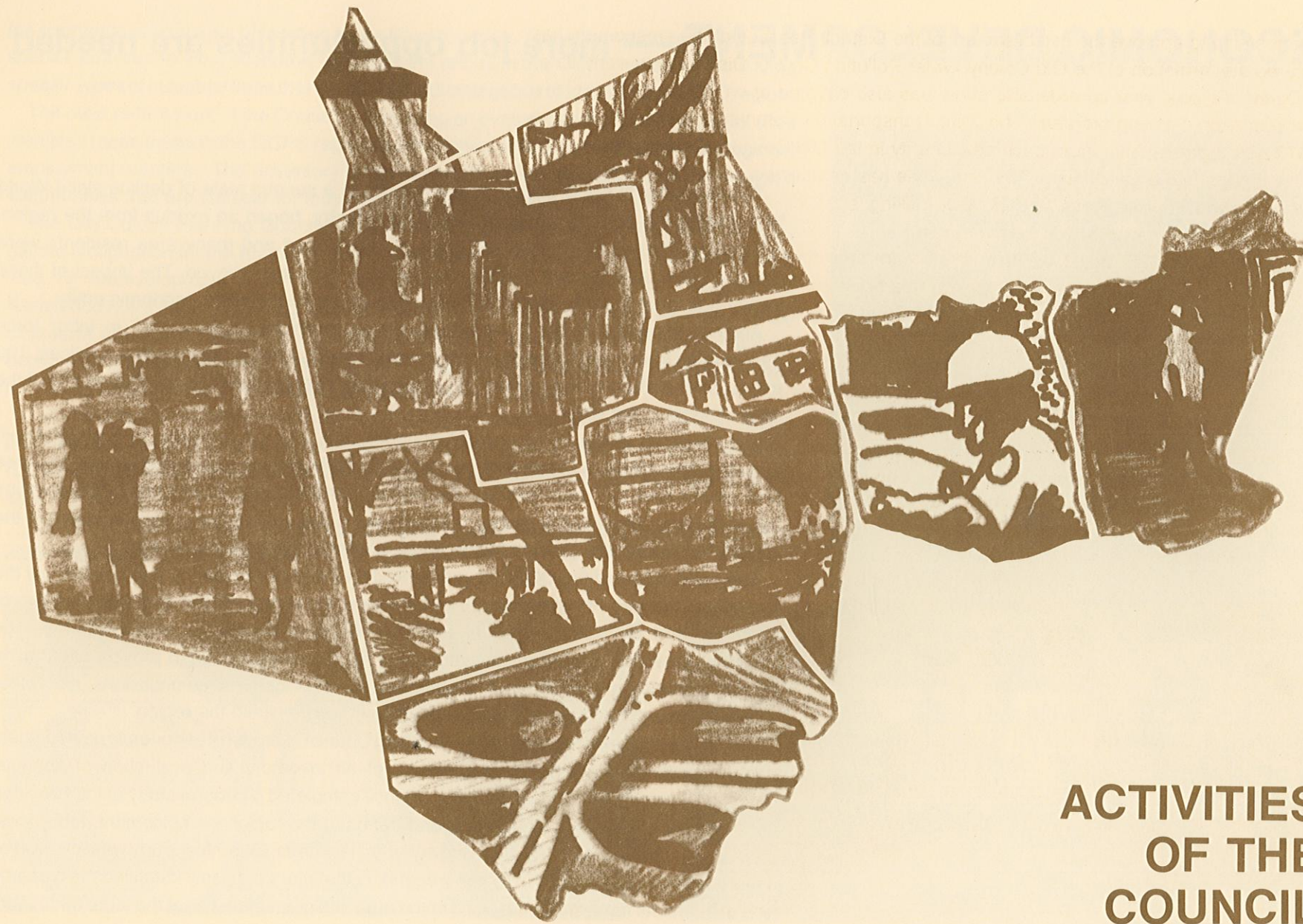
membership to approve the establishment of the District. Passage of the amendment has insured the formation of the Old Colony Water Pollution Control District at an early date.

During the past year considerable effort was also devoted to establishing an effective transportation planning program. The Joint Transportation Committee was established in 1973 with representation from each municipality in the Old Colony Planning Council and other groups and organizations. The committee has established priorities for short-range transportation improvements and is also making substantial progress in defining the long-term transportation needs for the region.

Recently, the JTC acted as the catalyst in providing opportunity for the OCPC communities to determine the advantages of participating in a Brockton Regional Transit Authority. An Act approved by the General Court during the 1973 legislative session provides for the establishment of regional transportation authorities throughout the Commonwealth and commits the state to providing fifty percent of any deficit incurred. The Regional Transit Authority proposal has many distinct advantages for the Brockton area where dependence upon the automobile for travel is high.

The Old Colony Planning Council will continue to work for the improvement of the Brockton area by advancing programs such as these and others that one community alone can not undertake. The following section describes in more detail the activities and accomplishments of the Old Colony Planning Council during the past year.





**ACTIVITIES
OF THE
COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT — more job opportunities are needed



The economy of the Brockton area has been in a serious state of decline since World War II when the primary employer, the shoe industry, began an exodus from the region. Alternative sources of employment were not developed and many area residents were forced to seek employment outside the region or were unemployed. The impact of these trends has been to make the OCPC area less of a self-contained economic entity.

Another important trend in recent years has been the gradual shift in labor force participation from manufacturing employment to employment in retail trade or services. The effect of this trend has been a lowering of the wage levels in the Brockton area to one of the most modest in the state.

The major ills of the Brockton area economy can only be corrected through intensive industrial development efforts that would attract additional manufacturing firms to the area and create new job opportunities. Increased manufacturing employment opportunities would not only alleviate the severe unemployment and underemployment problems of the region, but would also provide higher wage levels for the region's workers.

The involvement of the OCPC in economic development activities is a recognition by the Council of the need to support efforts by local community officials and area leaders in attracting and providing additional employment opportunities for area residents. The Council's chief role in economic development has essentially been to provide information and data necessary to support local industrial development commissions and other agencies who are actively soliciting new firms to locate within the region.

During the past year the Old Colony Planning Council extended its economic development planning activities through the preparation of an inventory and evaluation of potential regional industrial sites. Previously, the Council completed a general study of the Brockton area economy which described the broad trends of the region's employment, labor force participation, income and industrial and commercial trends. This initial study was followed by a more specific analysis of the region's economy that more precisely identified the type and kind of industrial firms that are located in the area; the characteristics of the labor force; and,

the economic advantages of location in the Brockton area. This information provided more specific direction to local economic development efforts in the OCPC region by identifying specific types of industrial firms that would find it advantageous to locate in the OCPC region.

The most recent work of the Council in preparing an evaluation of regional industrial sites identified those areas in the OCPC region that lend themselves to development as regional employment centers. The inventory also identified other industrial sites in region's communities that are suitable for local industrial development.

The Old Colony Planning Council through its Economic Advisory Committee has also gained designation for the Brockton area communities by the Secretary of Commerce as a Title IV Redevelopment Area under the Public Works and Economic Development Assistance Act of 1965. The designation enables area communities to apply for the full range of federal economic development assistance available from the federal government for economically distressed areas including grant monies for public works projects and loan monies to industrial firms to increase employment opportunities.

The importance of gaining eligibility for Economic Development Administration (EDA) programs is expected to be of major importance in the future, since Congress is presently considering legislation to extend the EDA program for an additional three years and raise the level of funding.

The OCPC will continue to cooperate with local officials and others in obtaining financial assistance under EDA programs.

ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NAME	AFFILIATION
Daniel Miles	Miles, Inc.
Robert Moore	Brockton Citizen
Robert Burke	Mammoth Mart, Inc.
Henry Bailey	Brockton Taunton Gas Co.
Joseph Consolino	Pembroke Industrial Development Comm.
Dr. Laurence Phalan	Stonehill College
Gerald Beals	Project QUEST
Alec Coulstring	Triangle Engineering
Forrest Emery	Grant Gear Works, Inc.
Clayton Holmes	Jones & Vining Co.
Edward Kovner	Standard Modern Printing Co.
Edward O'Keefe	First County National Bank
John Svagzdys	Brockton Credit Union
Harry Weiner	Pembroke Industrial Development Comm.
W. Earl Yetman	Brockton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Robert Dexter	Abington Mutual Fire Insurance Co.
Arthur Hoke	Division of Employment Security
Samuel Read, Jr.	Brockton Edison Co.
Hilario Castillo	Self-Help, Inc.



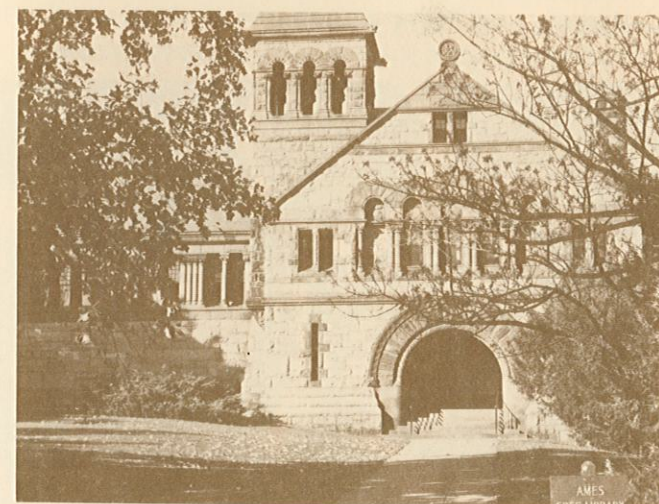
BICENTENNIAL PLANNING — planning for 1976

The Old Colony Planning Council has assumed an active role during the past year in promoting the celebration of our Nation's 200th anniversary. The Council staff conducted an extensive research effort into the history of the Old Colony area in an attempt to note some of the more interesting historical features of the region of interest to persons visiting the region during the Bicentennial celebration. Information came from discussions with local historical commission members, librarians and other citizens knowledgeable of the region's history. Resulting from this ambitious research project was a publication by the Council entitled "Old Colony Historical Survey".

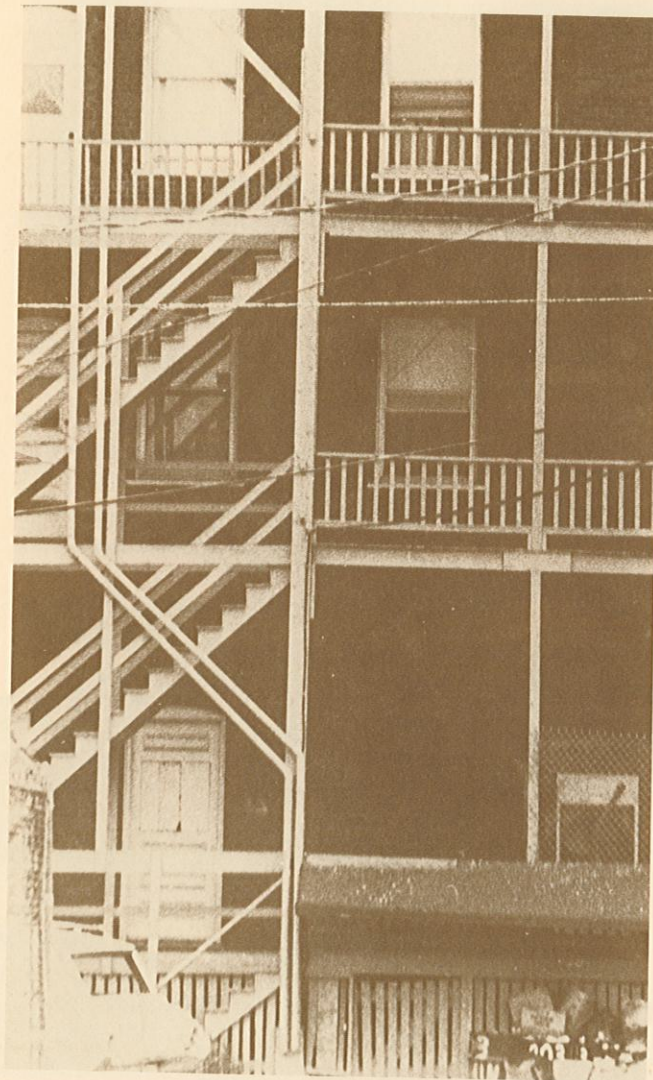
The Historical Survey begins with a brief history of Massachusetts and then goes on to discuss the historical development of each of the OCPC towns. Also included in the survey are historical sketches of some of the more important places in the area and some of the more important events that have taken place in the region. An important part of the survey is a description of the early industrial development of the Brockton region. The report also includes an inventory of historic homes, monuments and other structures in the area.

While it was difficult to include all the information about the area's historical features to the satisfaction of all students of the area's history, the Council believes that the study will be useful to the local citizens and to the various state and local commissions in preparing for the Nation's Bicentennial celebration. The OCPC is also prepared to assist local communities in estimating the number of tourists that can be expected in the area and to help localities plan for the increased transportation and public facilities requirements that will be necessary to handle the influx of visitors to the region.

The Council also assisted the city of Brockton with a Massachusetts Bicentennial grant application. Brockton was one of the few communities in the State to receive a Bicentennial funding award in the past year. The city will match the grant to build a playground in a low-income neighborhood.



HOUSING — needs continue to outstrip supply

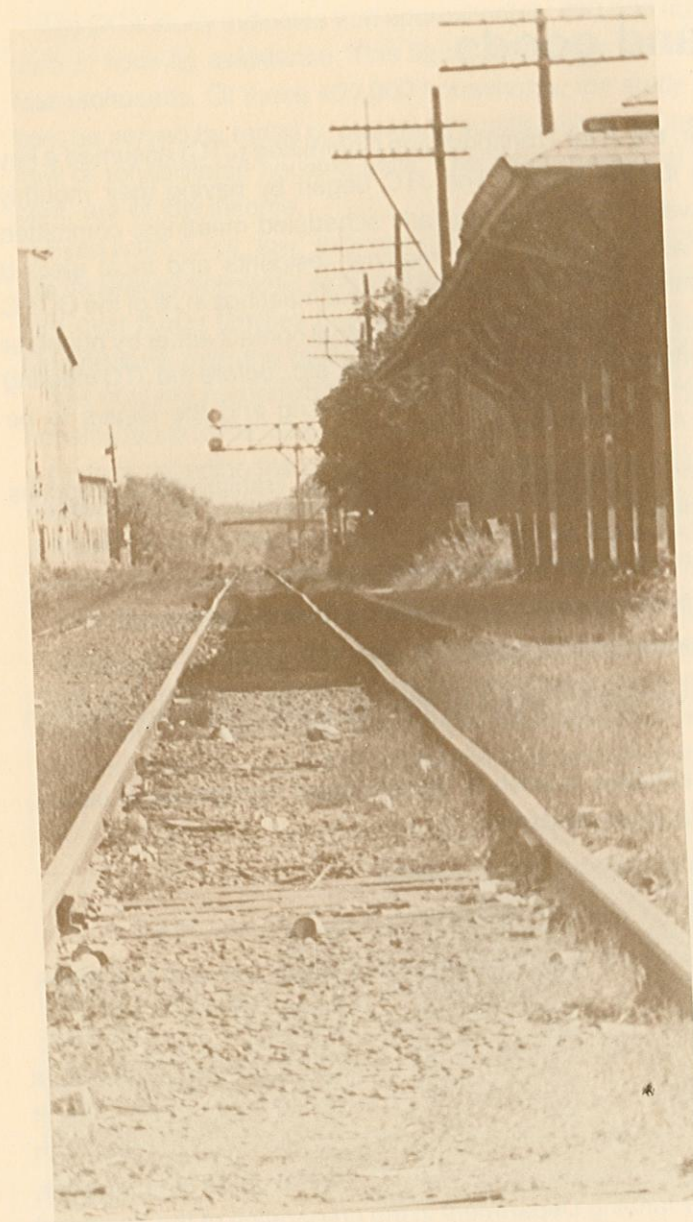


During the past year the housing effort of the Old Colony Planning Council centered around the Department of Community Affairs' Housing Needs Study. The report resulting from this study, the "1974 Report on Housing Needs and Programs", estimates housing needs for all the towns and cities in the state. The housing needs figures are broken down into low income elderly, moderate income elderly, low income family and moderate income family requirements.

OCPC, along with the other regional agencies in the state, played an important role in suggesting modifications of the formula used to determine housing need and in making suggestions regarding the procedures used to allocate state and federal housing funds to the planning regions.

According to the DCA study, the Old Colony Planning Council region (including Halifax) has a total housing need of 8773 units. (This figure represents the 1970 need minus the state and federally funded units added from 1970 through December 1972) This need is broken down by community and housing types as follows:

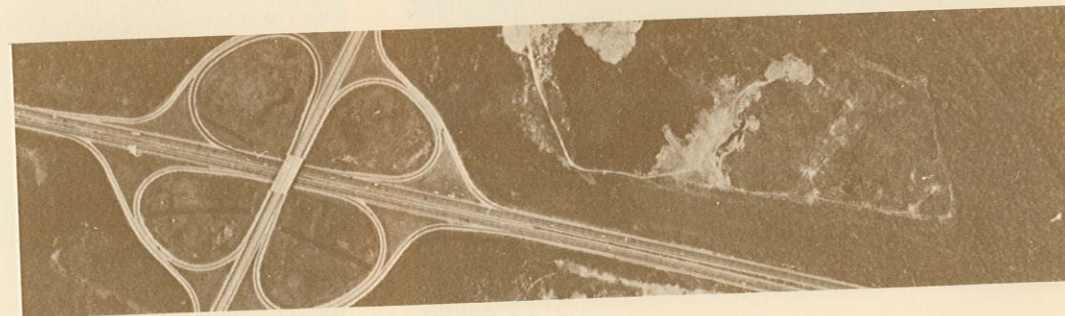
	Elderly Housing Need	Family or Mixed Housing Need	Total Housing Need
Abington	245	355	600
Avon	45	109	154
Bridgewater	209	292	501
Brockton	2019	2642	4661
East Bridgewater	119	258	387
Easton	241	314	555
Halifax	68	113	181
Hanson	123	196	319
Pembroke	117	277	394
West Bridgewater	62	168	230
Whitman	407	384	791
Total District	3464	5108	8773



Study Application which was submitted to the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). This six month study which began in July 1974 will produce a five-year Transit Development Plan. The Transit Development Plan will be for the entire region and prescribe the optimal transit service for the nine regional towns and the city of Brockton. At the completion of the study, Brockton will be able to apply to UMTA for capital grants in order to improve existing service and implement major improvements in transit service.

The JTC has also actively supported efforts to form a Regional Transit Authority for the Brockton Area under Chapter 1141 of the Acts of 1973. This legislation as signed by the Governor in December 1973 included the city of Brockton and nine surrounding towns as one of the Regional Transit Districts. Each district may choose to establish the Authority and qualify for a state subsidization of fifty per cent of the operating deficit incurred by those member towns receiving service. The JTC hosted two meetings on the issue of formation of the Brockton Regional Transit Authority and distributed information on the legislation to regional residents and local officials. The JTC also assisted the Mayor's office of Brockton with organizing two meetings held to vote on the establishment of the Authority. The outcome of both meetings did not produce a sufficient amount of positive votes to establish the Authority, therefore, the city of Brockton will appeal directly to the Secretary of Transportation to allow the Authority to be established by Brockton alone.

Exploration into securing funds to assist in the improvement of transportation for the region's elderly took place this year. The JTC worked with two towns and Brockton in examining elderly services that could be funded through the LINKS Project. This agency, LINKS, is a program of The Handicapped and Elderly of Massachusetts which awards grants for the operation and maintenance of special services for the elderly. Two applications for LINKS funds were submitted by the OCPC. As a means of reinforcing the application



submitted in behalf of the city of Brockton two ridership surveys were conducted by the Council to document the need for additional transportation service. An application for a new Dial-a-Ride service has been submitted to the LINKS Project.

The JTC actively supported the establishment of a comprehensive circulation system in downtown Brockton under the TOPICS Program. A revision of an earlier TOPICS circulation plan for downtown Brockton was recently endorsed by the Mayor and the Downtown Advisory Committee. Areawide TOPICS Plans for the towns of Easton and East Bridgewater have been reviewed and endorsed by the JTC this year.

There is little doubt that the JTC has a mission to perform in the Old Colony region. In several instances during this past year, the JTC has been the only group available to work on certain transportation related tasks. Having grown far beyond the core membership of those delegates from the region's towns and city and having a mailing list of nearly two hundred, the JTC has clearly filled a void which had existed in this area in the past.

As a sub-committee of the Council, the JTC will provide an essential link in the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process.

JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

NAME	TOWN	AFFILIATION
Mr. John Connolly, Chairman	Whitman	OCPC Delegate
Dr. James DiNardo	Bridgewater	Bridgewater State College
Mr. Simon Young	Brockton	Brockton Traffic Commission
Mr. Jack Hurley	Easton	Department of Public Work
Mr. Robert Moore	Brockton	Brockton citizen
Mr. John Yaney	Whitman	Whitman citizen
Mrs. Barbara Easter	Bridgewater	League of Women Voters
Mrs. Pat Houle	Brockton	Brockton Taxpayers Association
Mrs. Susan Allan	Whitman	League of Women Voters
Mr. Nick Carbone	Brockton	Brockton citizen
Mrs. Shirley Wishart	Easton	League of Women Voters
Rev. Kenneth Bjorklund	Easton	Council of Aging
Mrs. Judy Connolly	Easton	League of Women Voters
Mr. Francis Giniewicz	Abington	Board of Selectmen
Mr. Ted Parker	Avon	Parker Transportation, Inc.
Mr. Charles Benson	East Bridgewater	Planning Board *
Mr. Michael Sikora, Jr.	Hanson	Plymouth County Extension Service

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY — preserving our natural resources

Wastewater Management

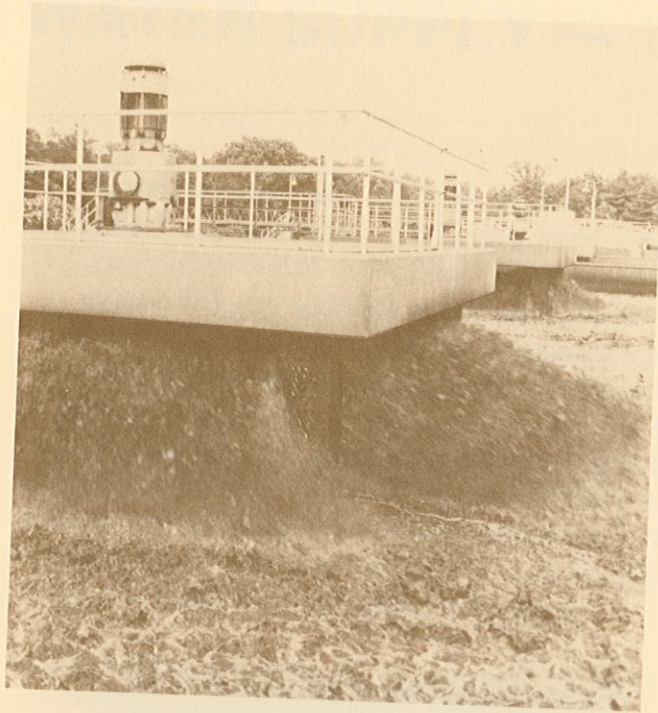
Faced with the continued rapid urbanization of the region in the past few years, the Old Colony Planning Council devoted considerable time in the past year to wastewater management. The bulk of this time was spent with sewer-related issues. The primary activity within this category was a continued effort to establish the Old Colony Water Pollution Control District. The District is one of the primary recommendations of the Regional Sewer Plan initially certified by HUD in 1972.

Prior to the beginning of the past fiscal year, enabling legislation passed in March 1973. Three communities — Abington, Whitman, and West Bridgewater — voted at their 1973 Annual Town Meetings to join the proposed District. As enabled in the legislation, however, the District requires the vote of three contiguous communities for the formation of the District. Consequently, the Council's activities concerning the District focused on seeking a positive vote from the other proposed communities — Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Easton, Hanson, and Pembroke.

The strategy in dealing with these communities included a range of informational activities. Key issues involved in local objections were clarified and dealt with at a regional forum for local officials in November at Massasoit College. Council officers, state officials, and consultants from Metcalf and Eddy, Inc. joined local officials in discussing the District at this forum. From November through the Spring of 1974, the Council staff met individually with local officials and local study groups in East Bridgewater, Bridgewater, Easton, and Hanson to discuss the District. Updated cost figures and information were supplied to the communities at this time. Finally, before each town meeting at which the District would come to a vote, the Council conducted an informational campaign stressing the positive points of the District.

Despite these intensive efforts, no additional communities voted to join the District during the Spring, 1974 round of town meetings. Since that time the Council has submitted an amendment to the Massachusetts General Court to amend the original District enabling legislation to speed the formation of the District. This amendment passed both houses in June, 1974 and has given the Council the potential to form the District within the next few months.





**REGIONAL SEWER PLAN
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

NAME	COMMUNITY
Charles Farrington	Abington
Mario Buccella	Avon
Charles Dyke	Bridgewater
Frank Wallen	Brockton
Walter Quigley	East Bridgewater
Richard Chase	Easton
Wallace Darsch	Hanson
David Fox	Pembroke
Ronald Snell	West Bridgewater
Norbert Fredette	Whitman

The Council also continued its efforts to implement the other major recommendations of the Regional Sewer Plan — the treatment of Avon's sewage and a portion of Abington's sewage at the existing Brockton plant. Meetings have been held with officials from all three communities and information essential to future intermunicipal agreements has been researched by the Council.

During the past year the Council has also broadened its involvement in the Massachusetts water quality planning process. Regional water supply and sewage issues are implicit in the state's water quality planning process and the Council has attempted to strengthen its role in the process. Three sections of the 1972 Amendments to the Federal Water Quality Act have served as focal points for the Council's participation. Under Section 303, the Council worked with the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control in producing the Taunton River Basin Plan. The plan incorporated the recommendations of the Old Colony Planning Council Regional Sewer Plan. The Council has also worked through the Massachusetts Water Quality Technical Committee in Section 106 and Section 208 planning under the Federal Water Quality Act Amendments. The former involves the overall work program for the State Division of Water Pollution Control. Under Section 208 planning, which will eventually plan for areawide water quality management in the Brockton area, the Council has participated in the formation of area designation criteria and will be involved in determining criteria for agency designation.

Flood Plain Management

The Council staff made a concerted effort this year to qualify as many communities in the OCPC region as possible under the National Flood Insurance Program. The OCPC region has had a number of floods in the past with the area experiencing great losses to real and personal property. For area homeowners to adequately protect themselves and their property from flood losses through the purchase of low cost flood insurance, the community in which they live must comply with certain basic requisites before gaining eligibility, such as defining flood prone areas and adopting adequate land use controls for the development of these areas. Only then can the homeowner purchase flood insurance from commercial sources.

The Council staff worked intensively with all of its member communities in providing information and technical assistance concerning the National Flood Insurance Program and the application procedure. As of this writing, the city of Brockton, and the towns of Avon,

Abington, Easton, Hanson, Whitman and Pembroke have either applied or gained eligibility under the emergency program.

Related to the above effort was the Council's activities in assisting local communities with proposed Flood Plain Zoning or Watershed Protection District Zoning articles. The Council staff worked with the communities of Abington, Avon, and Brockton in preparing or reviewing proposed zoning changes to deal with flood plain and watershed protection. To date, six of the ten Old Colony communities have such zoning provisions. These communities are Abington, Avon, Easton, East Bridgewater, Pembroke and Whitman. Brockton is also presently considering one and the Council will be preparing one for Bridgewater during this program year.

Solid Waste Planning

The Council continued to increase its role in solid waste planning in the region during the past year. A 1974 Solid Waste Management Report was issued at the end of the program year. This Report updated information gathered for the 1973 Solid Waste Report; discussed the solid waste issues and needs in the region; explored solid waste disposal alternatives for each of the local communities; and recommended a solid waste management strategy for the region.

The Old Colony region presently offers marked contrasts in terms of solid waste disposal. Located in East Bridgewater is a private 1200 ton per day resource recovery center that is handling the waste from several area communities. There are also some communities that have only recently converted from open dumps to sanitary landfills. By projecting solid waste data and evaluating existing disposal practices, the Council delineated a variety of needs in the region. Based on these needs and environmental, political, and economic considerations, the report recommended the following disposal systems:

- 1) Continued use of its local landfill by Easton.
- 2) Disposal at the East Bridgewater Resource Recovery Center by Avon, Bridgewater, Brockton, and Whitman.
- 3) Disposal at a new regional landfill by East Bridgewater, Hanson, Pembroke, West Bridgewater, and Abington.

The report also recommends that local communities seriously consider combined collection procedures to achieve savings in local solid waste expenditures and that all local communities upgrade their current local landfills to meet state environmental regulations.



WATER SUPPLY — population growth continues to strain capacity

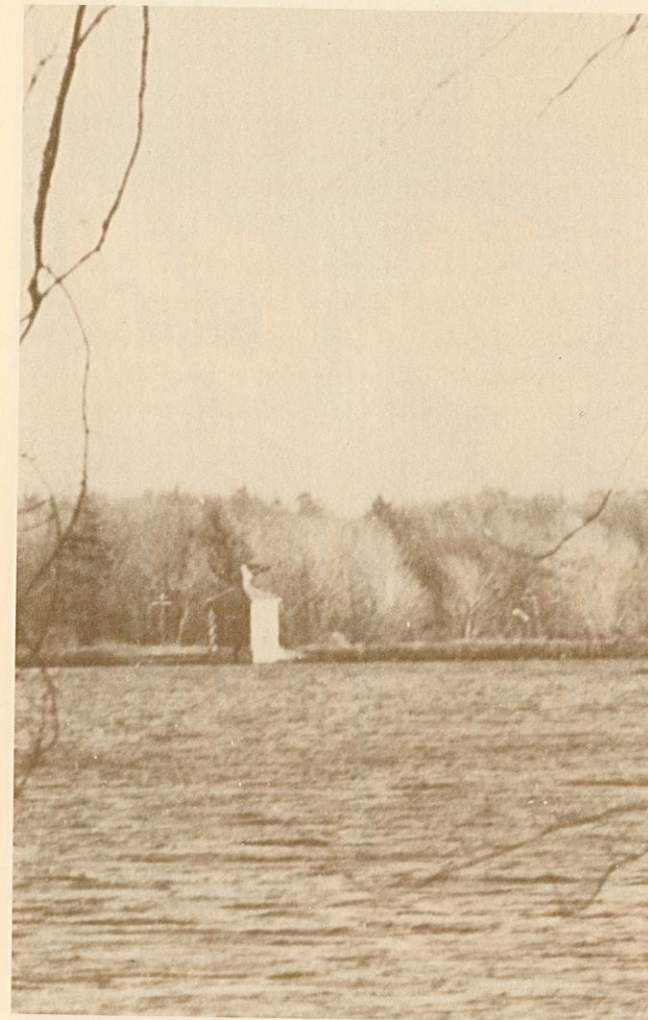
During the past year, the Council has begun to reassess the Regional Water Supply Plan which was initially certified by HUD in 1972. Work in this area has primarily been two-fold:

- 1) updating information concerning the region's existing and projected water supplies,
- 2) re-examining the feasibility of the recommended alternatives of the Plan.

Information developed indicates that only the Abington-Rockland system is expected to meet maximum day water demands by the year 2000. It is further estimated that several of the region's communities will need to develop additional water supplies as early as the next five years. It appears that the most promising source of additional future water supply will be outside the region — groundwater supplies located in the Plymouth - Kingston - Plympton - Halifax area. The Council is recommending that the Central Plymouth County Water District be authorized the responsibility for developing this regional water supply. In addition, the Council has further recommended the following:

- Strict water conservation measures should be practiced by all large water consumers.
- Local groundwater sources should be fully developed and protected from pollution sources.
- The Silver Lake supply should be developed to the maximum extent by diversions from the Jones River and Great Sandy Bottom Pond.
- The North River Area should be also evaluated as an alternative outside potential water supply sources to serve a portion of the Old Colony Planning Council region's needs.

Only by adopting a multi-faceted approach as recommended above will the Region have an adequate water supply in the future.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE — working with local communities



An important element of the Old Colony Planning Council work program is the provision of technical planning and management assistance to local communities. This assistance not only helps local communities to deal with local problems but also strengthens the ability of the Council and communities to deal with areawide concerns.

The Council assisted localities in a variety of concerns during the past year. A major activity by the Council under the Technical Assistance program was the effort to qualify communities in the region under the National Flood Insurance Program. With the passage of new legislation in Congress this year, the Flood Disaster Act, the Council will continue during the upcoming program year to convince local communities to avail themselves of the flood insurance program.

During this past year the Council also assisted the city of Brockton in obtaining a federal grant in the amount of \$310,000 from the Economic Development Administration. The EDA grant under the Public Works Improvement Program will be used to provide a new road and associated utilities in the West Chestnut Street Industrial Park. The new facilities will enable the city of Brockton to open up additional areas of the industrial park to development and provide for more efficient use of the site. The Council staff also assisted the town of Avon in their efforts to expand the Avon Industrial Park by actively intervening in a State Environmental Assessment process that threatened to seriously stall the expansion of the Park.

Technical assistance from the Council has also been extended to several of the region's communities in reviewing proposed zoning by-law or subdivision regulation changes. In December, the Council initiated a Zoning Referral System whereby member communities of the Council were invited to voluntarily submit to the Council for review and comment upon all zoning district amendments which have regional significance or are located within one thousand feet of a municipal boundary. The Zoning Referral System is seen as a means of minimizing the possible harmful effects of permitting incompatible land use patterns from developing at the boundaries of communities; of evaluating a community zoning proposal that may be in conflict with the development pattern in any adjacent community; or, in resolving issues between contiguous communities. To date the system has not gained a

sufficient degree of acceptance by the member communities to be effective, but the Council will continue to pursue this program in the future.

The Council also assisted Avon in the past year in the town's attempt to improve its municipal credit rating and helped the city of Brockton with a State Bicentennial grant application.

The range of activities undertaken in the Council's technical assistance program is gradually increasing. As staff resources continue to expand, the Council hopes to increase its efforts in assisting local communities. The Council hopes that more communities will actively seek out this assistance.

REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW

Under the provisions of the federal Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95, the Old Colony Planning Council acts as the Regional Clearinghouse for coordinating federally assisted programs and projects in the OCPC region. The objective of the regional clearinghouse review is to facilitate coordination of state, regional and local planning and development activities that are assisted under various federal programs. The A-95 review procedure sets forth a system under which federal agencies and applicants for federal assistance must give state and local governments, through the regional and the state clearinghouse, an opportunity to assess the relationship of their proposals to state, areawide, and local plans and programs. The regional and state clearinghouse comments to the federal funding agency are advisory only with a favorable review being no assurance of federal approval of an application, nor a negative review a veto.

During the past year the number of applications reviewed by the Council increased substantially over the previous year due largely to the inclusion of additional Federal programs in the review process. The largest funding request was for the Phase II construction program of Massasoit Community College in the City of Brockton.

The Council also reviews all environmental assessments prepared for projects located



within the OCPC region that are required by the provisions of Chapter 30, Section 62 of the General Laws, Acts of 1972, and rules promulgated by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, prospective developers must prepare an Environmental Assessment to determine whether the proposed project could cause significant environmental damage and thus require an environmental impact report.

Careful scrutiny must be given to all proposed projects that may be harmful to the environment or have other significant environmental effects. Local Conservation Commissions play a key role in monitoring proposed projects for possible damage to the area's environment.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION



The active involvement of people in the planning process is a necessity to insure that the plans, programs and policies of the Council are relevant to the needs of the region and of the people who live here. To this end the Council structured the Economic Advisory Committee as the organizational mechanism to build citizen input into the Council's activities. The Economic Advisory Committee is a broadly representative group which reviews on an annual basis the program of the Council and advises the members. However, the Council perceived a need to go beyond this group to reach more people in the region.

In February of this year a series of workshops was sponsored by the Council to gain broader citizen participation and input into the Council's program. Over three hundred officials, community leaders and private citizens were invited to discuss some of the key problems and issues of the Greater Brockton area. The objective of these meetings was to arrive at a consensus of the priority problems and issues of the Old Colony region and to determine the emphasis the Council should be giving in its program for the coming year.

The Program Development Workshops were the first concerted attempt by the Council to gain the active participation and involvement of others who are vitally interested in the

development of the OCPC region. By every objective standard the workshops were highly successful as the Council broadened its ties with the regional residents.

To increase dialogue at the workshop sessions, the workshop invitees were sent a brief summary of some of the issues facing the Old Colony region. The participants were also invited to raise other issues and concerns that may not have been included in the advance materials. The format for each workshop was similar; a brief introduction was made by Mr. John J. DeMarco, President of the OCPC, which was followed by a discussion period where the participants were divided into small groups according to their topics of interest. Upon the conclusion of the small group discussions, a general session was held and the consensus of the meetings was developed.

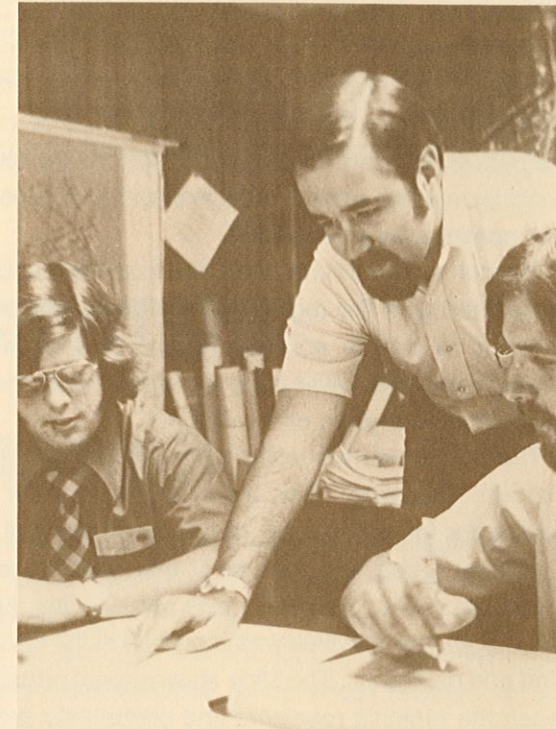
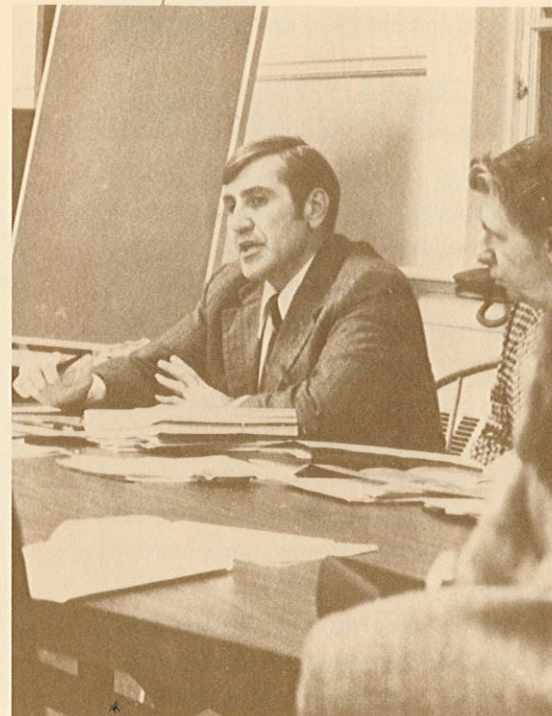
The consensus expressed at the three workshop meetings were: that the OCPC is gaining more viability in the region and becoming a more effective force; that the Council should continue to include activities related to economic development; that the Council should stress water and sewer planning efforts; and, that transportation planning activities should be a priority program of the Council.

The Council broadened its attempts during the past year to reach the Old Colony populace through "Newslines". This bi-monthly newsletter of the Council continued to be a popular vehicle for informing local residents of regional planning issues. Mailing lists for specific functional areas and reports of the Council were also revised and expanded to insure maximum impact of OCPC plans and policies. Finally, a slide show presentation about the Council and its activities was prepared at the end of the program year for use by the Council staff and delegates. The slide show should prove to be a valuable vehicle for helping OCPC reach the region's residents and community groups.

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