



1978-79 ANNUAL REPORT



**THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL
REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY**

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

OFFICERS

President
Secretary
Treasurer

John J. DeMarco
Gerard W. Dempsey
Valdis Kirsis

Avon
Pembroke
Stoughton

COMMUNITY

Abington
Avon
Bridgewater
Brockton
East Bridgewater
Easton
Hanson
Kingston
Pembroke
Plymouth
Stoughton
West Bridgewater
Whitman

DELEGATES

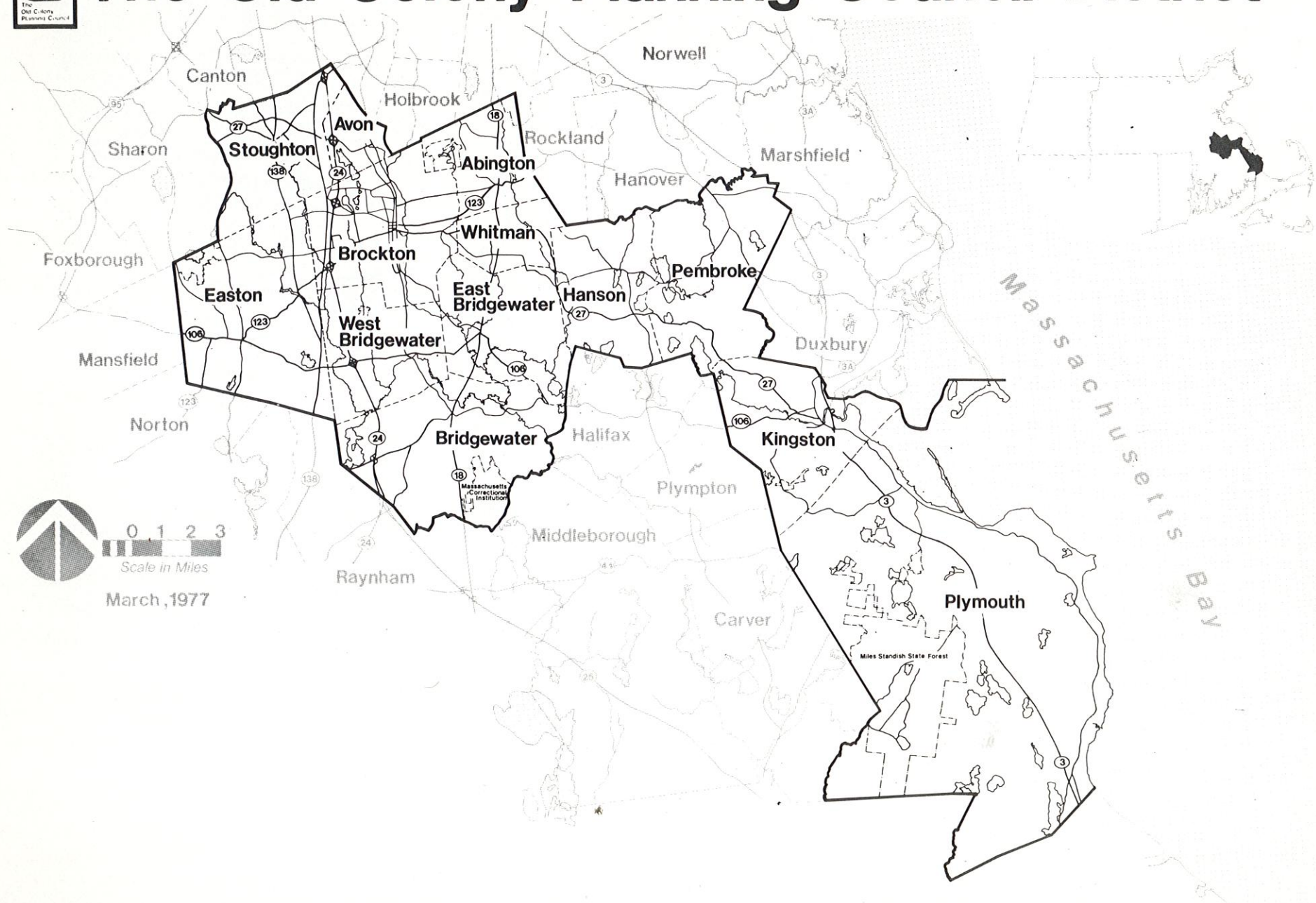
A. Stanley Littlefield
John J. DeMarco
Anthony P. Anacki
Honorable David E. Crosby
Robert W. Smith
Richard H. Chase
Jane P. Ninde
Lawrence B. Westgate
Gerard W. Dempsey
William Griffin
Valdis Kirsis
Merton H. Ouderkirk
John T. English


ALTERNATES

Robert Donovan
John Breckner
Douglas Dorr
Paul Adams
Robert Lundberg
Edmund McAdam, Jr.
George Hempel
Roscoe Cole
Robert Crawford, Jr.
Ray A. Frieden
Joseph Landolfi
Doris Haight



The Old Colony Planning Council District



 0 1 2 3
Scale in Miles
March, 1977

1978-79: A YEAR IN REVIEW

OCPC CERTIFIED AS
ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
MENT DISTRICT

EDA Grant
Received

SHOE STUDY
COMPLETED

Bridgewater
EDA
Project
Completed

COUNCIL AIDS IN
FORMATION OF CDC

New BAT Busses
Arrive

ROUTE 3 CORRIDOR
PLANNING STUDY
COMPLETED

COMPUTER TERMINAL
INSTALLED

AREA HOUSING
COMMITTEE FORMED:
AHOP DEVELOPED

**Air Quality
MOU Signed:**
Funding Forthcoming

COUNCIL RECEIVES TOP
HUD EVALUATION RATING

BIG CENTER
OPENS:

Over \$3.3 million in loans processed

COUNCIL ENDORSES
TOP ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS

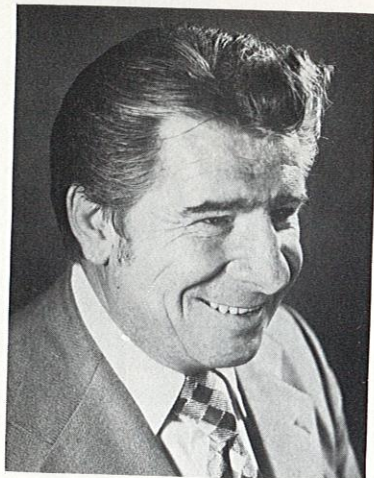
Boston to Cape
Bikeway Opened

Brockton Area To Retain
SMSA Identity

Route 44 Alternatives Proposed

Stoughton Square
Traffic Study
Completed

A95: COUNCIL REVIEWS
MORE THAN \$200 MILLION



A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

This message has particular significance and meaning to me as I complete my sixth and final term as President of the Old Colony Planning Council. It almost goes without saying that I have found these years to be very satisfying and rewarding personally because of the success and maturity that the Council has acquired during the past six years. These achievements of the Council are due in large measure to the capable guidance of the Executive Director, Dan Crane, and his ability to select and employ exceptional staff people; and, to you the Selectmen and Planning Board members for consistently selecting high caliber people as your community's representatives to the Old Colony Planning Council. In short, we can all take pride in the accomplishments of the Council for its record is indeed impressive.

For example, just last year the Council:

- Was designated as an Economic Development District which will enable OCPC communities to participate in the full range of Economic Development Administration Programs.
- Scored the highest on a Department of Housing and Urban Development Performance evaluation of Regional Planning Agencies in Massachusetts.
- Pioneered the transportation planning effort in the state by initiating use of computer technology and systems planning.
- Recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as having one of the best 208 Water Quality planning programs in New England.
- Processed more than 200 million dollars in federal grant funds for the region through the A-95 Review Process which screens applications for cost effectiveness of our tax dollars.

- Operated the Business Information Center which assisted in developing 3.3 million dollars of small business administration and conventional financing for small business and created an estimated 350 new jobs.

There's just one hitch . . . relatively few people know it was done, and almost no one knows the Old Colony Planning Council was responsible. The average citizen relates public services to his local, state or federal government . . . he probably does not even know the regional council exists, much less what the council, supported by his tax money, has done and is doing for him. This situation is not unusual for OCPC or for Regional Councils in general, but it is unhealthy. Regional Councils are public institutions and the implementation of their plans and programs requires public support. Therefore an effective communications program and support of the media is essential if progress is to be gained.

It is a fact that people tend to react with suspicion and distrust to anything new or different that they don't understand. For this reason, the regional concept is a very controversial and sensitive issue. People want local control over the critical issues that affect their lives, and many people view regionalism as a threat to that control. Efforts must be made to explain to the public and their elected officials that regional councils have been created to maintain local control, **not take it away**. That if local governments don't work together to solve regional problems (and these are intergovernmental problems that are unique to contiguous communities and not to the state as a whole) local control will be lost to special authorities or state government. How can we overcome this communications problem? I believe that we must try to gain the support of the news media in providing the public with information on issues that affect their lives. As Thomas Jefferson said, "People . . . are inherently capable of making proper judgements when they are properly informed."

It is hoped this brief message and this Annual Report will help in part to bridge the communication gap that exists.

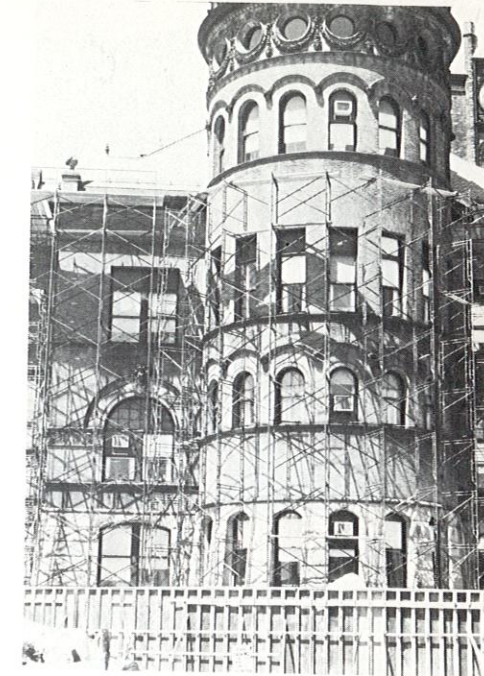
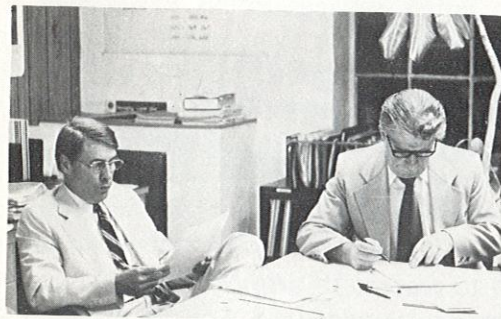
Sincerely,

John J. DeMarco
President
Old Colony Planning Council

Bridgewater EDA Project Completed

For the past two years the Old Colony Planning Council has been deeply involved in the administration of the \$560,000 Phase II Public Works Grant awarded to the Town of Bridgewater. This past spring saw the completion of this five phase construction project.

Bridgewater, with assistance from OCPC staff, was awarded the grant in the fall of 1977. The two-year project which was divided into five (5) phases (construction of South Street culverts; High Street reconstruction; Bridge Street and South Street bridge reconstruction; South Street road resurfacing and South Street sidewalk construction) was administered by OCPC and guided to completion under the guidelines of the Economic Development Administration.



Council Endorses Top Economic Development Projects

During the past year OCPC Delegates and Alternates approved and endorsed the Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) Top Priority Project List for 1979-1980. Each year the list is prepared by the Old Colony OEDP Committee and contains those projects from the project priority list that are believed to have the most significant regional impact on the economic development of the area, and should therefore be given consideration for Economic Development Administration funding. Eight projects have been included by the OEDP Committee on the 1979-80 list. The projects in their order of priority are:

1. Business Information Center for Old Colony area.
2. Plymouth Sewer Treatment Plant Enlargement with Manomet.
3. Development of 60 acres for North Stoughton Industrial Park.
4. Development of up to 196 acres for Hanson Industrial Park.
5. Renewal of Downtown Brockton (Utilities).
6. Third Water Transmission Main from Silver Lake to Brown's Crossing.
7. Design of the North-South Road from Howard Street to Plain Street.
8. State/Federal Office Building.

Dr. J. Laurence Phalan, Chairman of the Old Colony OEDP Committee commented, "The projects which the OEDP Committee has identified on the top priority lists are very important to the economic development of the area. It is hoped that many of them will be funded by EDA in the coming year."



Census Bureau Commends OCPC

The United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, recently informed Daniel M. Crane, Executive Director of the Old Colony Planning Council, that the evaluation of the GBF/DIME file for the Old Colony area has been completed and that the file has been accepted for use in the 1980 U.S. Census.

The GBF/DIME file is a computerized map of the region which has been created by the Old Colony Planning Council and the Office of the City Planner under a contract with the Bureau of the Census. The file includes the City of Brockton and the Towns of Abington, Avon, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Easton, Halifax, Hanson, Kingston, Pembroke, West Bridgewater and Whitman. It will be used to tabulate data collected as part of the 1980 decennial Census. The Bureau of the Census has designated Tuesday, April 1, 1980 as "Census Day", and is promoting the day in an attempt to insure that all persons take the time to complete and return their census questionnaires.

In his letter, Mr. Jacob Silver, Chief of the Census Bureau's Geography Division, said "We appreciate your past assistance which has brought us to the point where we now have an acceptable GBF/DIME System for your area. It is a credit to you and to your staff who worked on the project that the GBF/DIME System now exists as a tool for use not only by the Bureau, but also by your agency, other governmental agencies, and the private sector."

Presently, the Brockton School Department is using the GBF/DIME file to develop a school bus routing system. Other applications of the file could include police dispatching, garbage truck routing, data compilation and graphic presentation.



Brockton Retains Identity In SMSA Dispute

This past year after a six month battle, efforts by the Old Colony Planning Council to retain the Brockton Area as a separate statistical entity proved successful.

Brockton, the hub of the OCPC planning area, had been slated by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy to become a Component Metropolitan Statistical Area of a much larger all encompassing Boston Statistical area, thus losing its identity. The change would have eliminated the Brockton and Lowell Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA) and reduced the scope of the Lawrence-Haverhill SMSA. In its place a major Metropolitan Statistical Area would have been formed around Boston to cover most of eastern Massachusetts from Cape Cod to the New Hampshire border. The result of the proposed change would have affected the allocation of federal grant funds to the impacted areas and caused uncertainty on the part of private enterprise decisions on the placement of advertising money and plant location decisions.

A counter proposal was developed by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy which would establish Local Metropolitan Statistical Areas (LMSA's) within Major Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MMSA's).

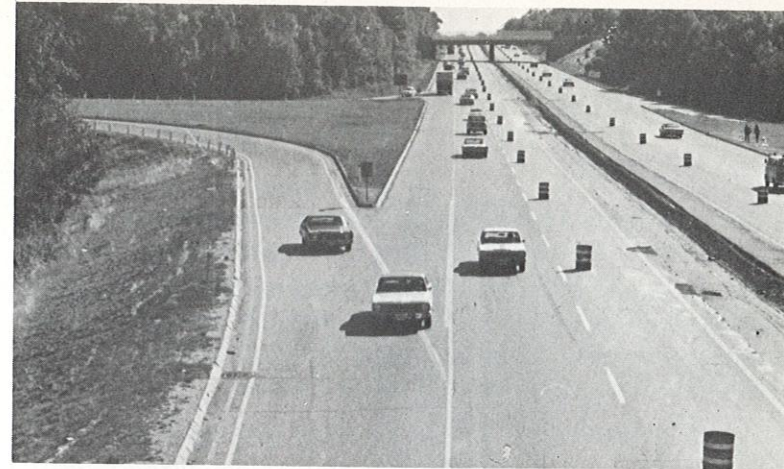
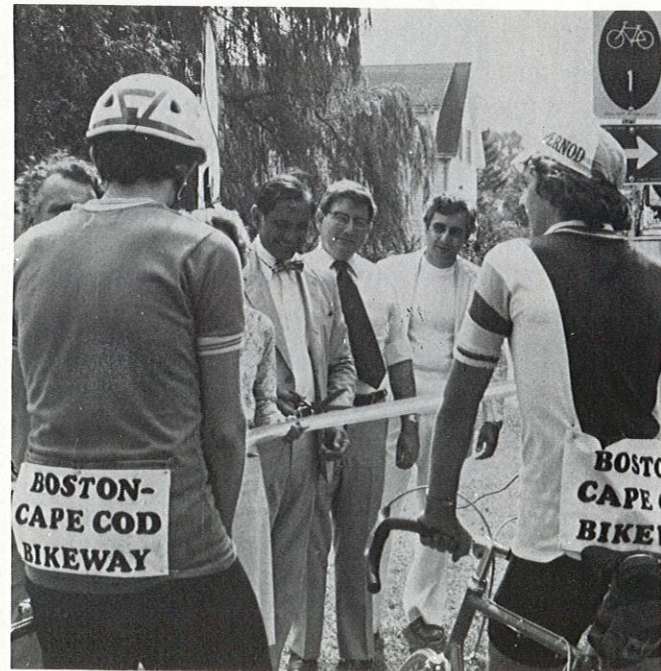
In February of 1979, OCPC was informed that the revisions were accepted and the Brockton LMSA was assured for the future. The revised metropolitan statistical area criteria, also returned the towns of Abington and Hanson to the Brockton LMSA and gave the town of Stoughton the ability to exercise local option in choosing which MSA it wanted to be part of, Brockton or Boston.

Boston to Cape Cod Bikeway Opens

As a result of the hard work of many individuals, private groups and public agencies, including the Old Colony Planning Council, the Boston-to-Cape Cod Bikeway was established. In the past bicyclists would travel more dangerous state highways because they were unfamiliar with the safer local road system. The area's major roads are used by great numbers of automobiles traveling at high speeds and an unsafe condition existed for the cyclist.

As part of its Route 3 Corridor Planning Study Old Colony Planning Council identified a continuous route of lower volume roads that stretches from Stoughton through Avon, Brockton, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Plympton and Plymouth to the Sagamore Bridge. The proposed route was accepted for funding by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works and signs were erected designating the bikeway as "Massachusetts Bike Route 1."

At present the bikeway shares the roadway with autos, an option chosen because of the desire to respond promptly to the increased cycling demand. It is hoped that in the future this facility will be upgraded into a separate road system for bicycles in view of the growing demand of this form of recreation and travel.



Route 3 Corridor Planning Study Completed

The Department of Public Works announced this spring that it has accepted the recommendations of Old Colony Planning Council's Route 3 Corridor Planning Study, and will be starting the process to widen Route 3 from Route 18 to Route 139 from 2 to 3 lanes.

Old Colony was given the task of looking at the adequacy of the Route 3 Corridor from Route 18 south to the Sagamore Circle, to identify areas where traffic problems currently exist, where traffic problems will likely occur in the future, and to examine alternative proposals and projects to deal with these problems.

The analysis showed that the traffic problems on Route 3 were associated with commuter traffic to the Boston area, and that as population in the corridor increased, extreme traffic congestion would extend north on Route 3 from Route 139 in Pembroke. Because of the dispersal of population in the corridor, improvements to Route 3 were the most practical alternatives. The Corridor Study made the case for adding a third lane to Route 3 in each direction from Route 18 to Route 139 for general traffic or they could be used for buses and carpool autos only to increase traffic movement. With energy and environmental matters considered it is possible that the addition of special purpose lanes is warranted. The State has not decided how to use the additional lanes.

The Old Colony Planning Council is pleased that its recommendations are being acted upon by the Massachusetts DPW. The growth on the South Shore is such that the time to act is now.

Council Begins Major Effort Under EDA Title IX Grant

During the past year the economic development activities of the Council have centered on the development of a comprehensive adjustment strategy to counteract the effects of imported shoes on the area's economy. The program is being funded by a grant from the Economic Development Administration under the Title IX Community Trade Adjustment Assistance Program.

The Council's work program under the Title IX project includes a variety of tasks. A major thrust of the project has been a study of the area's footwear industry. OCPC studied the strengths and weaknesses of the industry and developed plans to stabilize area shoe firms. Strategies developed thus far include a Massachusetts Footwear Exporting Association, which could increase demand for American made shoes, and training programs for new workers to replace retiring employees and for present workers to increase upward mobility within the industry.

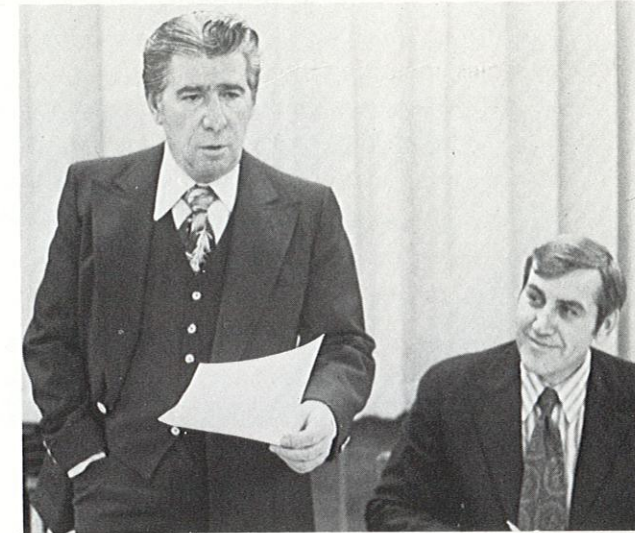
Another major part of the Title IX project has been a study of unemployed shoe workers and investigations of means to provide immediate reemployment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed. The latter has thus far included a feasibility study of an energy/weatherization corporation and investigations of several other potential ventures.

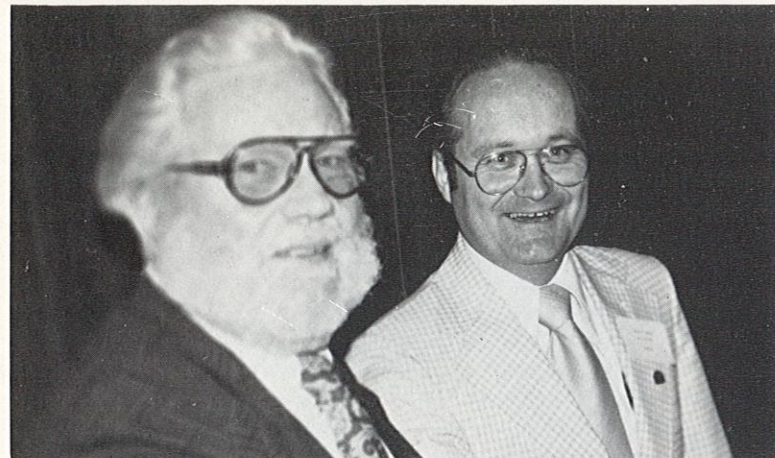
OCPC has also supported efforts to organize a Brockton Community Development Corporation (CDC) in cooperation with Self Help, Inc., the Ethnic Coalition of Concerned Citizens, the Brockton Regional Chamber of Commerce and several other local organizations. As a non-profit corporation, a CDC could not only provide jobs for Brockton residents through subsidiary ventures, but could also develop programs to meet other community needs. During the coming year, OCPC will be investigating potential ventures which the CDC could establish.

The Title IX program has also allowed the Council to continue the work of the Old Colony Business Information Center. As described below, BIC provides direct services to existing and potential businesses. BIC has been extremely successful in securing financing for business ventures which has meant both the saving of existing jobs and the creation of new jobs.

The recent designation of the Old Colony Economic Development District will mean an additional source of loan monies through the Economic Development Administration.

The need for formalized business training programs was also identified by BIC. Through the Title IX program, OCPC was able to work with the Division of Conferences and Institutes at Stonehill College, the Small Business Administration, Plymouth County Extension Service and the Brockton Regional Chamber of Commerce to establish the Center for Small Business Development at Stonehill College. The Center provides a wide range of workshops and courses to give the small business person essential survival skills. The Center will be an ongoing effort and will continually update the courses offered.





BIC Passes 3.3 Million Mark

The Old Colony Business Information Center has secured \$3,381,200 in loans for area small businesses. These loans have gone to 41 firms, 22 of which are located in Brockton.

Based on a concept developed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the Old Colony Business Information Center was established in August of 1977 as a result of the efforts of the Old Colony Overall Economic Development Program Committee. BIC was funded during its first year of operation by CETA and operated by Old Colony Planning Council in cooperation with the Brockton Regional Chamber of Commerce. In this, the second year of operation, BIC is being funded as part of OCPC's Title IX grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). When the EDA grant expires in August of 1979, BIC will continue as a self-supporting entity.

BIC is described as a program to help small business persons help themselves. BIC attempts to help the business person find solutions to problems and to point out alternative actions which will help put the business on the right course. BIC worked with 200 businesses during its first year. In the second year of operation, it is expected to help about 250 small businesses.

BIC not only assists small businesses, but also helps to save existing jobs and create new jobs. It is estimated that BIC has helped to create and maintain approximately 354 jobs.

Many BIC assisted loans are made directly through area banks, the majority of loans have been made with participation of the Small Business Administration. While SBA provides a limited number of direct loans each quarter, many BIC assisted loans have been guaranteed by SBA. In addition, two SBA loans totalling \$620,000 were processed by the Brockton Regional Economic Development Corporation (BREDC) which is sponsored by the Brockton Regional Chamber of Commerce. BIC is now working on a BREDC loan for \$1 million, which will create 125 new jobs.

OCPC through the BIC program was instrumental in the designation of Brockton for eligibility under the Neighborhood Business Revitalization Program. Under this program BREDC can participate in SBA loans with a very small investment and thereby get "more bang for the buck".

BIC services have expanded through the assistance of CETA. A BIC Assistant has been added to the Brockton office.

Study of Shoe Workers Completed

The Council staff has completed a report on the characteristics of unemployed footwear workers certified for Trade Adjustment Assistance. These workers lost their jobs because of foreign shoe imports.

The report analyzes a sample of 463 former shoe workers from data supplied by the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security. The average age of the certified workers was older than one would expect to find in a U.S. manufacturing industry, and the average education level (9.8 years) was low when compared to the average education level of those over 24 in the OCPC area (12.2 years). Sixty percent of the certified workers were women.

The racial mix of the sample matched closely area demographics, with 97.2 percent white, 1.9 percent black, and 0.9 percent other minority groups. Certified footwear workers who were of Spanish American origin accounted for 9.1 percent of the sample, whereas in the Brockton SMSA, Spanish Americans accounted for only 0.7 percent of the population.

Nearly half of the sample belongs to a union, two-thirds of these are female. The economically disadvantaged make up 10.4 percent of the sample, 2.2 percent are eligible for welfare, and 3.9 percent are eligible for food stamps. The average Massachusetts shoe worker received \$3.70 per hour in April 1978; however, women averaged far less hourly pay than did men.

The report was prepared as part of OCPC's Title IX Program funded by the Economic Development Administration.



New BAT Buses Arrive

This year saw even more new buses added to the Brockton Area Transit system. With the dedication and opening of a new downtown transfer facility these buses have helped the ridership on the BAT system grow to record levels.

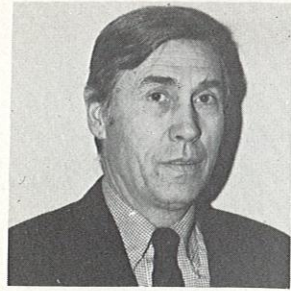
In 1978 BAT received the first of the General Motors RTS-II advanced buses. In 1979 the additional delivery of new buses allowed the entire BAT system to be served by new, clean, climate-controlled buses.

The new off-street transfer facility was opened in 1979 which benefited both riders and motorists in Brockton. By moving from a downtown transfer point at School and Main Streets a significant point of a traffic congestion was eliminated. By assigning every route a permanent stall, transfer BAT passengers no longer need to race up and down a line of buses to find their bus. For convenience the transfer facility has been designed to be as attractive and pleasant as possible. The brick-lined facility has been constructed to complement the new City Center project and the addition

of shade and tree shelters and benches has resulted in a tremendous improvement in the environment for the riders.

The new buses and transfer facility have been enthusiastically received as demonstrated in the increased ridership which Old Colony monitors monthly for the BAT Authority. Growth in ridership is up 20% over last year and shows no sign of lessening.

In addition, Old Colony performed a survey that showed that nearly 75% of all bus riders stop in downtown Brockton at some point in their trip. With the new facilities added to the system this year both the transit authority and downtown Brockton can expect a big boost.



A. Stanley Littlefield
Abington Delegate

Mr. Littlefield is a Charter Member and has been the Abington Delegate to OCPC since 1968. Stan is a practicing attorney and a present member of the Board of Selectmen in Abington. He has been active in the affairs of Plymouth County and

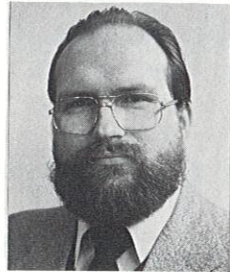
OCPC having held posts as:

- District Attorney - Plymouth County
- OCPC Delegate to the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and
- Treasurer of OCPC from 1968 -1974

Valdis Kirsis
Stoughton Delegate

Since its decision to join the Old Colony Planning Council in the Spring of 1977, the Town of Stoughton has been represented by its current delegate Val Kirsis.

Mr. Kirsis, the current Treasurer of OCPC and the Chairman of the Regional Energy Resources Committee, is the Principal Architect in the firm of Kirsis/Kirsis - Architects/Planners. He has been involved in projects at the Tufts/New England Medical Center and the Bay Cove Day Center in Boston.



Robert W. Smith
East Bridgewater Delegate

Mr. Smith, a recent appointee to the Council from the Town of East Bridgewater, is the Program Manager of Military Products for the Helix Technology Corporation of Waltham. Included among the duties Bob has at Helix is the overall responsibility

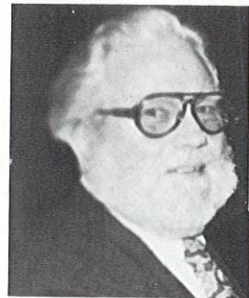
for a number of product lines to include marketing, planning, scheduling and finances.

Bob, before taking up residence in East Bridgewater, was a past National Director for the Rhode Island Jaycees.

David E. Crosby
Brockton Delegate

As the Mayor of Brockton, the only City among the Council's communities, Mayor Crosby is the Brockton representative to the Old Colony Planning Council. Mayor Crosby, an attorney and a lifelong resident of the City of Brockton was educated at Boston College, Columbia University and Boston University Law School.

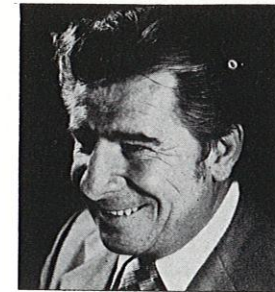
In addition to being Mayor of Brockton for three terms, Mayor Crosby is active in many civic and political organizations. Included in those and in addition to being Chairman of the Brockton School Committee, the Mayor is Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Brockton Area Transit System; Director of the Pilgrim Foundation; member of the Executive Committee of Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns and a member of the Community School Committee.



Richard H. Chase
Easton Delegate

Mr. Richard H. Chase has been the OCPC Delegate from the Town of Easton since 1972 after having served as the town's Alternate Delegate to OCPC from 1970 to 1972. Dick has been a member and Chairman of the Town of Easton Sewer Study Committee and OCPC Treasurer from 1973 to 1978. He is also currently a member of the Council's Executive Committee, Chairman of the Personnel Committee and Equal Employment Opportunity Officer of the Council. For the past three years he has served as a member of the National Association of Regional Council's Metropolitan Development Policy Committee. Mr. Chase is the current Secretary of the Council.

COUNCIL



John J. DeMarco
Avon Delegate

John J. DeMarco has been a member of the Old Colony Planning Council since 1971. During that span the Avon Delegate has served the Council as its Secretary and six terms as President.

Mr. DeMarco, in addition to being elected to the National Association of Regional Councils Board of Directors for this region, has been very active in the affairs of the Town of Avon. He has been a member of the Board of Selectmen, the Massachusetts Selectmen Association, the Planning Board, having served as its chairman for seven years, and the Massachusetts Federation of Planning Boards. He is currently the Chairman of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA).

William R. Griffin
Plymouth Delegate

Mr. Griffin, the Executive Secretary in the Town of Plymouth, and that town's Delegate to the Council was the former administrator for the Town of Swansea.

Bill was graduated from Providence College in 1975 and then went on to Syracuse University where he received his Master's Degree in Public Administration. Active in many public organizations, Bill is currently a member of the International City Management Association, the American Society for Public Administration and the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

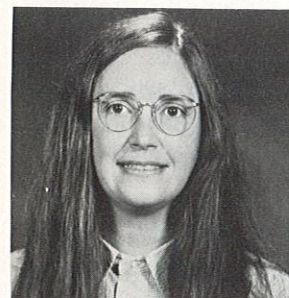


CLOSEUP

Gerard Dempsey Pembroke Delegate

Mr. Gerard Dempsey has been the OCPC Delegate from the Town of Pembroke since 1974 when he was elected to represent the town on the Council. Since that time, Jerry has actively participated in the affairs of the Council and currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Program Development Committee. He is also a member of the National Association of Regional Councils - Human Resource Policy Committee for the Washington, D.C. based public interest organization.

Mr. Dempsey is the newly elected President of the Old Colony Planning Council.



Jane P. Ninde Hanson Delegate

As the Delegate to Council from the Town of Hanson, Jane Ninde is very active not only in the affairs of her town, but OCPC as well. In addition to being Hanson's representative to the Council's Joint Transportation Committee, Ms. Ninde is Chair-

person of the Hanson Industrial Development Commission; member of the OCPC Overall Economic Development Program Committee; a member of the Council's Energy Resource Committee and the Old Colony Planning Council's representative to the Pilgrim Area Resource Conservation and Development District. Jane is also an active member of the Anthropology Resource Center in Cambridge.



Lawrence B. Westgate Kingston Delegate

Brad Westgate has been a member of the Old Colony Planning Council since 1975. He has for many years been an active participant in the affairs of the Town of Kingston.

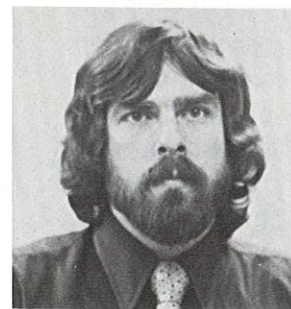
Listed among his many public service contributions have been terms on such various committees and boards as: Finance Committee (1955-58); Board of Appeals; Board of Selectmen and School Committee. He is presently serving as that town's Assessor.

Mr. Westgate is a former representative of the Dairy Industry, having served for 32 years in various capacities.

John T. English Whitman Delegate

Mr. English, the present Chairman of the Whitman Board of Selectmen, is the former Chairman of that town's Planning Board. John is an Architectural Project Manager for the firm of Kenneth F. Perry & Associates and is the technical advisor to the Weymouth Vocational Technical High School in Structural Design.

In addition to being a former member of Whitman's Local Growth Policy Committee, Mr. English is presently a member of the Whitman By-Law Study Committee; the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School Building Committee and the Massachusetts Municipal Association Legislative Committee. John is also a member of OCPC's Personnel and Program Development Committees.



Merton H. Ouderkirk West Bridgewater Delegate

"Mert" Ouderkirk, a charter member of the Old Colony Planning Council, has been the West Bridgewater Delegate since 1967. During that span Mert has served four years as OCPC President and was instrumental in the promulgation of the original legislation establishing OCPC. Mr. Ouderkirk is a former Selectman in the Town of West Bridgewater and has served on that town's Industrial Development Commission for fourteen years. Presently, and in addition to his duties as an OCPC Delegate, Mert is a member of West Bridgewater's Sewer Needs Committee. He is also a member of the Planning Board, having served in that capacity for 23 years, seven of which have been as Chairman.



Anthony P. Anacki Bridgewater Delegate

Mr. Anthony P. Anacki, a Charter Member of OCPC, has been the Bridgewater Delegate since the founding in 1968. He served as Council Secretary from 1975 to 1978. Tony has been active in Bridgewater town affairs for many years including service as a member and

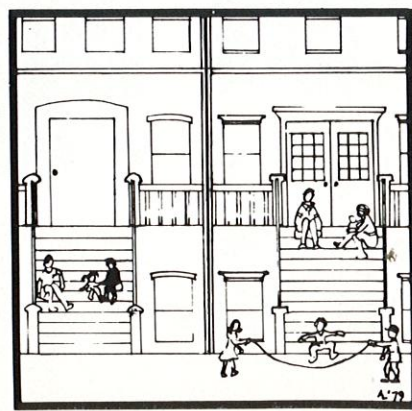
Chairman of the town's Wage and Personnel Board for six years from 1962 to 1967 prior to election as a member of the Board of Selectmen in 1967. He served as Selectman-Assessor in Bridgewater from 1967 to 1973. When the responsibilities of the offices of Selectmen and Assessor were divided in 1973 he was elected as a member of the newly established Board of Assessors. He presently serves in that position.

Growth Management Committee Formed

As part of the continuing efforts to provide land use information to the member communities, the Old Colony Planning Council formed a Land Use/Growth Management Advisory Committee this past year. The committee is a working committee made up of representatives of the member communities appointed by the Board of Selectmen or Mayor.

The committee's role is to address some of the growth-related issues of interest in the region. These include economic development and the protection and acquisition of land for conservation and recreation purposes. The committee will continue its work this coming year and information about available funding for various programs will continue to be exchanged.

The Old Colony Planning Council has prepared several position papers which summarize key growth-related issues. An example of these reports this year is the Floodplain Protection brochure. This brochure describes what floodplains are, why they are important, and how development affects them. It describes various government programs that are trying to protect floodplains and their effectiveness. The brochure also presents several ways that local communities can effectively protect their floodplains. These include floodplain protection zoning, open space acquisition, and conservation restrictions. Several of the Old Colony communities have adopted local floodplain protection zoning which can provide rigorous floodplain protection at low cost to the community. The effectiveness of their floodplain protection zoning by-laws is assessed, and a model by-law is included as a guide for communities that wish to adopt or revise present zoning.



Area To Benefit By Completion of AHOP

A major effort of the Council this year has been the development of an Areawide Housing Opportunity Plan (AHOP) which will increase housing opportunities for lower income and/or minority households in the communities of the region. Approval of this plan by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may make the region eligible to receive bonus funding under HUD's 701 planning program, Section 8 rental subsidy program, or Community Development Block Grant program.

Since December, 1978, a regional Housing Advisory Committee has met monthly to assist the Old Colony Planning Council in the development of this plan. The Advisory Committee is made up of forty representatives of public housing authorities, social service agencies, and community organizations from throughout the region.

The AHOP program provides an opportunity for the region's public officials to take an active role in determining the location of assisted housing in the region. Previously, all allocations were made by state or federal agencies and, at times, did not reflect the concerns of the region's residents.

Before the AHOP can be submitted to HUD it must be reviewed by local officials and approved by 50 percent of the communities in the region (these towns must include 75 percent of the population of the region). If the plan is approved by HUD it will be the basis of funding allocations to the region, will serve as the basis of the Housing Assistance Plans developed by individual communities, and will enable participating communities to receive fifty bonus points in competition for Community Development Block Grant funds under the Small Cities program.

Study of Industries Underway

In order to promote a more diversified economic future for the Old Colony District, OCPC is conducting a study of industries with potential for growth. After OCPC made an initial identification of area growth industries, existing firms within these industries were surveyed by the Office of Community Research at Stonehill College. Survey results were used to confirm potential for expansion and constraints to growth. As the study progresses, other industries with linkages to existing firms will be identified. In this way, suppliers of materials used in the region or purchasers of products produced in the region can be identified in hopes of attracting them to locate within the District.

The occupational skills which will be required to meet future needs of existing and potential industry will also be identified. Future skill needs will then be matched to existing training programs and new programs will be recommended where none are available.

One of the major impediments to the development of a more diversified economy in the Old Colony District is the lack of adequate infrastructure to support industrial expansion. As part of the Title IX project, the Council has undertaken a major study of infrastructure in the OCPC region. This study will include an inventory of existing infrastructure that supports industrial parks and areas, an assessment of infrastructure inadequacies, and recommendations on public investments for infrastructure improvements.

The organizational aspects of industrial development are also being addressed under the Title IX project. A comprehensive training program for local industrial development commissions members, other public officials and professional developers will be prepared. It is hoped that an Industrial Development Institute can be established at Stonehill College.

Mobile Homes: A Housing Option

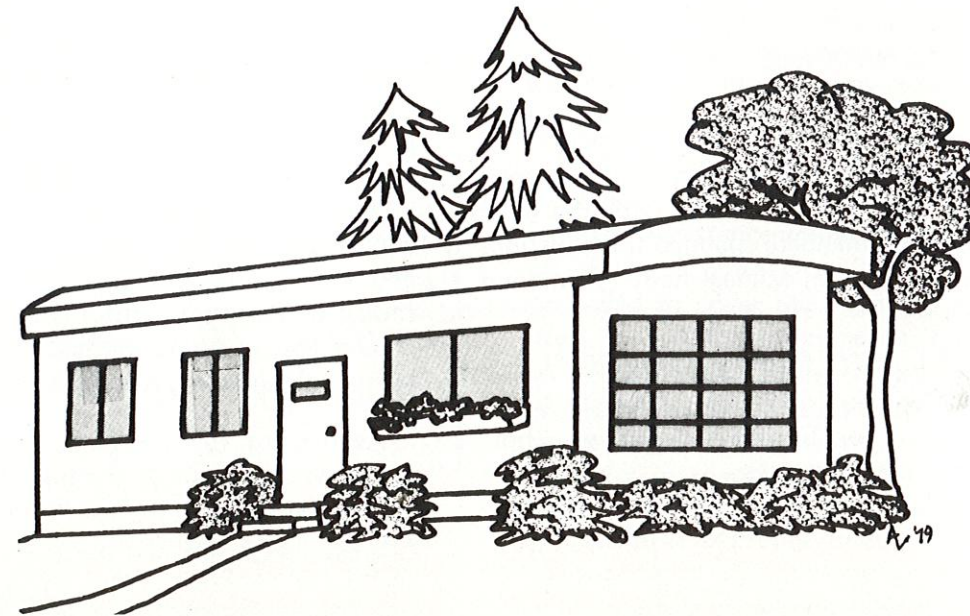
This past year the Old Colony Planning Council made several efforts to provide information to member communities concerning the regulation of various types of housing development. The goal of the effort was to show that it is possible to provide a wide range of housing types throughout the region while still regulating the development to satisfy local concerns.

As part of this effort, the staff provided information to member communities concerning the use of mobile homes as a housing option. Most Old Colony communities presently prohibit the use of mobile homes, either individually or in mobile home parks. The Council provided information to local officials concerning the regulation of mobile homes in Mobile Homes: An Image Problem? (March, 1979).

The Council also sponsored a Mobile Home Workshop in April to provide an opportunity for local officials and residents to discuss mobile homes with a panel of speakers who are themselves involved with mobile homes. The panel discussed the image problem of mobile homes, design factors involved in developing a successful mobile home park, finance arrangements for the purchase of a mobile home, and the regulation of mobile home parks through local zoning by-laws.

Mobile homes are one of the few types of housing that can still be purchased for less than conventionally built housing. They are now designed as permanent year round dwellings, completely furnished and visually similar to conventional single family homes. When properly sited on wooded, rolling terrain in residential or wooded areas rather than commercial or industrial areas they are an important housing resource.

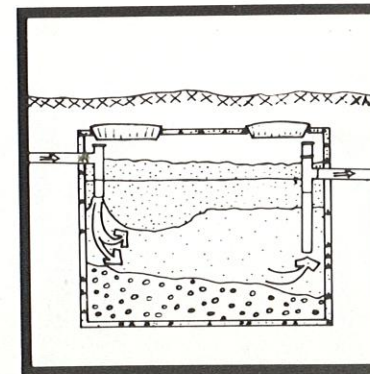
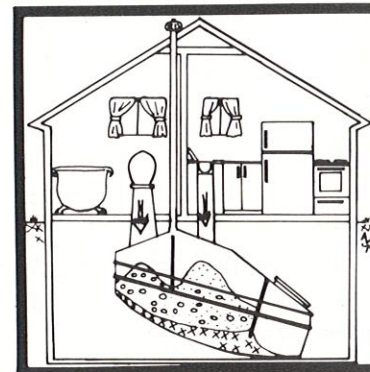
Mobile homes make a very attractive housing alternative for the elderly, young couples and families.



A Program For Failing Septic Systems

Failing septic systems are a common problem found in all OCPC communities. For some OCPC communities, it was established that the most effective solution to the problem of failing on-site systems was the installation of public sewerage. For other communities, it was recommended that they continue to use on-site systems but avoid possible problems through a proper on-site program. An adequate on-site management program includes the following elements: 1. establishing siting, installation and inspection procedures for new on-site systems; 2. establishing maintenance procedures for existing on-site systems; 3. establishing a procedure to report, record and respond to failing systems; 4. developing an adequate septage disposal management program; 5. coordinating efforts between local Boards of Health, the Old Colony Planning Council and other regulatory agencies.

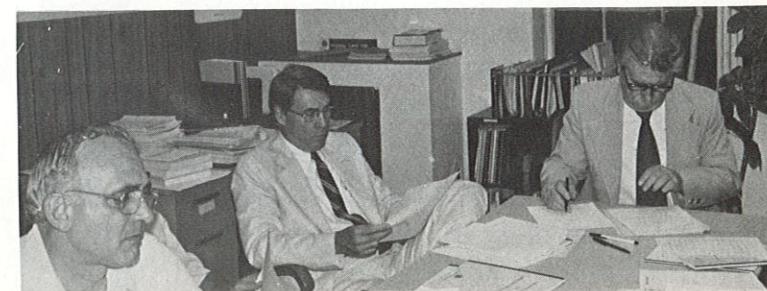
This past year Old Colony Planning Council initiated such a program and has been working with selected communities in implementing an on-site maintenance program. The on-site management program will be extended to all OCPC member communities in the 1979-80 program year. An important element of the program is the dissemination of information concerning proper installation and maintenance procedures through workshops and informational flyers. One such workshop was sponsored by OCPC in conjunction with the North and South River Watershed Association and the Plymouth County Extension Service. Topics included: how on-site systems work; the installation and maintenance of septic systems; the establishment of recordkeeping procedures by the Boards of Health; the State Sanitary code; and, water conservation as a means of maintaining septic system functioning.



Council Reviews Projects Totalling Over \$226 Million

This past year, the members of the Old Colony Planning Council reviewed and made recommendations and comments on applications for Federal assistance in the amount of \$226,706,044. The following list shows by Federal Agency the number of applications that were directed to the agency along with the dollar amount of funds involved.

	Number of Applications	Total Dollar Amount	
	61	\$226,706,044	
Funding Agency	Dollar Amount	Applications	
Dept. of Agriculture	\$ 5,619,000	5	
Dept. of Housing & Urban Dev. (HUD)	16,833,000	11	
Dept. of Labor (DOL)	195,624,976	16	
Community Services Adm. (EDA)	194,000	2	
Economic Dev. Adm. (EDA)	2,160,000	2	
Coastal Zone Mgt. (CZM)	138,258	2	
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	1,162,666	4	
Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare (HEW)	4,432,598	12	
Dept. of Interior (DOI)	119,000	1	
Law Enforcement Assistance Adm. (LEAA)	381,296	5	
Dept. of Action	41,250	1	



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The preparation of an Annual Report is always a time of deep reflection, recalling to mind those activities, accomplishments and events that over the past year stand out from all the others. Because planning is a continuing process it is all the more difficult to present a report that stresses results when more often than not the accomplishments are the achievement of milestones and not end results.

In reviewing the OCPC program for last year it became evident to me that what we were able to achieve during the year was only made possible by our performance over the preceding years. I attribute the level of success that we have had to the Council Delegates and Alternates who have given me and the Council staff the support and cooperation necessary to perform at a high level of professionalism. I also credit John J. DeMarco who has served as Council President for six years as the person most responsible for OCPC gaining the stature it has because of his dedicated support, foresight and leadership.

The Council has been fortunate over the years in attracting many bright and exceptionally talented individuals to its staff who have made lasting contributions. All of these things taken together have benefited our member communities and placed them in a better position to meet the challenges of the future.

As we embark on the next program year we have new leadership in the person of Council President Gerard W. Dempsey. Mr. Dempsey will seek to build upon the solid foundation that has been laid and to strengthen the Council to meet the needs of our member communities.

I look forward to the coming year and to the opportunity it presents.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Crane
Executive Director
Old Colony Planning Council

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