



## community development partnership

*Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower Cape*

### In Tribute to Susan Lindquist

***“Susan warned me that I would always know what she thought, especially if she didn’t agree with me! I will always be grateful for Susan’s guidance and honesty.”***



Jay Coburn,  
CDP Chief Executive Officer

Since her death on November 15th, many of us have been mourning the loss of our friend, supporter, colleague, and founding board member, Susan Lindquist. She was one of those rare intelligent, thoughtful, and witty people who spoke her mind while convincing you to join her in implementing her often lofty, if not seemingly impossible, ideas. Nothing seemed unattainable to her. She just had to find the right people and best way to move forward.

There were no roadblocks for Susan. She found ways to navigate around, ignore, or remove obstacles in order to create the positive changes she envisioned. Her example inspired many of us to do the same.

Susan wasn’t afraid to work hard, get her hands dirty or stay late into the night to bring a project to completion. Remarkably, she did most of this without payment or recognition.

When she saw a need, she did everything she could to fill it. Working for those who struggled to make ends meet on the lower Cape was a passion of hers, and when she took on hosting the CDP’s weekly radio and TV show, *This Place Matters*, it was to give voice to those who might not be heard otherwise. She interviewed everyone from leaders of nonprofits to those who fish our waters and repair the boats they need. She was a founding board member of the CDP in 1992 joined the board again in 2013 and was recognized with the Gwen Pelletier Award for Excellence in Community Service in 2012.

“Susan never held back.” recalled CDP Chief Executive Officer, Jay Coburn. “She always told you what she thought. During my first year at the CDP in 2013, we had several seats open up on the Board

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of Directors. Given her long history with the organization as a founding Board Member, Susan was the first person I asked to join the Board hoping that her long history with the organization and as a community leader would be a great asset to me. Before accepting the invitation, she warned me that I would always know what she thought, especially if she didn't agree with me! I will always be grateful for Susan's guidance and honesty.”

In the 1990s, Lindquist took the helm as the Executive Director at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. Some of the best-known naturalists on the Cape today have her to thank for her vision and willingness to take them on as valued staff members, jumpstarting their careers.

She sat on the Cape Cod Five Board of Directors as a community representative and served on the Cape Cod Five Community Foundation. She was a founder of the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School and worked with many boards across the Cape to help them become more productive and creative.

What is less known, is that Susan fought cancer more than once. She never let her illnesses get in the way of what she hoped to accomplish and was an inspiration to all who knew her. A wonderful gardener and friend to wildlife, Susan was first a loving and supportive wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. No matter how ill she was, Susan could still muster a smile and a twinkle in her eye, along with a well-considered opinion. We will miss her presence, but her spirit will live on in the work we continue to do in and for the community.