



community development partnership

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

Planning for the Future



CDP Board member, Leslie Richardson has a big job. As Chief Economic Development Officer for the Cape Cod Commission, Leslie focuses on the big picture of Cape Cod, including how to plan strategically for its future.

She has been with the regional planning agency for almost 13 years. During that time, one of her main tasks has been preparing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. This five year strategic plan, built off of the Regional Policy Plan, identifies regional priority projects that will move the region's economy towards a sustainable future.

Leslie also has the opportunity to work closely with towns in the region on infrastructure issues. A recent example of this activity is her work with the town of Orleans. She did an evaluation and analysis of land use in the town relative to their economic development goals. (You can read more about it [here](#).) The perspective and level of expertise that Leslie and her colleagues at the Commission can provide to a town is a valuable resource, often beyond the time capacity of a municipal staff.

When asked about some of the challenges and opportunities she sees in the region, from her perspective, Leslie underscored recruiting and retaining labor due to the high cost of living and the seasonality of our economy as significant challenge. As for opportunities, Leslie highlighted zoning changes, particularly those that could drive new growth to village centers and pool the costs where infrastructure (like wastewater) is most needed.

The CDP has been fortunate to have Leslie involved on various committees, and currently the Board of Directors, for over a decade. When commenting on her involvement with the CDP, Leslie said, “The connection I have with the CDP helps to keep me grounded with what’s going on in people’s lives on the Lower Cape. This relationship is important and helpful because we (at the Commission) need to continually partner with organizations like the CDP, and municipalities, so that we can serve the people of Cape Cod most effectively.”

3 Main Street Mercantile, Unit 7 Eastham, MA 02642
P 508.240.7873 F 508.240.5085 E contact@capecdp.org

www.capecdp.org

