



Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOOK ASSOCIATION SECURES PRESERVATION FUNDS TO RESTORE CAPTAIN HARDING HOUSE

Chatham voters overwhelmingly approve use of Community Preservation Act funds at Special Town Meeting

NORTH CHATHAM, MA: Chatham voters enthusiastically supported allocating \$185,136 in Community Preservation Act funds to restore the Captain Nathan Harding House at a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday. Under a purchase and sale agreement with current owners David and Gail Oppenheim, the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association will purchase the West Chatham property after renovations are complete next summer, and turn the 105-year-old home into the organization's permanent headquarters.

"We are so pleased that Chatham residents supported this important project," said Susan Nickerson, Executive Director of the Hook Association, which is currently housed in rented space in North Chatham. "The Hook Association strives to protect fish, fishermen and the local fishing community- preserving and occupying this historic sea captain's home is an ideal fit for our mission and for the town."

More than 400 residents attended Wednesday's Special Town Meeting. The community's approval of the funds guarantees that a barn will be built on the property to replace the original barn that was beyond repair. The town will also hold a permanent easement on the property, ensuring that the façade of the building is restored and maintained in perpetuity according to the standards of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Department of Interior.

The collaboration between the Oppenheim family and the Hook Association began in early 2009, when the Hook Association was given the exclusive option to purchase the property at 1566 Main Street in West Chatham. In August, the Hook Association signed a letter of intent with the Oppenheim family to purchase the property once the renovations are complete, and the purchase and sale agreement was finalized this week.

The request to use Community Preservation funds on the project was strongly supported by the town's Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee, as well as the Community Preservation Committee, Planning Board, Chatham Historical Commission, West Chatham Historic Business District Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Hook Association seeks to raise a total of \$1.2 million over the next year for the purchase of the house and other

associated expenses, such as work on the interior of the barn, moving costs, and maintenance. To make a donation to restoration project, call the Hook Association at (508) 945-2432, email info@ccchfa.org, or go to www.ccchfa.org to donate online.

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Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association

The Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association is a nationally recognized, non-profit organization that aligns protection of the oceans with the economic interests of our historic fishing community. We support stewardship of coastal ecosystems through education, research, and policy programs. Started in 1991 by the local fishing fleet, the Hook Association is now the leading community fisheries organization in the region. We are taking action now to make sure there are fish for future generations.

~ Protecting a Resource, a Tradition, and a Way of Life ~
www.ccchfa.org