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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF PLYMOUTH

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Plymouth County Commissioners' Dredge Clears the Way

Harwich and Plymouth County Collaborate on Wychmere Channel Dredging

PLYMOUTH, MA – June 12, 2019 – The Plymouth County Commissioners recently collaborated with the Town of Harwich to clear the Wychmere Harbor Channel providing safe passage for both commercial and recreational boats for one of Cape Cod's favorite picturesque harbors. The Town of Harwich leased the Plymouth County dredge to remove thousands of yards of shoaling sand along the west side of the channel breakwater. This sand was then used to fortify a nearby beach, enhancing the beach stability against future erosion.

The Plymouth County dredge is a John Deere 50-ton long reach track excavator that can move a mountain of sand in a day. The County obtained the dredge for use by municipalities that have projects requiring this type of specialized heavy equipment. Towns can save thousands of dollars by partnering with Plymouth County to utilize the dredge and many DPW teams have licensed operators with dredging experience that can operate the machine. The dredge can be used for: harbor clearing, channel restoration, removal of old dams, silt removal, and management of invasive plant species in ponds and lakes.

John Rendon, the Harwich Harbor Master and the Wychmere project supervisor stated "The Plymouth County dredge excavator was perfect for this project. The Commissioners developed a great program that is easy to use. More importantly, Harwich saved money by working with Plymouth County. It's a great resource that we plan to use again in the future."

The collaboration between the Town of Harwich and the County saved Harwich thousands of dollars and enabled the job to be completed in a narrow time window prior to the busy boating season. The job could not be started until June 1, 2019 due to the restrictions in place on dredging during the winter flounder season. An added benefit was that the job was completed in a shorter time frame than expected.

“County government is a great way for local towns to realize better efficiency. County government is in the business of finding regional solutions for regional problems.” said Commissioner Daniel A. Pallotta, Chairman (R – Hanover).

“The County dredge is a specialized piece of equipment that has great utility for many restoration projects. The Commissioners are happy to maintain the dredge as part of the services we offer our communities” said Commission Sandra M. Wright (R – Bridgewater).

“Plymouth County relishes the opportunity to help any municipality whenever possible. By using the County dredge, towns can complete more work in a shorter time for less money.” said Commissioner Gregory M. Hanley, (D – Pembroke).

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Founded in 1685, the County of Plymouth is a regional government encompassing twenty-seven municipalities in southeastern Massachusetts. In addition to the Registry of Deeds offices in Plymouth, Brockton, and Rockland, the County provides regional cooperative purchasing services, municipal dredging, a fire control airplane, parking ticket processing, 4-H programming, an entomologist, regional financial services, courthouses in Brockton, Hingham, and Wareham, and administration of the Plymouth County OPEB Trust (PCOT). See www.PlymouthCountyMA.gov for information about the County and its programs. For additional information, or to schedule a meeting with the Plymouth County Commissioners, please contact Frank Basler at 508.830.9104 or fbasler@plymouthcountyma.gov.





