

Block Island Housing Board
Annual Report
July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008

For the Housing Board, each year of operation builds on the work of the preceding year. The focus of our fifth year was to work steadily at two tasks: Oversee the awarding and moving of our second donated home and to continue in the planning and development of the Champlin Road project.

Spearheaded by Mark Emmanuelle, it took a whole community effort to finalize the donation of the Hinthorn home to islander Nancy Worth. In the end, groups ranging from the Attorney General's Office, the Town Council, the PUC, Block Island Power Company, Verizon, New Shoreham Police and the Block Island Times were involved in the process. While not yet ready for habitation, the former Hinthorn house now sits on a new foundation on Beach Avenue, with its new home owner steadily working towards its completion. Once again, the Housing Board is grateful for the community support and cooperation we have received.

The Board is pleased to report that a major goal has been achieved. On June 13, 2008, after years of legal work and negotiations, the Housing Board closed on the purchase of Plat 14, Lot 55, located off Cooneymus Road. Through the generosity of Steve Smith and Marianne Brown as well as the kindness of other possible heirs, the Board was able to secure 4.5 acres of land for the development of affordable housing. We look forward to working on that project in the months and years ahead.

On Champlin Road, the ground work for the construction of two, single family homes began. The site was cleared, bids requested and awarded for engineering work, the subdivision plans drafted and the Planning Board and Zoning Board applications were submitted. As of this writing, our request is before the Planning Board and we are hopeful for a favorable review. Meanwhile, the Board has tackled the tasks of determining selection and eligibility requirements, house design, investigating construction companies and modular designs. We have been assisted by, among others, our attorney, Bill Landry, Marc Tilson, Amy Land and Ellen Jacke. The upcoming months will be exciting as we hope to break ground in the fall of 2009.

Our fiscal report is attached. In summary, revenues totaled \$103,592.13. Expenditures equaled \$25,237.22.