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RESOURCE USE ISSUES  
AND  
THE PLANNING PROCESS

U.S.D.A., NAL  
Cataloging Prep

Proceedings of  
The Joint Meeting of Northeast Regional Committees  
and  
The Extension Public Policy Committee

Second Northeast Extension Seminar  
on  
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## FOREWORD

This publication represents a collection of papers which were presented before the Second Northeast Extension Seminar of The Northeast Regional Committees. The conference, which was held in Boston, October 11-13, 1966, explored the topic of "Resource Use Issues and the Planning Process."

The seminar was attended by professionals in rural and urban planning, economics, and sociology; landscape architects; educators, agricultural agents; and extension specialists in forestry and wildlife, area development, and public affairs.

Included in this publication are all papers which were presented before the four committees and those presented before the Northeast Regional Extension Public Policy Committee. They represent current thinking in the field of resource use and planning.

Much guidance and support was given by Henry M. Hansen of the University of Connecticut, and Joseph Ackerman and R. J. Hildreth of the Farm Foundation to the Boston Conference and the publication of the papers presented there. Financial costs were underwritten by the Farm Foundation and the Institute for Research on Land and Water Resources of The Pennsylvania State University.

Finally, we salute Jack Brown and Carroll D. Price, II who devoted many hours to the editing of this compilation of papers.

John C. Frey, Chairman  
Northeast Regional  
Extension Public  
Policy Committee

RESOURCE INVENTORY AND EVALUATION--NANTUCKET  
by Carl A. Carlozzi\*

REQUEST FOR SURVEY

In January of 1966 a request was made by the selectmen of Nantucket to the Cooperative Extension Service, through the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources, for assistance in preparing a preplanning resource inventory and evaluation of Nantucket Island.

Initial intentions of the Island's leaders were towards a rather limited assessment of certain specific resources that were obviously being threatened, due to recent developments of the Island's shoreline line, by the increasing numbers of seasonal homes and a growing tourist industry. The urgency of the situation was dramatized by difficulties of a similar nature that had already occurred on the neighboring island of Martha's Vineyard.

Several factors applying to Extension's role in public land policy issues as well as to an interest in planning methodology at the College of Agriculture made this request especially interesting:

1. The simple request for help was clearly something that Extension could not ignore.
2. The Island leaders' evaluation of their need was justified in that they saw a problem that they and professional observers agreed was a problem.
3. The problem stimulating the request was in fact only a partial understanding of the total picture, thus offering the possibility of exploring the means for extending the concern of the people of Nantucket to encompass the full range of interrelated land-use problems and potentials using their initial interests as a base of understanding.

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4. The project offered an opportunity to try out in a real project interdisciplinary planning methods developed in a graduate planning and design course.
5. The project required the participation of the College, the state, Nantucket, and several consultants.

Total project costs including staff time were about \$40,000, divided roughly in thirds between the College, the state and the town.

In all, 14 people made up the staff representing 10 professional areas.

### PROJECT DESIGN

The goals of the project were to compile an inventory of the Island's natural and landscape resources and an evaluation of the Island's potentials and limitations based upon its resources.

#### General studies included:

1. Land use (present & historical)
2. Land ownership
3. Historical sites
4. Visual interpretation of landscape features
5. Shoreline classification
6. Circulation
7. Climate
8. Geology & Soils
9. Underground water supply

#### Ecological resource studies included:

1. Marine resources
2. Upland game
3. Special study of potential sharp-tail grouse habitat
4. Fresh water fisheries
5. Vegetation cover types
6. "Cattail problem"
7. Unique natural areas

## WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Several features of group and professional-client dynamics were very important to the study.

The professionals conducting the project met regularly with the town leaders. Progress was reviewed and reactions sought before next steps were taken.

Several of the project staff also met with town service groups and organizations to explain the purpose and methods of the project. This effort at communications resulted in a very favorable climate of cooperation throughout the project.

The unusual aspect of the work involved the relations among the staff. The project was structured to put the staff in constant contact with one another. It was this factor that provided constant review of each participant's work. It also made it impossible for unilateral decision making or conclusion drawing. Perhaps the most significant outcome of these working arrangements was the preclusion of any discipline from "bending the knowledge" of others to suit its own ends.

The summer's work marks only the first step in Extension's contribution to the Island. The College will publish the report, and a series of educational meetings are planned to explain the various studies of the project, their relationship to each other, and the alternatives for future development based on the previously stated goals of the town.

In addition, Extension staff will continue to work with the town officials and the newly appointed town zoning committee.