



2026 SRPEDD ANNUAL SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND COMMISSION AWARDS *REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS*

As has long been the tradition, for presentation at the SRPEDD Annual Meeting the fourth Wednesday of May—and scheduled to be held at a location shortly to be announced—the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) Commission has recognized individuals and organizations from across Southeastern Massachusetts that have made a difference in advancing the agency and region, and once again, solicits your assistance in identifying this year’s awardees. Awards are given in two categories: **Special Recognition** and **Commission Awards** (of which there are two types of the latter).

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Special Recognition - honors a person, area business or community organization for specific contribution(s) to SRPEDD, the region, or field of planning or economic development;

COMMISSION AWARDS

Commissioner of the Year - given to a present SRPEDD Commission member for specific and recent contribution(s) to SRPEDD, and/or to the advancement of regionalism over the past year;

Distinguished Service - given to a former or present SRPEDD Commissioner for leadership and outstanding service to SRPEDD, in honor and acknowledgment of a range/extended body of contributions.

All three awards represent a unique opportunity to recognize someone in your community for their noteworthy contribution(s) to the region, in the case of the Special Recognition Awards, be they elected officials, citizen volunteers, advocates, educators, non-profit or business leaders; and in the case of the Commission of the Year or Distinguished Service Awards, be they present or former and present Commissioners, respectively.

Nominations must be received at SRPEDD by August 21, 2026 in order for the Awards Committee to review and decide on this year’s awardees, for presentation at the upcoming Annual Meeting slated for September 23, 2026

Please email, fax or post your completed form to:

SRPEDD
Attn: Stacy Royer
88 Broadway
Taunton, MA 02780
info@srpedd.org or (508) 823-1803 fax

Questions? Please contact Jeffrey Walker or Stacy Royer.
Tel: 508-824-1367/Email: info@srpedd.org



SRPEDD
Southeastern Regional Planning
& Economic Development District

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

This award will be given to a person, area business or community organization for specific contribution(s) to SRPEDD, the region, or field of planning or economic development

Criteria

- The contribution may be the initiation, development or administration of a plan, policy or program; it may be a specific product; or it may be ideas, concepts, actions or any other achievements.
- The nominee's contribution to SRPEDD, the region, or the field of planning and economic development must be easily documented and evaluated.
- The nominee's contribution may be past, recent, or ongoing.

Eligibility

- Candidates may be: an individual, business or community organization; from in or outside of SRPEDD region.
- Candidates may not be: SRPEDD Commission members; SRPEDD staff; or members of the nominating committee.

SRPEDD COMMISSION AWARDS

COMMISSIONER OF THE YEAR (For SRPEDD Commission Members Only)

This award will be given to a SRPEDD Commission member for specific and recent contribution(s) to SRPEDD, and/or to the advancement of regionalism over the past year.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE (For SRPEDD Commission Members Only)

This award will be bestowed on a former or present SRPEDD Commission member for leadership and outstanding service to SRPEDD, in honor and acknowledgment of a range/extended body of contributions.

Criteria

- The contribution may be the initiation, development or implementation of a plan, policy or program; it may be a specific product; or it may be ideas, concepts, actions or related achievements.
- The nominee's accomplishments, leadership, and contributions to SRPEDD, and/or to the advancement of regionalism must be clearly documented; known to the membership of SRPEDD; and acknowledged by his/her own community.
- Although recognized and documented service to the benefit of a nominee's own community will be considered, the contribution to SRPEDD and Southeastern MA region at large will be accorded the most weight.

Eligibility

- Candidates must be currently serving SRPEDD Commission members in the case of Commissioner of the Year Award, or former or currently serving Commission members in the case of the Distinguished Service Award.
- Candidates may not be SRPEDD staff, or members of the Awards Committee.

NOMINATION FORM

Nominations must be received at SRPEDD by August 21, 2026 in order for the Awards Committee to review and decide on this year's awardees, for presentation at the upcoming Annual Meeting tentatively scheduled to be held at a location shortly to be announced.

AWARD CATEGORIES FOR NOMINEE

- Name: _____ Community: _____

[illegible]

Name of Nominator: _____ Date: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Tel: _____

Please attach copy of candidate's resume, if available, and any other supporting documentation as needed.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

PAST RECIPIENTS

1987	Representative Stephen Karol, Attleboro Robert Dillman, Bridgewater State College	2004	Kara Pennini, Katie MacAulay, Kellie Savery and David White, Middleb. Distrib. Ed. Clubs
1988	Edwin H.B. Pratt, Marion Representative Philip Travis, Rehoboth Lawrence J. Harman, EOTC SEMass, Rochester The Robbins Company, Attleboro The City of New Bedford/PACE Carver-Plymouth, Wareham Task Force	2005	Anthi Frangiadis, Wareham Pln. Board Ljiljana Vasiljevic, SouthCoast Insider Tony & Elsie Souza, New Bedford
1989	Representative Joan Menard, Somerset	2006	50 th Anniversary – Not Awarded
1990	Representative Marc Pacheco, Taunton Frederick Rubin, Lakeville	2007	Marijoan Bull, Staff Member & College Professor Marge Ghilarducci, Berkley Village Heritage Park
1991	Representative John Bradford, Rochester Peter Kortright, BayBank	2008	The Sheehan Family Foundation Chief Robert Crosby and Reinald Ledoux for Southeast Regional Advisory Council Marie Clarner, Conservation Commissioner, No. Attle. William “Buzz” Constable, MARPA
1992	John George, Union Street Bus Co. Stewart Washburn, SEED Corporation Robert DelRosso, Seekonk	2009	Taunton River Stewardship Council, Jim Ross, Bill Napolitano and Jamie Fosburgh
1993	The Standard-Times, New Bedford Anita Flanagan, Boston Edison	2010	Kristina Egan, South Coast Rail Project Manager Maryan Nowak, Citizen Volunteer; GATRA & Francis Gay; Irene Winkler, Coordinator of the Pilgrim RC&D
1994	Southeastern Massachusetts Leg. Caucus Dr. John Mullin, UMass.	2011	State Representative Stephen Canessa; Susan Jennings, UMass Sustainability Initiative; Officer Lance Lawson, Mansfield
1995	Manual Goulart, Acushnet Golf & Rec. Comm. Dennis Kelly, Pres., BCSB, Taunton	2012	Ron Labelle, Commissioner DPI, New Bedford David Wojnar, Selectman, Acushnet Alex Houtzager, Berkley
1996	Kathleen Simpson, Chair, GATRA’s CAC David Webster, Public Works Director, Swansea The Berkley Strategic Planning Committee	2013	Keven Desmarais, Freetown Planning Bd. & Conservation Commission Rachel Calabro, Save The Bay
1997	Richard Shafer, City of Taun. Econ. Dev. Corp. Ray Pickles, Executive Sec., Arthur Marchand, Town Adm., Somerset	2014	Representative William Straus, Mattapoissett Beth Lambert, Mill River Restoration Partnership
1998	John Corrigan, Reg. Adm., EDA, Phil. Mark Primack, Wildlands Trust of S.E. Mass	2015	Elain Ostrof, Westport; Wareham Celebration Alfred J. Lima, Fall River
1999	Alfred Raphael, Dir. Public Works, Fairhaven Norene Hartley, Rochester Lands Trust Freetown Youth Athletic Association	2016	Norman Hills, Marion Michael O’Reilly, Dartmouth; Julianne Kelly, Fall River
2000	David Westgate, President, and Maria Gooch-Smith Executive Dir., SEED Corp. Representative William Straus, Marion Land Bank; Christopher Richard, Fairhaven’s Dir. Of Tourism	2017	David Cole, Westport; Larry Cameron, MassDevelopment
2001	Chawner Hurd, Town of Lakeville Bd. Of Sel. Leonard Gonsalves, Buzzards Bay Action Comm. Laurell Farinon, Land Preservation Trust	2018	Jennifer Francis, Marion; Resilient Taunton Watershed
2002	Deborah Hogan, Mass. Envirothon Coordinator Michael Gagne, Executive Adm., Dartmouth	2019	Jennifer Carlino, Norton; Sandy Conaty; Community Economic Development Center (CEDC)
2003	Michael Rodriques, State Representative, Westport Nancy Yeatts, Lakeville, Assawompsett Ponds Jon Witten, Esq., Duxbury, Chapter 40B Reform	2020	Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance (TRWA)
		2021	Lee Azinheira, Mansfield DPW Director
		2022	Patricia Cassady, Middleborough Conservation Agent
		2023	Richard Shafer, Taunton Economic Development Director Pamela Hazar, MassDOT
		2024	Mary Ellen DeFrias, GATRA Erik Rousseau, GATRA
		2025	Courtney Rocha, MA Ex.Office of Energy & Enviro. Affairs

SRPEDD COMMISSION AWARDS

PAST RECIPIENTS

COMMISSIONER OF THE YEAR AWARDEES

1977 Luke Leonard, Jr., Lakeville
 1979 Melville Moody, Attleboro
 1980 David Knight, Carver
 1982 Emeline MacDonald, Raynham
 1984 Richard T. Curley, Mansfield
 1985 Denise Poyant, New Bedford
 1986 Julia Enroth, Westport
 1987 Robert Arabian, Rehoboth
 1988 Donald Hussey, Somerset
 1989 Gus Yankopoulos, Wareham
 1990 Jayme Dias, New Bedford
 1991 Loretta Schaefer, Marion
 1992 Karl Eklund, PHD, Berkley
 1993 Daniel DeCarlo, Fall River
 1994 Ann M. Miller, Carver
 1995 Gus Yankopoulos, Wareham
 1996 Lou Martin, Taunton
 1997 Peter Kortright, Mattapoisett
 1998 Basil Castaldi, Dartmouth
 1999 Joseph Andrade, New Bedford
 2000 Susan Peterson, Rochester
 2001 Henry Young, Acushnet
 2002 Robert Rogers, Mattapoisett
 2003 Lori Schaefer, Marion
 2004 Martin Newfield, Raynham
 2005 Lorri-Ann Miller, Dartmouth
 2006 50th Anniversary
 2007 Wayne Sunderland, Westport
 2008 Chuck Gricus, Wareham
 2009 Susan Peterson, Rochester
 2010 No Award
 2011 Jean Fox, Freetown
 2012 William Roth, Fairhaven
 2013 Rita Garbitt, Lakeville
 2014 Joseph Callahan, Berkley
 2015 Jonathan Henry, Marion
 2016 Joan Marchitto, N. Attleboro
 2017 Alan Slavin, Wareham
 2018 George Hovorka, Swansea
 2019 Jim Whitin, Westport
 2020 Deborah Melino-Wender, Dartmouth
 2021 Marie Clarner, North Attleborough
 2022 D. Austin Horowitz, Mansfield
 2023 Robert Espindola, Fairhaven
 2024 Janice Robbins, Mattapoisett
 2025 Leeann Bradley, Middleborough

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDEES

1976 John Waterman, Rehoboth
 1977 Albert Larsen, No. Attle.; William Jordan, Norton
 1978 Raymond Fleurent, Fairhaven
 1979 George Hall, Westport
 1980 Luke Leonard, Jr., Lakeville
 1981 Kenneth Vining, Fairhaven
 1982 David Knight, Carver
 1983 Julia Enroth, Westport
 1984 Emeline MacDonald, Raynham
 1986 George Bare, Rochester
 1989 Allan Campbell, Dighton
 1990 Donald Hussey, Somerset
 1991 Basil Castaldi, Dartmouth
 1992 Patricia Redding, No. Attleborough
 1995 Karl Eklund, Berkley
 1996 Gus Yankopoulos, Wareham
 1997 Raymond Payson, No. Attleborough
 1998 Albert Caron, Marion
 1999 Mark Rasmussen, Fairhaven
 2000 Louis Martin, Mattapoisett
 2001 Loretta Schaefer, Marion
 2002 Emeline MacDonald (posthumously)
 2003 Robert Mawney, Attleboro
 2004 Gary Ayrassian, Attleboro
 2005 Leonard Flynn, Mansfield; Robert Rogers, Mattapoisett
 2006 50th Anniversary
 2007 George Hovorka, Fall River, At Large;
 Jack Healey, Middleborough
 2008 Albert Borges, Fairhaven
 2009 Robert Carney, Dartmouth
 2010 No Award
 2011 Raymond Fleurent, Fairhaven
 2012 Joan Marchitto, No. Attleborough
 2013 Randall Kunz, Mattapoisett
 2014 Lorri-Ann Miller, Dartmouth
 2015 Donna Kulpa, Dighton
 2016 Executive Director Search Committee
 2017 Robert Rogers, Mattapoisett
 2018 No Award
 2019 Rita Garbitt, Lakeville
 2020 Deborah Melino-Wender, Dartmouth
 2021 Joe Callahan, Berkley
 2022 Alan Slavin
 2024 Norman Hill, Marion
 2025 Jim Whitin, Westport