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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brewster Affordable Family Housing Development Celebrates Renovations

State Sen. Daniel Wolf, state and local officials join residents at King's Landing picnic

BREWSTER – State Senator Daniel Wolf (D-Harwich), state officials and local affordable housing supporters joined residents at King's Landing, a 108-unit mixed income family housing development in Brewster, to celebrate the completion of renovations and planting of a community garden. The property consists of thirteen two story wood framed town house buildings situated in a residential neighborhood close to downtown Brewster.

Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) acquired King's Landing as part of a portfolio of six Massachusetts properties from the State Street Development Management Company in the summer of 2012. The property is a critical affordable housing asset for the Town of Brewster and the greater Cape Cod community. Like many towns on the Cape, Brewster has a very limited amount of affordable rental housing, and the affordability restrictions at King's were due to expire in 2017.

"Thanks to the efforts of the Preservation of Affordable Housing, the properties at King's Landing will remain accessible to those who otherwise would not be able to afford to live there," said Senator Wolf. "The organization's tireless work will go on to support a vibrant and diverse community in Brewster."

“Our organization’s mission is to preserve affordable housing properties such as this one that would otherwise be at risk for conversion to market rate rentals or condominiums,” said POAH President Amy Anthony. “Brewster is a highly desirable town with a very scarce supply of affordable rental housing and that’s why it was so important to preserve the affordable homes at King’s Landing for current and future families.”

To help fund the renovations, POAH received approval from HUD and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the property’s participation in a funding initiative known as Moving to Work (MTW). Without participation in the MTW program, subsidy would only have been available to assist current residents. However, participation in the program has preserved the subsidy at the property to provide affordability for current as well as future families.

With the preservation of subsidy that remains with the property, POAH was able to secure sufficient financing to perform the renovations necessary for the long-term sustainability of the King’s Landing property. These renovations include: six new handicapped accessible units, new second floor balconies, new unit entry doors, sliders and windows and new bathrooms for 80% of the units, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing upgrades, energy efficiency measures including attic air sealing and building insulation supported with funding from the Low-Income Energy Affordability Network. The renovations also included the installation of a wastewater treatment plant.

The day’s events included speeches and recognition of the project partners and community supporters: Housing Assistance Corporation of Cape Cod, MassHousing, Community Economic Development Corporation, Department of Housing and Community Development, Barnstable County Home Consortium, Brewster Police and Fire Departments, Sustainable Cape Cod.

The festivities included a picnic, the planting of a community garden, and an opportunity for the children to climb into a police car or onto a fire truck.

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Boston-based Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) is a nonprofit organization that preserves, creates, and restores affordable rental homes for low- and moderate-income individuals, seniors and families. POAH has rescued and restored some of America’s most ‘at risk’ rental housing totaling close to 8,500 apartments in nine states and the District of Columbia, including some 2,700 in Massachusetts.