

DUKES COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

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PAULO C. DeOLIVEIRA
REGISTER

SHANNON E. LARSEN
ASST. REGISTER

August 10, 2017

To the Citizens of Dukes County,

FY '17 was a profitable year for the Registry of Deeds. FY' 16 had been a very successful year, and FY'17 surpassed that with a 1.4% increase in Excise revenue and an overall 2.9% increase. Interestingly, the top three sales of the year were all in Edgartown, with the largest being over 20 million dollars and recorded on the last day of the fiscal year.

This year the Registry saw a significant change in personnel as previous Register Dianne Powers retired after 22 years of service. Her lengthy and successful career was celebrated in a well-attended retirement party at the Whaling Church. In November, Paulo DeOliveira, who had previously held the position of Assistant Register, was elected to take over the role of Register of Deeds. Shannon Larsen was appointed Assistant Register, and Sarah Levesque joined the Registry team as a clerk to serve along side Sr. clerk Martha Kane. The transition has been very smooth and the team works together striving to provide exceptional customer service to the public.

One of Register DeOliveira's first official orders of business was to earn approval from the Secretary of State to utilize monies from the tech fund to make a variety of improvements at the Registry including updating Registry equipment and the construction of a new, more user-friendly website. Many months of planning and consideration went into the preparation of the new website with the goal of launching the site in August of 2017. Register DeOliveira also secured continued financial funding to scan all grantor/grantee books and make them available online, as well as funds to restore books from 1641-1800.

Electronic recording continues to be an integral part of Registry services, accounting for 13.8% of all documents recorded in FY '17. This service provides an efficient way for law firms and banks to submit documents, and each year more and more people take advantage of the opportunity to record electronically.

The Registry is housed in the county courthouse, and the physical space saw improvements this year including the installation of mini-splits, which replaced older window units and were funded primarily through the Registry's tech fund. Importantly, this not only helps to provide a more comfortable environment for Registry users, but also helps maintain lower humidity, which is necessary for preserving the Registry's historical documents.

The availability of Dukes County records online continues to be a widely-used service provided by the Registry. The research website address is www.masslandrecords.com. At this time the Grantor/Grantee indexes and document images are available online back to mid 1976 for Registered Land and 1979 for Recorded Land. All Plan Books and Town Case files are also now available online, as is a large inventory of plans. Older plans continue to be restored, scanned, and added to the online inventory.

For your convenience, in the following pages please find visual representations of Registry data including a 3-year comparison of revenues, deed counts, documents recorded, excise, and a breakdown of the excise.

The Registry of Deeds is located on the first floor of the Courthouse in Edgartown. The hours of operation are 8:30AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday. We can be reached during those hours at 508-627-4025. The fax number is 508-627-7821 and the email address is registry@dukescounty.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulo C. DeOliveira

Paulo C. DeOliveira
Register of Deeds

Revenue Report

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Copies & Postage	\$27,782	\$26,217	\$27,187
Plans	\$1,475	\$1,325	\$1,625
Recorded Land Recording	\$117,197	\$126,948	\$139,819
Land Court Recording	\$51,739	\$50,234	\$49,663
Excise to County	\$159,594	\$202,411	\$205,154
Registry Interest	\$5	\$6	\$6
Excise Interest	\$15	\$21	\$21
Total	\$357,807	\$407,162	\$423,475



