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Photo Caption: Ted Landers, right, the General Manager of Seaboard Products in Danvers presents Mary Whitney, Director, Essex County Forum and Michael Prior, Chair, with a check from the Sheehan Family Foundation. The first in a \$60,000 grant to support the Forum's operations over the next three years.

Grant to Help Essex County Manage Growth and Protect Natural Resources

DANVERS, Mass.—The Essex County Forum—Smart Growth for Livable Communities received a three-year grant totaling \$60,000 from the Sheehan Family Foundation to advance the stewardship of Essex County's natural resources while working with others to make better decisions about how the county manages its growth. Smart Growth means ecological health, neighborhood livability, transportation choices, and thriving downtowns. It results from planning and zoning decisions that take into account the full spectrum of environmental, economic, social, and aesthetic choices that preserve and enhance a community's character.

Natural landscapes in Essex County are disappearing at an alarming rate. If current rates and styles of development continue, what will be the county's future landscape—and how will these patterns affect quality of life? The Essex County Forum works to help communities meet the challenges of both development pressures and natural resource conservation. Launched in 2003 as a program of the former Environmental Stewardship Initiative of the Essex County Community Foundation, the Forum has furthered the dialogue and facilitated coordination among organizations in the County involved with planning and land use. "Our mission includes protecting the environment in the communities where we do business," said Margaret Sheehan, Executive Director of the Sheehan Family Foundation. "We are proud to be supporting the Essex County Forum as a partner in doing this effectively."

The Sheehan family has always been involved in the local communities where they do business. Ted Landers, General Manager of Seaboard Products, a Sheehan family business, stated, "As citizens of the Commonwealth, we are proud to give back in substantial ways to the communities we serve. The Sheehan Family Foundation grant is our way of thanking the communities of Essex County for many years of support."

With this generous grant, the Sheehan Family Foundation supports the operations of the Forum and its commitment to making long-term changes to the way Essex County communities balance the needs of the built and natural environments. "This support will enable us to boost our outreach and education efforts," said Mary Whitney, Director of the Essex County Forum. "Our work has already served as a model for other groups grappling with the same issues and we thank the Sheehan family for their vision and willingness to invest in our efforts." Vibrant livable communities interconnected with healthy green spaces are what will make Essex County a wonderful place to live, work and play well into the future. The education and opportunities for collaboration provided by the Forum are leading to decisions and activities that will make this vision a reality.

About the Essex County Forum

The Essex County Forum works to enhance the quality of life in Essex County while preserving its natural beauty for the future. The Forum acts as a place to convene, collaborate, and facilitate a sharing of ideas and innovation that balance human use with natural systems. Through hands-on help, communities can reconcile current needs with their efforts to preserve natural resources, historic character, and offer healthy places to live that people can afford. For more information, go to www.essexcountyforum.org.

About the Sheehan Family Foundation

The Sheehan Family Foundation, endowed by the L. Knife and Son affiliated companies including Seaboard Products in Danvers, was established in 1992. Its mission is to protect the environment and enhance the quality of education. The Foundation has a geographic focus in eastern Massachusetts. Grants made by the Foundation since 1992 total nearly \$7 million.

About Seaboard Products Co.

Seaboard Products, Co of Danvers, MA,,a division of L. Knife & Son Inc. of Kingston, MA, has proudly serviced Essex County for over thirty five years with quality products from Anheuser Busch, InBev, and Guinness USA. The company attributes its success to the effort and dedication of its employees, the quality products sold, and marketing their products in a socially responsible fashion.