Tom Hoppensteadt grew up in Osterville and Cotuit. He graduated from Cotuit Elementary School in 1972 and Barnstable High School in 1978. His post secondary school interests and degrees include Zoology, Environmental Science, Water Management, and Teaching Biological Sciences. He is currently a Public High School science teacher at Mashpee Middle/High School. After completing his undergraduate work and graduating from the University of Montana, Tom took a job with the Town of Barnstable Department of Natural Resources where he focused on land stewardship and fish and wildlife management. In 1989, after serving a year as the Chief Ranger at Sandy Neck, Tom and his wife moved to Washington State where he worked as a shellfish, finfish, and wildlife biologist. He returned to Cape Cod and the Town of Barnstable in 1998. Tom was elected to the Cotuit Fire District Board of Water Commissioners in 2017. He served as the Board's chairperson for FY 2019. Tom enjoys outdoor recreation including long walks, fishing, hunting and boating - anything out of doors. He and his wife Kate have one son, Reece. Tom's mom and dad live in Cotuit in the home they have been in since 1972.