



Date: April 4, 2014
To: Vineyard Town Boards of Selectmen
Re: **Martha's Vineyard Scenic Roads Initiative - Update**

Following much public and town concern about Island road projects and the need to protect the special scenic character of Islands roads, the Commission sent you a letter in December last year seeking your input on a number of specific scenic road initiatives. This letter is a follow up to that December letter.

Since December, the MVC's Planning and Economic Development Committee has met several times and given considerable thought as to how various rural road protection initiatives might be carried forward.

The Commission has created a 'Scenic Roads Committee', to be comprised of Commissioner representatives from each Town, MVC staff and other interested Island residents. We invite you to appoint a Town representative(s) to participate on this committee who is interested in preserving the scenic character of the Island's roads. There may be individuals in your Town who have either the interest or expertise to assist in this planning initiative and we welcome their participation and ongoing involvement. Please note that 'membership' on this committee is not closed or limited.

The MVC's Scenic Roads Committee is tasked with spearheading the following priorities.

1. **Coordination with NStar:** This objective of this effort is to ensure that roadside utility work is carried out in a way that presents the least risk to our scenic roadways. Issues to be addressed with NStar include the use of vegetation management practices, pole-upgrade procedures, and possible undergrounding. The current plan is that a first meeting will be scheduled with NStar for May.
2. **Transportation Improvement Projects:** This effort will be directed principally to ensuring meaningful input on the repaving activity planned for the Vineyard Haven Edgartown Road in the next fiscal year.
3. **Scenic Road Handbook:** This longer-term effort is directed at producing a handbook with sections on road and roadside design issues such as lane widths, grass shoulders, signage, and lighting among others, which can guide future road improvement projects.

The initial meeting of the committee is scheduled for 5:30 PM, Wednesday, April 30, at the MVC building.

It is critical to the success of this committee that its initiatives reflect the Town's concerns. Please let Mark London know of the individuals you appoint to work with us.

Sincerely,


Fred Hancock, Chairman

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