

To: Board of Selectmen, Town of Chilmark

From: Anne Cook
195 South Rd.
Chilmark, MA 02535
508-645-2500

Date: January 5, 2017

Re: Bid to Join the Beach Committee

To the Honorable Selectmen of Chilmark:

I am writing to request consideration for what I understand to be an open seat on the Chilmark Beach Committee. I am a native Islander and regular beachgoer who recently relocated back to the community as a year-round resident. I am aware in a cursory manner of issues related to items such as beach budget, access, parking, staffing, and maintenance. (To apply a little light humor, let me add that I am an "Independent" who can interface seamlessly with both the so-called "textiles" and "clothing-optional" constituencies at Lucy Vincent Beach.)

I have reviewed the original lease between the Lucy Vincent estate and the Town, noting several amendments since 1972; and I am interested in current beach issues and discussions. I did visit the Town website to view recent Beach Committee minutes, but the available documents appear to end in 2010, so I have requested access to more recent minutes from Town Clerk Jennifer Christy. I want to ensure I am thoroughly knowledgeable on the "pre-existing conditions" related to beach policy so that any input on my part (were I to be assigned) is based on clearly understood history and priorities.

Please accept this letter as an initial request for consideration. I understand the Selectmen's meetings are generally held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, but that this month you are meeting on Tuesday the 10th. This presents an issue for me in terms of attending, given I have a commitment in Edgartown to videotape a forum on immigration for MVTU. I could appear right at 5 p.m. if my request can be considered as the first item on your docket; and would be happy to respond to any community questions on that before I leave to get to Edgartown. However, I would appreciate having a bit more time to research the Beach Committee agendas and minutes prior to a full Q&A. With this in mind, I was wondering if my formal bid might be scheduled for the next Selectmen's meeting, later in the month. It will also help me to know if there are others who have expressed interest in this seat and whether that would require me to be at this coming Tuesday's meeting in order to introduce my bid.

My father, Peter B. Cook, might have been able to speak for me in my absence (assuming that wouldn't violate any protocols), but next Tuesday he will be in the process of traveling back from an off-island trip to visit an ailing family member. Please advise me on the most appropriate approach given the circumstances, and I will do my best to accommodate the Selectmen so that I can be given due consideration.

Regards,

Anne Cook (electronic signature 1/5/2017)