

Town Committee on Squibnocket

Draft Minutes

September 2, 2014

Chilmark Town Hall Selectmen's Meeting Room

8am

Present: Jim Malkin (Chair), Allison Burger, Billy Meegan, Steve Flanders, Dan Greenbaum, Jane Slater, Janet Weidner,

Also Present: Wendy Weldon, Bret Stearns, Rick Karney, Jo-Ann Taylor, Duncan Caldwell, Celeste Damon, Kent Damon, Barbara Lee, David Damroth, Chris Murphy, Alex Elvin, Jay Walsh, Thomas Bena, Bill Cunningham, Eric Peters, Kristen Lasker, Currie Smith, Patricia Sands, Courtenay Weldon, Doug Liman, Emily Bramhall, Martin Hale, Tony Orphanos, Wendy Jeffers, *others unspecified*.

Minutes of August 26th 2014 approved.

Artificial Reef Proposal Duncan Caldwell read into the record a proposal for artificial reefs to be placed to diminish the energy of the ocean and to divert some sand to nourish the beach. The Committee was interested in seeing comparable reef projects. Apparently, there is a reef project off Cuttyhunk dating back many decades which may provide useful comparison, the State of New Jersey has placed old subway cars offshore as well, and proposals are under consideration to provide some protection for lower Manhattan through artificial reef structures. Members noted that the artificial reefs are most often used to create sub-marine habitat; this might be a subsidiary benefit in addition to moderating the ocean's impact.

Squibnocket Pond District Advisory Committee SPDAC members Wendy Weldon, (SPDAC Co-Chair), Bret Stearns (Natural Resource Officer for the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah), Jo-Ann Taylor, (Coastal Planner with the Martha's Vineyard Commission) and Rick Karney, (Shellfish Biologist/Director of the MV Shellfish Group) presented results of their consideration of the potential impact of a proposed elevated roadway vs. the existing access road on the Pond.

Members of the SPDAC include a representative from Planning Board, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Board of Selectmen, MV Garden Club, North side resident, South side resident, with advisory membership of Water Resources Planner and Coastal Planner of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, MV Shellfish Group, and the Natural Resources Department of the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah. The SPDAC reviewed several central areas of concern, including breaching, runoff, and pollutants, salinity of the Pond, and existing flora and fauna and their needs. The following points represent consensus by Bret Stearns, Rick Karney and Jo-Ann Taylor, namely that:

1. "Vegetative buffer zones as described in the Town Zoning By-Law Article 12, Zone B, should be adhered to as much as possible.
2. A parking lot more removed from the pond and shore would have less deleterious impact on the pond.

3. In general, a parking lot has more impact close to the Pond than a roadway.
4. A gravel parking lot is better than an impervious surface, in terms of environmental impact. In either case, it should be pitched in such a way as to direct runoff away from the pond. And, runoff controls must be implemented around the road and parking lot, in the form of vegetative buffers, swales, and catch basins if appropriate.
5. An elevated roadway may have more long-term potential to let future erosion and beach buildup processes take place without endangering the roadway, particularly if the revetment is removed,. An elevated roadway would allow dunes to form in front of and behind the roadway. It eliminates the probable destructive nature of rebuilding a roadway after each main storm event”

Discussion ensued. In general, SPDAC members noted that runoff from impervious surfaces into the Pond is to be avoided to the greatest extent possible, and attempts to create barriers such as hard revetments are not desirable.

Chilmark Beach Committee Jim Malkin noted that he had heard back from the Beach Committee, who will come to the Committee to discuss their concerns after their next meeting. He stressed the importance of hearing from the Beach Committee, whose work is so directly affected by the issues under consideration here.

Evaluation Criteria The Committee next reviewed Evaluation Criteria produced by Dan Greenbaum to help organize the Committee’s upcoming work, to identify information the Committee still requires and where help from experts will be needed. Jim Malkin charged Dan Greenbaum, assisted by Jane Slater, with creating the framework for evaluation by the Committee.

Implementation Matrix Janet Weidner reported on a matrix she is in the process of developing that will identify, for each proposal, what agreements, acquisitions, State or Federal agency submissions or legal arrangements would be required. The completed spreadsheet will be made available at the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee noted that this spreadsheet will be invaluable in assisting Bill Meegan and Steve Flanders in assessing the costs of proposed projects.

Site Visits The Committee will conduct one or more site visits. These visits will provide an opportunity for observation. There will be no deliberation by the Committee during these visits.

Jim Malkin stated that the Committee does not have a presentation scheduled for next Tuesday, September 9th. Unless urgent agenda items present themselves, the next meeting will be cancelled in order to allow Committee members to focus on making progress on their assigned tasks.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:40.