

November 4, 2014

Dear Jim:

We appreciate that the Committee is seeking clarity and are grateful that you are working diligently to understand the possible solutions for the multiple issues facing Squibnocket.

Friends of Squibnocket LLC has proposed an environmentally sensitive “managed retreat” solution for Squibnocket that will greatly improve the town’s swimming beach, give SFHA a more secure access route, and place the Town’s beach parking in a safe and convenient location that will not occupy or damage the fragile barrier beach. The FOS proposal also accommodates kayak and canoe access to the pond that is superior to the existing access and includes a more secure underground utilities access than the elevated causeway proposal will provide.

At the heart of the FOS proposal is a newly constructed dune ridge and road. FOS has bundled all of these components into a comprehensive solution and we respectfully ask that you evaluate it that way, just as SFHA’s proposed elevated causeway has been bundled with a parking solution that requires clearing and levelling an area of dune on the barrier beach.

Because we sincerely believe that the FOS approach is in the best interests of the environment, the Town and the abutters, we are willing to make our property available for public parking and for a portion of the private SFHA access road, if the Town and SFHA agree to proceed with the FOS approach rather than the elevated causeway. We will enter into discussions to lease our property on reasonable terms if and when the Town and SFHA express their interest in proceeding with the dune ridge and road. Speaking only for ourselves, we confirm your understanding that we are not interested in making our property available to the Town and SFHA if they proceed with an alternative that we think is inferior to the one that FOS has proposed. We do not speak for Peter Weldon, who has indicated to us that he is willing to work with the Town and we suggest that you contact him directly.

We support an alternative that includes letting the Chilmark community use our private property for public parking and letting a portion of the SFHA's private access road cross our private property, because we sincerely believe that the elevated causeway is not in the best interests of the environment, the Town or the abutters. We hope that by making our property available for this use, we can encourage the Town Committee to see the practical advantages of the dune ridge and road solution as an overall package, and recommend it to the Town as the preferred approach.

Thank you.

Tony Orphanos & Wendy Jeffers