

Chairman James Malkin
Town Committee on Squibnocket Beach
Town Hall
401 Middle Road, Beetlebung Corner
P.O.Box 119, Chilmark, MA 02535-0119

November 15,
2014
Squibnocket

Dear Mr. Malkin and the Committee,

As an abutter to the land being considered in a proposal to investigate the possible construction of an access via an emergency bridge which would cross Squibnocket Pond and traverse Big Island, I suggest the committee would do well to consider an essential problem with this idea.


Any environmental scientist who considered the area even superficially would point out the obvious, that this is the most fragile part of the pond, and the exact spot which is renowned as the single most critical 'narrows,' and water passage, or flyway, for migratory birds on the East coast. The birds fly just above the water to catch the lift off the surface, and go through this area in large numbers and tight formations.

It is extremely surprising for this to be even under casual consideration, particularly since there is a surfeit of people on the Vineyard, and elsewhere, who would take serious issue with this idea, and a long term, dedicated approach to insure that it was never allowed to happen.

Since there is already a highly intelligent solution in the form of the Dune Ridge, the idea of any bridge *anywhere* has been shown to be a deeply flawed strategy. As a homeowner who has been on Squibnocket for over 60 years, I commend the Friends' (FOS) for their Dune Ridge plan, which follows an historical approach to living *with* the forces of Nature, as opposed to fighting them with an ugly, expensive, and ultimately stranded, highly visible monstrosity.

Thank you for your kind consideration and efforts to help craft the optimal way forward,

Sincerely,


Paul Hornblower

