

**LAGOON POND DRAWBRIDGE COMMITTEE**  
**c/o Martha's Vineyard Commission**

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**Minutes of the Meeting held on January 17, 2007**  
**At the Offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission**

Members Present: Melinda Loberg (Chairman), Tristan Israel, Steve Berlucchi, Fred Lapiana, Derek Cimeno, and Mark London

Observers: Bob Ford, and Jim Miller

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**1. Meeting Minutes**

- The minutes of the meeting of December 6 were approved.

**2. New Administration**

- It was agreed to send a letter to the new Secretary of Transportation, Bernard Cohen, which would include the following: an overview of the background and current situation (plans not issued for temporary RFP, contract not signed with Parsons), the past and current timetables and budgets, the importance of MassHighway meeting its commitments. We should indicate that "we have accepted the MassHighway plan as the best way to proceed" and that "we are concerned that continuing delays are increasing the risk of dire consequences". A copy should go to Luisa Paiewonsky, John Blundo, Steve McLaughlin, as well as to Rob O'Leary, Eric Turkington, and Russell Smith.
- Mark should clarify with Steve McLaughlin whether there has been any change in status with the temporary bridge RFP and Parsons contract including finding out whether either was affected by the Romney cuts.

**3. Existing Bridge**

- There was a discussion of the Coast Guard's reluctance to make a ruling to allow the bridge to remain up in case of failure. The results of the Lichtenstein study indicate that most likely types of failure would not even allow this option. There is concern that if the Coast Guard proceeded with a ruling, they couldn't do it on a contingency basis and apparently would have to apply the results of the ruling immediately to keep the bridge in the up position. Jo-Ann should try to clarify how quickly the Coast Guard could make a decision to leave the bridge up should it fail. We should inform Delahunt's office of the situation so they would be ready to help if needed.

#### **4. Temporary Bridge**

- Derek Cimeno pointed out that shellfish beds would have to be relocated because of the construction of the temporary bridge. It would be quite inexpensive to decide now to seed in a different area, but could cost several hundred thousand dollars to have to mitigate later. MassHighway should cover the Town's cost in changing the location. Derek Cimeno will draft a letter to MassHighway explaining the situation, to be ready for the next committee meeting.
- We should clarify the projected timetable as it relates to the Hospital and to the roundabout.

#### **5. Permanent Bridge**

- We should send a note to Blundo (McLaughlin) asking to meet Parsons as soon as the contract is signed, which should be as soon as possible.
- We should ask for a copy of the agreement with the owners of the house to understand the terms and conditions as relates to the possibility of acquisition by a public entity. Apparently, MassHighway is paying \$265,000 for a seven-year easement; the total assessment was \$545,000 two years ago. Tristan reported that the Land Bank was supportive of the idea but felt that it was not appropriate for Land Bank funding; other possibilities are the Community Preservation Act, the Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Public Access Board. We should find out how the Sailing Camp was financed and whether this source could be used.

#### **6. Upcoming meeting**

- The next meeting of the Drawbridge Committee will be on Wednesday, January 31, 9:00 a.m. [subsequently changed to Wednesday, February 7 at 9:30 a.m.].

*Minutes prepared by Mark London*