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Drawbridge Green Light

At a joint meeting of the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Boards of Selectmen held on May 25, both boards endorsed the recommendations of the Lagoon Pond Bridge Project Committee about MassHighway's, proposal to replace the Drawbridge. The report "reluctantly" recommended construction of the temporary bridge proposed by MassHighway as an interim measure to handle traffic while the permanent new bridge is built. The report was prepared for the Committee by the Martha's Vineyard Commission and was finalized after an April 29 public hearing. (Information: Mark London at extension 11)

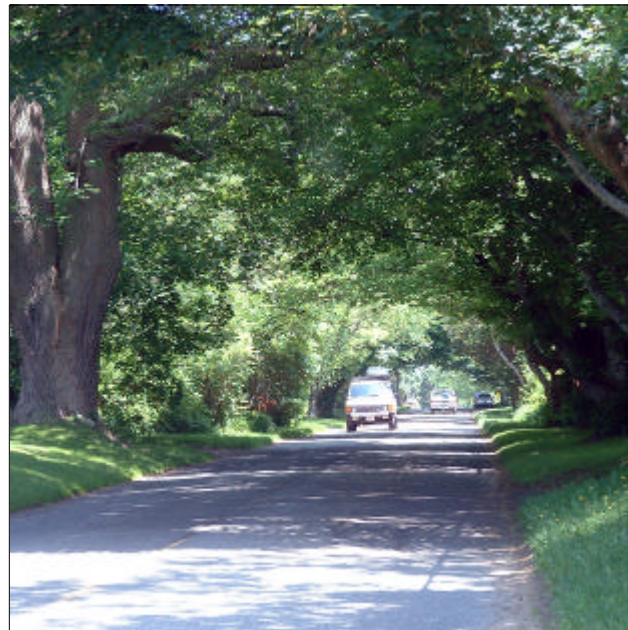


New MVC staffers:
Transportation Planner
Srinivas Sattoor and
DRI Analyst Paul Foley

MVC Forum "The View from the Road"

The second forum in the series "Looking at the Vineyard, With an Eye on the Future" will take place on Wednesday, June 23 and will deal with the topic "The View from the Road: How Can We Preserve Our Rural Roadsides?" The session starts at 7:30 p.m. and will take place in the Far Barn of the Polly Hill Arboretum in West Tisbury.

The character of the Vineyard is shaped largely by how we perceive it driving, biking and walking along the main roads of the Island. Town zoning and the efforts of the Martha's Vineyard



Commission have been reasonably effective in preserving the views along many of the Island's roads. However, in other areas, development seems to be creeping along the roadside and changing the view from the road forever. What can be done to manage development so the rural roadside character of the Vineyard is preserved?

The main speakers are landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh and architect / urban designer Craig Whittaker, both seasonal residents of the Vineyard. They will be joined by panelists Mark London, MVC Executive Director, and Larry Mercier, former Edgartown selectman and highway superintendent.

At 6:30 p.m., just before the forum, the public is invited to the opening reception of an exhibition of "Road Art", paintings of roadside scenes of the Vineyard by a score of Island artists. The exhibition will be in the Polly Hill Arboretum Visitors Center and will also be open on Thursday June 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The monthly forums on topics affecting the future of the Island are being organized in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, with the cooperation of the All-Island Selectmen. The first forum on Smart Growth was well attended, was broadcast on community television, and received good newspaper coverage.

(Information: Jackie Campbell at extension 10)

Three Water Testing Grants

The MVC was awarded three grants totaling \$25,381 to test and improve water quality in our coastal ponds.

- A grant of \$3,100 was awarded from the Friends of Sengekontacket for a trial eelgrass-seeding project. Eelgrass seed stalks will be collected from Trapp's Pond and suspended in mesh bags at four locations in Sengekontacket where the seeds will be allowed to drop and seed themselves.
- An \$11,412 Department of Environmental Protection 604(b) grant was received for continuing the coastal pond water-testing program in Sengekontacket, Farm, Cape Pogue, Poucha, Lagoon, Tashmoo and Chilmark ponds. Samples will be collected from 31 sample stations during four separate sample rounds in July and August.
- A Coastal Pollutant Remediation Program grant of \$10,869 was awarded from Coastal Zone Management to prepare land use spreadsheets and nitrogen load updates for Tashmoo, Lagoon and Sengekontacket Ponds to prepare them for entry into the Estuaries Project.

(Information: Bill Wilcox at extension 17)

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Computerized Traffic Model

A winter Travel Demand Model has been developed for the Vineyard. This is a computer model that simulates traffic on the main Island roads.

The model divides the Island into small study areas called TAZs (Traffic Analysis Zones) and then uses socio-economic data such as the type of land use and number of households for each TAZ to come up with the total trips produced and attracted by that zone. The model then uses a mathematical equation to distribute traffic generated by each TAZ on the roadway network to produce the total number of vehicles on any given roadway. The model was then calibrated to ensure that it reflected actual traffic counts.

A Travel Demand Model can be used to study congestion on various roads and to predict future traffic growth on the roadway network using forecasts of socio-economic data. It can also predict how a change on one road can affect the traffic volume on the other roads in the vicinity and to study the impact on the roadway network of the change in a land use such as a new development project.

The winter model was prepared first to form part of MassHighway's overall air quality traffic model for the Commonwealth. The Louis Berger Group prepared it for the MVC. The MVC is now working on developing a peak summer model that will allow us to simulate traffic and test options at this critical time period.

(Information: Srinivas Sattoor at extension 16)

DRI Status Report

The following are current Developments of Regional Impact.

Pacific Cotton Building – demolition and reconstruction of store and housing, Tisbury (#579) – Approved May 20, 2004; WD June 3, 2004

Colonial Inn – renovation and reconfiguration of "south building", Edgartown (#15M-3) Vote of Non-Concurrence and Approval of Modification – April 29, 2004

Tarkiln Subdivision – Edgartown (#470M-3) On hold at Applicant's request.

4 Causeway Road – Construction of an office building with apartments, Tisbury (#574): Continued PH July 15, 2004 7:30 p.m.; LUPC July 19, 2004 5:30 p.m.

One Eleven Realty Trust (MV Hotel) – 14-room addition to hotel, Oak Bluffs (#335M-2) PH June 17, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

1986 Evelyn Way Trust - construction of warehouse and office space, Tisbury (#576) On hold at Applicant's request

Pennywise Path Affordable Housing Project - 60 units of affordable housing, Edgartown (#577) Continued PH July 1, 2004

Dukes County Savings Bank at Nobnocket – New bank branch and back office with a small daycare, Tisbury (#578) Site Visit June 30, 2004

Vineyard Golf Club Housing - 16 units of housing, Edgartown (#484M-4) Referral received June 15, 2004

LUPC Land Use Planning Committee review
PH Commission Public Hearing
DD Commission deliberation and decision
WD Commission vote on written decision

All meetings at the Commission offices unless otherwise noted. (Information: Paul Foley at extension 18 and Jo-Ann Taylor at extension 19)