

LAGOON POND DRAWBRIDGE COMMITTEE

c/o Martha's Vineyard Commission

P.O. Box 1447, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts 02557
508-693-3453 www.mvcommission.org

Minutes of the Meeting held on December 6, 2006

At the Offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission

Members Present: Melinda Loberg (Chairman), Tristan Israel (Vice Chair), Steve Berlucchi, Fred LaPiana, Derek Cimeno, Jay Wilbur, and Mark London

Observers: Bob Ford, Denys Wortman, Dan Greenbaum, Jo-Ann Taylor, and Jim Miller

1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the meeting of September 20 were approved as presented.
- Notes from the discussion of November 1 were distributed and will be appended to this document.

2. Permanent Bridge and 3. Temporary Bridge

- Jo-Ann reported from phone conversations with Steve McLaughlin, MassHighway, that there is a bid opening date of April 3 for the construction of the temporary bridge, but that plans have not been released to the bidders; and that construction could be expected at least 60 days from the bid opening date; and that no contract has been signed for the design of the permanent bridge.
 - The Committee approved and will send a letter to MassHighway Commissioner Luisa Paiewonsky concerning the delay, with copies to John Blundo, Rob O'Leary and Eric Turkington; with concern added to the previously distributed draft regarding the continuity throughout the upcoming transition in administration.
 - The Committee will plan a trip to Boston in January, when the new administration is in place, to refocus attention on the project.
- Melinda noted that the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Boards of Selectmen have approved and written letters regarding the expedited construction schedule for the temporary bridge and the alternative truck routes through the two towns.
- Dan noted that the project is approximately 1.5 years behind schedule, according to the timeline that he drafted about 1.5 years ago. He also noted that the earliest part of the construction, when piles are being driven, is the most threatening to the continued usability of the old bridge. He expressed concern for beginning the construction at the start of the busiest traffic season.
- Tristan noted that he had discussed potential acquisition of a property in the area with Tisbury's Land Bank Advisory Board. Other possible sources of funding were noted; the Community Preservation Act funds and the Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund.

4. Existing Bridge

- There was some discussion of an idea that has surfaced at MassHighway, to keep the existing bridge in place to use as staging for construction of the permanent bridge, for a savings of .5-1 million dollars.
 - There was general agreement that this could be a good way to save money, particularly important in getting the temporary bridge constructed in view of apparent cash flow issues; so long as there was a time limit after which the structure would have to be demolished. There was general agreement that the community at large cannot be asked for its input without a more specific plan or proposal.
 - There were concerns expressed:
 - Demolition costs would only be postponed; inflation could raise those costs dramatically within a few years
 - The Coast Guard permit would have to be revised.
 - Delay in construction of the permanent bridge could leave the Vineyard with an unattractive temporary bridge and the old bridge alongside.

5. Upcoming meeting

- The next meeting of the Drawbridge Committee will be on Wednesday, January 17, 9:00 A.M.

Minutes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor