

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only

EEA#: 15428

MEPA Analyst: Jurvi Patel

The information requested on this form must be completed in order to submit a document electronically for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Squibnocket Beach Restoration and Access Project		
Street Address: Squibnocket Road		
Municipality: Chilmark	Watershed: Islands	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 41.318306, -70.765583	Latitude: 41°19'05.9"N	Longitude: 70°45'56.1"W
Estimated commencement date: Spring 2016	Estimated completion date: Fall 2016	
Project Type: Roadway and parking lot replacement, and beach restoration	Status of project design: 20 %complete	
Proponent: Jointly proposed by ^(A) Town of Chilmark and ^(B) Squibnocket Farm, Inc.		
Street Address: ^(A) 401 Middle Road ^(B) 279 Great Plains Road		
Municipality: ^(A) Chilmark ^(B) West Tisbury	State: MA	Zip Code: ^(A) 02535 ^(B) 02575
Name of Contact Person: ^(A) Reid Silva ^(B) Daniel Padien		
Firm/Agency: ^(A) Vineyard Land Survey and Engineering ^(B) VHB	Street Address: ^(A) P.O. Box 421 ^(B) 99 High Street, 10 th Floor	
Municipality: ^(A) West Tisbury ^(B) Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: ^(A) 02575 ^(B) 02110
Phone: ^(A) 508-693-3774 ^(B) 617-607-2973	Fax: ^(A) 508-629-0440 ^(B) 617-727-7782	E-mail: ^(A) Reid@vlse.net ^(B) DPadien@vhb.com
Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If this is an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (ENF) (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) or a Notice of Project Change (NPC), are you requesting: No.		
• Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
• Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
• Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
• Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>(Note: Greenhouse Gas Emissions analysis must be included in the Expanded ENF.)</i>		
Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)? 301 CMR 11.03(3)(b) 6 (construction of a pile-supported structure of 2,000 or more sf of base area).		
Which State Agency Permits will the project require?		
• MHC Archaeological Permit		

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an Agency of the Commonwealth, including the Agency name and the amount of funding or land area in acres:

The Town of Chilmark received a grant of \$280,000 for Fiscal Year 2016 from the office of Coastal Zone Management through the Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience program for expenses related to the Town Project (as defined below).

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts ¹	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	3.7 ±		
New acres of land altered	-	0.5	
Acres of impervious area	0.49	-0.40	0.09
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		1,006± SF direct 3,600 SF shading	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		2.74 ac (coastal bank, barrier beach, dune, LSCSF)	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	0	0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	0	3,600	3,600 ²
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (feet)	NA	TBD ³	TBD
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	176 ⁴	8 ⁴	184 ⁴
Parking spaces	44±	+2	46
WASTEWATER			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	-	-	-
Water withdrawal (GPD)	-	-	-
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	-	-	-
Length of water mains (miles)	-	-	-
Length of sewer mains (miles)	-	-	-

1 All figures provided are cumulative for the Town Project and the Access Project (each as defined below).

2 Proposed structures limited to pile-supported low-causeway.

3 The height of the proposed low causeway will be determined during final design following completion of the required geotechnical analysis. The design is subject to approval by the Chilmark Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission.

4 ADT reflects conservatively estimated peak summer usage based on lot size and vehicle turnover two times per day.

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?

Yes (EEA # _____) No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?

Yes (EEA # _____) No

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Please see the attached project narrative for more information about the Projects.

Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site:

Two co-located Projects are presented in this ENF, one as the “Town Project” and the other as the “Access Project.” The Projects share the same Project Site, which is depicted on Figures 1 and 2 to the attached project narrative. The Project Site includes an existing parking lot used to access Squibnocket Beach (the “Existing Town Lot”), portions of Squibnocket Road, and the Revetment (as defined below). Undeveloped areas of the Project Site include Squibnocket Beach, the hillside between Squibnocket Road and Squibnocket Pond, and state-regulated Bordering Vegetated Wetlands between the pond and the Existing Town Lot.

The Existing Town Lot comprises approximately 14,200 square feet of soil cement pavement and is armored on its seaward edge by a revetment composed of stacked stones extending laterally for approximately 200 linear feet and vertically approximately 6 feet from the grade of the barrier beach (the “Parking Lot Revetment”). Located to the west of the Existing Town Lot is the “Causeway Revetment”, which is composed of a total of approximately 317 linear feet of dry-laid stones armoring both the seaward and landward/pondward sides of the road as it approaches Money Hill. The Causeway Revetment and Parking Lot Revetment are referred to as the Revetment.

The Project Site contains local and state-regulated wetland resources areas, the locations and boundaries of which were field delineated by VHB environmental scientists in October 2013, independently delineated by LEC Environmental Consultants in August 2014, and reviewed by Epsilon Associates under the direction of a committee formed by the Town. In July 2015, the Chilmark Conservation Commission issued two Orders of Conditions confirming the resource area boundaries (See DEP File No. 012-741 and No. 012-743) and authorizing exploratory borings and test pits at the Project Site in furtherance of the Project design process.

The Project Site includes the following state-regulated wetland resource areas (and, in some instances, the 100-foot buffer zone for each resource area) as each is defined in the Wetlands Protection Act and implementing regulations at 310 CMR 10.00: Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, Coastal Bank, Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, Coastal Beach, Barrier Beach, Coastal Dune and, Land Subject to Tidal Action.

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

The Projects involve the following basic elements:

Access Project:

- Construction of a relocated roadway in two segments, one at-grade and the other on a pile-supported low causeway, with a combined length of approximately 580 feet; and
- Relocation of utilities to a location on, about, or under the relocated roadway.

Town Project:

- Construction of a 46±-space parking lot on land owned by the Town to replace the Existing Town Lot and support access to the restored Squibnocket Beach (referred to here as the "Relocated Town Lot");
- Construction of a relocated skiff launch area providing access to Squibnocket Pond;
- Removal of approximately 520 linear feet of the Revetment;
- Demolition of the Existing Town Lot and removal of unsuitable materials from the barrier beach; and
- Construction of a vegetated dune landform connecting Money Hill with the seaward end of the northern point of the Existing Town Lot to restore a more natural landform along this section of barrier beach.

The Projects have been designed to comply with all applicable performance standards under the Wetlands Protection Act and its implementing regulations and will result in a substantial net benefit to the barrier beach by removing approximately 520 linear feet of the Revetment and approximately 0.4 acres of soil cement pavement.

The Projects are consistent with state and regional guidance regarding managed retreat from sensitive coastal areas and the use of pile-supported structures to minimize impacts to coastal processes.

NOTE: The project description should summarize both the project's direct and indirect impacts (including construction period impacts) in terms of their magnitude, geographic extent, duration and frequency, and reversibility, as applicable. It should also discuss the infrastructure requirements of the project and the capacity of the municipal and/or regional infrastructure to sustain these requirements into the future.

Describe the on-site project alternatives (and alternative off-site locations, if applicable), considered by the proponent, including at least one feasible alternative that is allowed under current zoning, and the reasons(s) that they were not selected as the preferred alternative:

For the Town Project, the proponents considered a No Build and six (6) build alternatives to identify a suitable location for a replacement parking lot to serve Squibnocket Beach. The preferred alternative was selected because the replacement parking lot will be located off the barrier beach, set back at a protective distance from the shoreline but still proximal to the beach, will preserve the existing parking capacity, and is substantially located within a currently paved road.

For the Access Project, the alternatives included a No Build and eight (8) build alternatives with varying amounts of impact to coastal and inland wetland resource areas. The preferred alternative was selected because it minimizes wetland impacts, meets the project purpose of providing long term access to Squibnocket Point, promotes the natural migration of sand on the barrier beach, and moves the vehicular access farther from the shoreline than any of the other viable alternative considered.

All the alternatives considered, except for the No Build alternatives, were vetted by a committee formed by the Town of Chilmark. The Committee's preferred alternatives were presented to and approved by the Chilmark Town Meeting in February 2015.

NOTE: *The purpose of the alternatives analysis is to consider what effect changing the parameters and/or siting of a project, or components thereof, will have on the environment, keeping in mind that the objective of the MEPA review process is to avoid or minimize damage to the environment to the greatest extent feasible. Examples of alternative projects include alternative site locations, alternative site uses, and alternative site configurations.*

Summarize the mitigation measures proposed to offset the impacts of the preferred alternative:

The purpose of the Projects is to reverse or mitigate the environmental impacts of past activities at the Project Site. They are intended to improve the quality and value of wetland resources at the Project Site, while enhancing and prolonging public recreational amenities and preserving long-term vehicular access to Squibnocket Point. Removal of the existing engineered structures and infrastructure from vulnerable areas and restoration of the natural coastal landform will substantially improve storm damage prevention, flood control, and environmental conditions at the Project Site.

The Town seeks to replace the Revetment, a hard structure that attempts to oppose wave energy and stabilize the shoreline, with improvements that will harmonize the imperative of securing long-term vehicular access to Squibnocket Point with the maintenance of a dynamic shoreline, capable of shifting and changing naturally. The restored beach and dune aspects of the Town Project will permit the barrier beach to perform its natural functions, including providing a buffer to storm waves and protecting landward areas from storm damage.

In addition to the net environmental benefits inherent in the Projects, short-term construction related and long-term operational measures are proposed to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to coastal wetland resource areas. These include a comprehensive set of measures to minimize, to the extent practicable, construction period and permanent alterations to wetland resources and associated buffer zones.

If the project is proposed to be constructed in phases, please describe each phase:

The Projects are anticipated to be constructed within a single phase; however, the Projects will be constructed sequentially with the Access Project constructed first, followed by the Town

Project.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:

Is the project within or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

- Yes (Specify _____)
 No

if yes, does the ACEC have an approved Resource Management Plan? ___ Yes ___ No;
If yes, describe how the project complies with this plan.

Will there be stormwater runoff or discharge to the designated ACEC? ___ Yes ___ No;

If yes, describe and assess the potential impacts of such stormwater runoff/discharge to the designated ACEC.

RARE SPECIES:

Does the project site include Estimated and/or Priority Habitat of State-Listed Rare Species? (see http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/regulatory_review/priority_habitat/priority_habitat_home.htm)

- Yes (Specify PH 15/EH 79 – northern harrier) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

- Yes (Specify See below) No

There are no listed or inventoried above-ground historic resource in the vicinity of the project site. However, the project site is located in an area of known archaeological sensitivity for prehistoric resources associated with the early use of Squibnocket Point and the surrounding areas by native Americans. The State Historic and Archaeological Inventory lists archaeological sites with ½ mile of the project site.

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources? Yes (Specify _____) No

An intensive locational survey was completed in September 2015 pursuant to a permit issued by MHC. The results of that investigation will be reported to MHC and will inform the design and construction parameters necessary to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts to any archaeological resources that may be identified at the Project Site. No demolition of any listed or inventories resource is proposed or anticipated.

WATER RESOURCES:

Is there an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) on or within a half-mile radius of the project site? ___ Yes X No;
if yes, identify the ORW and its location. _____

(NOTE: Outstanding Resource Waters include Class A public water supplies, their tributaries, and bordering wetlands; active and inactive reservoirs approved by MassDEP; certain waters within Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and certified vernal pools. Outstanding resource waters are listed in the Surface Water Quality Standards, 314 CMR 4.00.)

Are there any impaired water bodies on or within a half-mile radius of the project site? ___ Yes X No; if yes, identify the water body and pollutant(s) causing the impairment: _____

Is the project within a medium or high stress basin, as established by the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission? ___ Yes X No



● Project Location



Figure 1- USGS Site Location Map
Squibnocket Beach, Chilmark, MA

Source: MassGIS, VHB