

# **LAGOON POND DRAWBRIDGE COMMITTEE**

c/o MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

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## **Minutes of the Meeting held on December 8, 2011**

Meeting Location: MVC Offices

Members Present: Melinda Loberg (Chairman), Mark London, Fred LaPiana, Dan Greenbaum, and Tristan Israel

MassDOT and Parsons Engineering: Andrew Schlenker (MassDOT-Landscape Architect), Jocelyn Dewire (MassDOT-Engineer), and Leslie Haines (Parsons-Project Manager)

Observers: Chris Fried, Henry Stephenson, Fred Hancock, Bill Veno, and Mike Mauro

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m.

### **1. Landscaping Design of the Permanent Drawbridge**

Jocelyn Dewire, MassDOT Engineer, provided an up-to-date status report of the permanent drawbridge project. Ms. Dewire stated that the 75% design plans are complete and that Parson's engineering is currently progressing towards a 100% design plan, which is expected to be completed sometime in February 2012. Funding for the project is currently programmed in the FFY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The project bid period is expected to conclude by the end of September 2012. Ms. Dewire reported that construction will begin in 2013 and should take in upwards of two to three years for completion.

Andrew Schlenker, MassDOT Landscape Architect, presented the landscaping plans on both sides of the drawbridge. The western end includes the land area recently acquired by the Commonwealth for managing road run-off. The state has included walkways and amenities such as picnic benches and a platform for a portable toilet as part of the plan. There is a guard rail on the transition from the roadway to the road entering the park. Mr. Veno inquired on the appearance of the guardrails and fencing. Ms. Haines responded that the first part of the guardrail will be steel, and then it will transition into wood. Other types of fencing were shown around the drainage areas.

The Committee unanimously stated it would prefer no fencing in these areas and will write a letter to Steve McLaughlin making a request for an alternative.

Henry Stevenson, Tisbury Planning Board, made a request to substitute a different variety of tree for the honey locusts shown in the plan in order to provide for more substantial vegetation. After some deliberation, the group decided to contact the Tisbury Beautification Committee and invite them to be a part of the discussion; this would give an opportunity to coordinate design decisions with what has been done elsewhere in the town.

Mr. Israel asked if there will be any use of solar energy, either on the bridge-tender's house or in the park. Ms. Haines made the recommendation to not use solar panels on the tender house.

An inquiry was made regarding how high off the water the bridge's electronics would be. This is of particular concern given predictions of sea-level rise. The answer to that question can be provided at the next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Fried and Mr. Greenbaum asked if the road can be shifted on the Oak Bluffs side towards Eastville Beach in order to allow more room for the shared-use path. Ms. Haines stated that it is not likely because there is no room within the right-of-way. The plan includes extension of the shared-use path to the boat ramp on the Tisbury side, but that is the extent of the project. The Island will need to seek its own solution later to the connection of the bike paths on both sides of the bridge project.

Ms. Loberg and Mr. Israel brought up the necessity for any local permitting. Ms. Haines stated that it is a courtesy, but not a requirement of the project.

Mr. Stevenson asked if the project should be referred as a DRI to the Martha's Vineyard Commission. After some discussion, this was tabled until our next scheduled meeting.

The Committee requested that Parsons provide us with options for finished surfaces for the concrete, bridge-tender's house, lighting and fencing and other amenities at our next joint meeting.

The Committee unanimously approved scheduling of the next meeting to be held on:  
January 4th, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.