

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

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Minutes of the Meeting held on February 23, 2007, 9:30 A.M.
At the Offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission

Members Present: Melinda Loberg (Chairman), Tristan Israel, Steve Berlucchi, Fred Lapiana, David Grunden, and Jay Wilbur

Observers: Bob Ford, Jo-Ann Taylor and Jim Miller

1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the meeting of February 7 were approved.

2. Project Schedule – Permanent and Temporary

- Jo-Ann reported from a recent phone call with Steve McLaughlin, MassHighway, that the contract for the permanent bridge should be signed soon, if not already signed, its issue having been resolved, and that the bid package for the temporary bridge is still not ready, which may delay the April 3 bid opening date, by a week or two. Steve Berlucchi agreed to check on both items and report back by e-mail.
- The Committee reviewed a draft letter to Bernard Cohen, Secretary of Transportation, regarding commitment to the project schedule, made amendments, and agreed to send the letter.

3. Temporary Bridge

- Fred presented a draft letter requesting a copy of the agreement with the owners of the house near the project site. The Committee agreed to send it as amended.

4. Contingency

- Melinda agreed to draft letters from the Drawbridge Committee to the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Board of Selectmen pointing out that the Drawbridge may fail, cutting off boating access to the pond, and recommending that each town ask its harbormaster to prepare and adopt a boating contingency plan. This plan could include:
 - Sending advance warning letters to boaters in the Lagoon, Oak Bluffs Harbor, and Vineyard Haven Harbor, advising them that the bridge may fail at any time and that they should be prepared to make alternative plans.
 - Arranging to send boats to Tashmoo or Oak Bluffs Harbor.
 - Asking Edgartown whether, in an emergency before the temporary bridge is in place, boats from the Outer Harbor could use Katama Pond for temporary anchorage.
 - Developing a plan for communication with boaters.
- Melinda agreed to draft letters to the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, emergency managers, and ambulance departments, pointing out that the

Drawbridge may fail cutting off Beach Road, and recommending that they prepare and adopt contingency plans as well as prepare estimates of costs for details, etc. to be prepared to request funding from MassHighway. Tristan brought up routing trucks into West Tisbury in an emergency, for discussion.

- Jo-Ann agreed to draft, but not send, a request to the Coast Guard to ask them to temporarily leave the bridge in the closed position in case of failure (open to road traffic), should this be possible. Tristan will ask Tisbury Selectmen and Dave will ask OB Selectmen for permission to keep a letter on file, drafted by us. Melinda will ask for copies of the letters that were previously sent to the Coast Guard in support of leaving the road open.

5. Upcoming meeting

- The next meeting of the Drawbridge Committee will be on Wednesday, April 4, 9:00 A.M. (subsequently postponed to Wednesday, April 11, at 10:30)

Minutes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor