Minutes of the Meeting held on April 11, 2007, 10:30 A.M.
At the Offices of the Martha’s Vineyard Commission

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

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

1. Meeting Minutes

• The minutes of the meeting of February 23 were approved.

2. Project Schedule – Permanent and Temporary

• Mark and Jo-Ann reported from recent phone calls with Steve McLaughlin, MassHighway, that the contract for the design of the permanent bridge was signed and that the Notice to Proceed was sent out on April 9, and that 7 bids were opened for the temporary bridge on April 10, with the apparent low bidder Pihl, Inc. http://www.pihl-as.com/us.aspx at $9,199,524. The estimate had been $7 million. It will probably be 45-60 days to getting a contract, so construction could start in late August or September. The specifications include prohibition of disruption of traffic on Beach Road between Memorial Day and the third week in September. Jim volunteered to check on schedules for a number of other projects around the Island that could be coincident. There will be a pre-construction meeting scheduled that will involve local and MassHighway interests.

• It was noted that the Committee has received a letter from Secretary Cohen in response to the Committee’s request, confirming commitment to construction of both bridges as scheduled.

• There was a suggestion to write or call for confirmation that MassHighway will pay for traffic details.

3. Contingency

• Melinda presented a draft letter from the Drawbridge Committee to the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Boards 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. The Committee reviewed, edited and agreed to send the letters.

• Melinda presented a draft letter 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. The Committee reviewed, edited and agreed to send the letters.

4. Other

- Mark noted that a boating inventory, as discussed in previous meetings, should be done by Parsons.

- It was agreed that a couple of spare copies of materials distributed by e-mail will be available for the meetings, but that personal copies will only be made upon request, and the assumption will be that everyone who wants a print copy will bring one or hit the reply button and ask for a print. This should save considerable paper and staff time.

- The Committee may meet with Mark Forest (aide to Representative Delahunt) in April if that can be arranged.

5. Upcoming meeting

- The next meeting of the Drawbridge Committee will be on May 2, 9:00 A.M.

- There may be an additional meeting with Delahunt aide Mark Forest.

Minutes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor