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2 **Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee**

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4 **Minutes of the Meeting held on May 17, 2005**
5 **At the Offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission**
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7 Present: Melinda Loberg, Chair: Bob Ford, Richard Combra, Jr., Steve Berlucci, Fred
8 Lapiana, Tristan Israel, Derek Cimeno, Harriet Barrow, Jay Wilbur, Angie Grant, Dan
9 Greenbaum

10 Observers: Jo-Ann Taylor, Kerry Scott, Chris Fried, Srinivas Sattoor
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13 **Minutes**

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15 The minutes of the May 4, 2005 meeting were approved as amended.
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17 **Existing Bridge**

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19 Information from MassHighway

- 20 • Mark just received the three most recent inspection reports from Steve McLaughlin of
21 MassHighway. He distributed a copy to Fred Lapiana for Tisbury, Richard Combra Jr.
22 for Oak Bluffs, Steve Berlucci for the County, and Dan Greenbaum;
23 • An explanatory covering letter from MassHighway's Chief Engineer should be coming
24 within the next few days.
25 • Steve's understanding is that John Cogliano, the new Secretary of Transportation, is
26 presently reviewing the situation in order to reply to Senator O'Leary and to the
27 Committee.

28 Bridge Condition

- 29 • Steve Berlucci said that the inspection report indicates that the bridge deck is one
30 integrated element that is in very poor condition. It cannot be partially repaired but
31 the whole deck would have to be replaced which doesn't make sense on the unstable
32 substructure.
33 • The engineer who was on-Island as part of the RFP process for the permanent bridge
34 and talked to Fred thought the bascule abutments could be stabilized by installing
35 some new temporary pilings on both sides of the bridge with temporary beams under
36 draw span.
37 • The cost of repairs would probably have to be funded exclusively with State funds, but
38 might be able to be financed with federal funds if they are part of the larger
39 construction project for the permanent bridge.

- 40 • Mark suggested that it would be useful to have a direct discussion of technical issues
41 between some members of the Committee and MassHighway engineers.
42 • Bob Maciel, bridge tender, is very familiar with the bridge and has considerable
43 historical information about the bridge operation, although he does not have
44 engineering expertise.

45 Contingency Plan

- 46 • This is needed regardless of whether the one-bridge or two-bridge approach is taken.
47 • The bridge was closed last Friday because of electrical problems with the barrier. The
48 back-up on the Edgartown - Vineyard Haven Road extended beyond the town line
49 (124 vehicles) by lunch time.
50 • The Committee will ask MassHighway in writing to prepare a contingency plan for the
51 bridge itself. This could include monitoring of deflection to anticipate problems,
52 preparedness to make emergency repairs, and a good system of notification of the
53 Vineyard community about temporary bridge closures. (Mark)
54 • The Vineyard community should prepare an emergency management plan for the
55 possibility that the bridge would be inoperable or impassible. This could include
56 public information and alternate plans for boating and for vehicular traffic. Melinda
57 and Steve still have to contact the emergency managers and police/fire officials. This
58 will be the main topic for the next meeting.
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60 Recommendation to Boards of Selectmen re Independent Evaluation

- 61 • Melinda, Richard, Fred, Steve and Mark will draft a recommendation to the Oak
62 Bluffs and Tisbury Boards of Selectmen suggesting hiring an engineering firm to give
63 an independent professional opinion, and to subsequently monitor deflections if the
64 engineers recommend this. (Melinda, Richard, Fred, Steve, Mark)
65 • They will outline the scope of services to include the following.
66 1. Review recent and older inspection reports. Visit the bridge. Speak to various
67 interested parties (including MassHighway, town and county officials, etc.).
68 2. Give an opinion about the feasibility of continuing to use the existing bridge (with
69 or without the draw portion operating) until a temporary bridge could be built (2-3
70 years) and/or until a permanent bridge is built (6-8 years). This should include the
71 possibility of implementing preventative measures as well as possible approaches
72 to contingency plans of emergency response measures that could be implemented
73 should the monitoring or other factors indicate that the safe continuing operation of
74 the bridge is jeopardized.
75 3. Give an opinion about the utility of installing accurate measuring equipment on the
76 bridge and setting up an ongoing monitoring program to measure movement, in
77 order to help provide advance warning of imminent settlement or collapse.
78 • Steve will seek an estimate for the contract budget for about a week's work. (Steve)
79 • The recommendation will be brought to the Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen by the
80 Highway Superintendent, and to the Tisbury Board of Selectmen by the DPW Director.

- 81 • After the opinion has been received, the group will suggest that it be discussed at a
82 joint meeting of the two Boards of Selectmen.
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85 **Temporary/Permanent Bridges**

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87 Permitting

- 88 • The Committee will ask MassHighway to clarify in writing what permitting is required
89 and to give us regular updates of the status, for both the temporary and the permanent
90 bridges. Are certain permits not required because a bridge is temporary? Because it is
91 funded through a bond bill? Because it is a footprint bridge? *(Mark)*
92 • Harriet will ask Senator O’Leary’s aide for an update on the permitting. *(Harriet)*
93 • Steve will bring in the language of bond bill. *(Steve)*
94 • Steve will show plans for the temporary bridge and options for the permanent bridge
95 to the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury conservation commissions. He will bring comments back
96 to the Committee for forwarding to MassHighway. Tristan and Derek will accompany
97 him for the meeting in Tisbury and Bob Ford in Oak Bluffs. *(Steve, Tristan, Derek, Bob)*
98 • Gary Kassof, U.S. Coast Guard, will visit on May 25 with respect to permitting the
99 temporary bridge and to the Committee’s request about a ruling that the bridge could
100 remain in the down position in case of failure. Jay, Melinda, Harriet, Dave Grunden
101 and Jo-Ann will meet him. *(Jay, Melinda, Harriet, Dave, Jo-Ann)*
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103 **Other**

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- 105 • Next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 1.
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107 Minutes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor and Mark London.
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