

**Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on August 3, 2005**  
**At the Offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission**

Present: Melinda Loberg, Chair: Fred LaPiana, Tristan Israel, Dave Grunden, Mark London

Observers: Jo-Ann Taylor, Chris Fried, Srinivas Sattoor, Bob Ford, Harriet Barrow, Dan Greenbaum

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## **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the July 13, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

## **2. Independent Review**

Fred LaPiana reported the following.

- Both Boards of Selectmen have voted approval of the budget.
- Fred discussed two issues with the low bidder.
  - The quotation sheet has a County fax mark at the top, indicating communication outside the contractor-contractee relationship. The blank sheet was faxed from the County offices since the original request had been sent to the wrong address. Fred was satisfied after discussion with the contractor that no impropriety had taken place.
  - Quotation sheet proposed to allocate \$1,600 for research and assessment and \$5,800 for reporting, in contrast with the other bidder's proposal to allocate \$8,500 for research and assessment and \$1,500 for reporting. Fred was satisfied after discussion with the contractor that the contractor will provide the services required, with the focus on research and assessment as explained and agreed during the phone conversation, for the price quoted.
  - Fred recommended documenting his investigation and satisfaction with the two issues, and that the committee award the bid to the low bidder, with the written confirmation that communication will only be through him and that the bidder will perform the research and assessment required for the same total price quoted.

There was a discussion of several procedural issues. Tristan noted that he was skeptical regarding the communication issue.

***Dave Grunden moved and it was duly seconded to accept the low bid, namely Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers with the committee open to redistribution of the allocation of costs within the overall price quote, to accommodate shift in emphasis toward research and assessment. In favor: Loberg, Lapiana, Grunden. Opposed: none. Abstentions: Israel, London. The motion carried.***

## **2. Reports**

- Bob Ford reported on a July 27 DEP site visit by Chris Ross regarding the Clean Water Certificate permit for the temporary bridge. The site visit was made without incident. (Report appended)
- Mark London presented an e-mail response (appended to this document) from Steve McLaughlin, MassHighway to the committee's July 20 request.
  - National Marine Fisheries appears to have extended the period for working in the water to 3.5 months, from January 15 to May 30
  - The sidewalks on the temporary bridge will be 5' wide (plans indicate a 24' roadway, with a 5' multi-purpose path, giving an overall width of 38.9' including barriers)
  - The request for including an architect/designer appears to be have been misunderstood and the response is incomplete.
  - Steve will be project manager for the permanent bridge.
  - Mark London will draft a follow-up note, with thanks for the response and listing outstanding items, particularly with respect to the architect/designer and bike/pedestrian safety options; also staging plans and the proposed use for the easement requested of the County and of the Town of Tisbury (said to be for "banking"). Melinda will collaborate.
- Srinivas Sattoor reported that MassHighway has programmed funding for the permanent bridge in the State Transportation Improvement Program: \$1 million in 2008, \$3 million in 2009, and \$14 million in 2010.

## **3. Public Planning Session on Permanent Replacement Bridge**

- The Public Planning Session on Permanent Replacement Bridge will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2005, at the Tisbury Senior Center, co-hosted by TWI, Inc., who will provide light refreshments.
- Mark and Melinda will present background information with PowerPoint including an outline of issues to be discussed about the permanent bridge. It will be made clear that the purpose of the meeting is not to discuss the temporary bridge. The public will be asked for input and reminded/informed that no decisions are to be

made on the spot; this is not a public hearing but rather input-gathering to help the Committee send recommendations to decision-makers.

- Data will be assembled and presented/displayed; data could include numbers for ambulance runs and for mutual aid calls (in addition to list prepared by Dan Greenbaum).
- A press release will be drafted soon for distribution nearer to August 25.

#### **4. Upcoming Meetings**

- Next meeting: Thursday, August 11, 10:00 A.M., initial meeting with consultants.
- A meeting will be set up with District 5, the consultants and the committee.

*Minutes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor and Mark London.*

August 2, 2005

Melinda / Mark

Visit by Christopher Ross, of the Mass. DEP, for the purpose of inspecting the temporary drawbridge plans and site, to facilitate issuance of the "Clean Water Certificate" took place without event on July 27, 2005.

Chris arrived Vineyard Haven at 0900 hours, accompanied by Arianna, MassHighway Environmental; and Jerry MacKenzie from consulting firm STV Incorporated. The sole Island representative was Bob Ford, representing the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission. STV, I understand, is the firm designing the temporary bridge.

We crammed into my Ranger and proceeded to the site. Jerry gave some background comments on the project, and Ari presented the drawings, nearly complete.

The only shoreline re-arrangement required for the temporary bridge will be on the pond side, at the Oak Bluffs end. The proposal there is to install sheet piles eight to ten feet from the current shore line, move the existing rip-rap to the pond side of the sheet piles, and fill the area for the approach to the temporary bridge.

When the permanent bridge is built, the area will be restored to present configuration, with possible enhancement of dune grass areas.

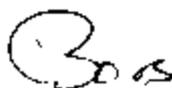
During the proceedings, Bob Maciel arrived to open the bridge, and was introduced around.

Schedule concerns did not permit the visitors to observe an entire bridge cycle.

They departed from Oak Bluffs at 1045 hours.

I have been promised a copy of the current plans, as well as a copy of Chris' report.

Resectfully submitted,



Robert G. Ford  
Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission

## Mark London

**From:** McLaughlin, Steve (MHD) [Steve.Mclaughlin@state.ma.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 02, 2005 4:46 PM  
**To:** London, Mark (MVC)  
**Subject:** RE: Lagoon Pond Drawbridge

Mark:

I did, thank you.

First: I really do understand the Vineyard's qualities. The sense of place that one experiences while on the island is like no other.

We will advertise the temporary bridge project for construction as soon as it is designed, permitted, and we have the right-of-way that we need. The 100% design plans (highway) and second structural submission (bridge) are due last week.

The permits that we have outstanding are:

Water Quality Certification (administered by State Department of Environmental Protection)

Filed 6/16/05

Site Visit 7/27/05

Hopefully we will have the permit by 9/15/05

Army Corps of Engineers

PGPII

Filed 4/26/05 to permits section at corps

7/14/05 sent plans to navigational section of Corps.

Hopefully we will have the permit by 8/15/05

Coast Guard

Filed 11/4/04

7/1/05 coast Guard went out for public notice

8/1/05 public comment period ends (assuming a 30 day comment period)

Hopefully we will have the permit by 9/15/05

CZM

Filed 6/16/05

CZM issues are concurrent with the Army Corps permit

On a good note:

National Marine Fisheries appears to have extended the period that we may work in the water to 7 1/2 months

It appears as if we may be able to work in the water from 1/15 - 5/30  
That is good news. This will shorten the construction time for each bridge.  
I am looking into a construction timeline for each bridge. Of course, they are preliminary.

1. The sidewalk as presently designed will be 5' in width.
2. We plan on having an architect prepare renderings (elevation and perspective view) of the various types of bridges that we study for presentation to the public.  
We are looking into the locations on the permanent bridge that will be suitable for plantings. If there is room on the approaches, a landscape designer will prepare the landscape plans.  
Consider the right-of-way available after constructing: 32' curb-to-curb travel lane and shoulder; two 6.5' sidewalks; and one 8' bikepath.  
I will not discuss the design fee in this manner.

3. At this time I am the project manager for the permanent bridge.

I have inquiries out on the BIA funding issue.

Steve  
617.973.7245

—Original Message—

From: Mark London [mailto:london@mvcommission.org]

Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2005 5:29 PM

To: Steve McLaughlin

Cc: Chris Fried; Angela Grant; Bill Veno; Bill Wilcox; Bob Ford; Casey Sharpe; Daniel Greenbaum; Dave Grunden; Derek Cimeno; Fred Lapiana; Harriet Barrow; Jay Wilbur; Jo-Ann Taylor; Mark London; Melinda Loberg; Richard Combra Jr.; Russell Smith; Srinivas Sattoor; Steve Berlucchi; Todd Alexander; Tristan Israel

Subject: Lagoon Pond Drawbridge

Steve,

Hope you had a good vacation.

I'd like to follow up on the request in the e-mail below as well as our telephone conversation from two weeks ago. Would it be possible to provide us with the following?

- A written description of the current timetable for design, permitting, advertising/awarding, and construction of both the temporary and

permanent bridges. We understand that this timetable will be subject to change for a variety of reasons.

• A written update on permitting for both the temporary and permanent bridges.

As you suggested, I've contacted Skip McCourt and will arrange a meeting with some Drawbridge Committee members and people from District 5 to discuss maintenance/repairs of the existing bridge.

In addition, at its last meeting, the Committee asked me to forward the following comments and questions.

1. Could you give us feedback on the comments that the Committee made about the design of the temporary bridge? We would be interested to know what suggestions are being followed.

There was particular concern that the 5' width of the sidewalk/bike path would be dangerous, given the very heavy bicycle and pedestrian traffic there. This width had been determined because of the proximity of the house, but it was suggested that, even at this late date, it should be possible to modify the sidewalk/bike path to 8' for the whole length except for the short area right next to the house. That short, narrow area could have special markings or signage.

2. The Committee asked me to reinforce how important it is that an architect (or designer) and landscape architect are part of the consultant team for the permanent bridge. Since our economy is based primarily on visitation (tourists and seasonal visitors) and the main attraction is scenic values, the design of the new bridge and its integration into the Vineyard's character and landscape are of prime importance. It would be especially useful if the architect were from the Vineyard, as he/she would then be especially familiar with local issues. We are lucky enough to have several excellent architects on the Vineyard. Although you could require that the engineers include an architect and landscape architect as part of their proposed team, a successful approach that I used in the past with a bridge project of a similar scope to the Drawbridge was to require all firms to include an allocation of \$100,000 for hiring an architect and landscape architect within their proposal, and then jointly choose them later.

3. Do you know whether you will be the project manager for the permanent bridge, as well as the temporary bridge?

Also, we should pursue the possible funding for the new bridge from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. As I mentioned on the phone, the Wampanoag Tribe indicated that they would be likely to support such a proposal. Have you talked to Ken Miller about this?

By the way, the low bidder for the independent review of the project, focusing primarily on maintenance and possible repairs to the existing

bridge, was Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers, who is, of course, very familiar with the bridge. The Committee is waiting for approval by the Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen before proceeding. I'll let you know when a decision is made to proceed.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, July 27. We would very much appreciate receiving a reply before then.

Mark

—Original Message—

From: Mark London [mailto:london@mvcommission.org]

Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 12:16 PM

To: Steve McLaughlin

Cc: Melinda Laberg

Subject: Drawbridge

Hi Steve,

I understand from your phone message that you are on vacation until June 21. The Drawbridge Committee will meet at 9 am on Wednesday June 22. I'd like to talk to you before the meeting to get an update on various issues. If you have time when you get back, perhaps you could respond by e-mail.

Timetable: A few representatives of the Committee met the All-Island Police Chiefs this morning to update them on the situation. They are very anxious, from a public safety point of view, that every effort is made to keep Beach Road open to vehicular traffic (presumably 1. building the temporary bridge, 2. doing everything possible to keep the existing bridge operational until it is in place, 3. getting the Coast Guard to agree to leave the bridge in a down position should the draw fail). They will also look at preparing an emergency response plan in case the existing bridge is closed to vehicular traffic before the new bridge is in place. We will also be meeting the emergency managers of Oak Bluffs and Tisbury. The Police Chiefs and the Drawbridge Committee would very much like to have the current timetable for construction of the temporary bridge. I repeated what you told me on the phone, namely:

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| * Fall 2006  | Coast Guard approval and advertising immediately thereafter; |
| * Spring 2006  | Award contract;  |
| * Summer 2006  | Ordering of materials,                                       |
| * Sept. - Oct. 2006                                    | Mobilization   |
| * Nov. 2006 to Feb 2007                                | Construction in water  |
| * March 2007-June 2007                                 | Assembly of bridge   |
| * Opening to traffic either in June or early fall 2007 |  |

Is this timetable correct? Is there anything we can do to speed up the Coast

Guard approval? Would that allow construction to start this winter? (I believe that you said that even if the Coast Guard could issue the permit in, say, August rather than October, it would still not allow any construction to take place this winter; is this right?)

Bridge Maintenance and Contingency Plan: How should the Drawbridge Committee best work with MassHighway to ensure that everything is being done to maintain the existing bridge in good working order as long as possible, and to prepare contingency repair plan in case of its failure? Have you forwarded our request to District 5? Should we contact them directly?

Permitting: As mentioned before, we would very much appreciate getting a written summary of permitting requirements and status, for both the temporary and permanent bridges.

Mark