

Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee
Minutes of the Meeting held on November 9, 2005
At the Offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission

Present: Melinda Loberg (Chair), Fred LaPiana, Tristan Israel, Steve Berlucchi, Mark London

Observers: Jo-Ann Taylor, Bob Ford, Harriet Barrow, Denys Wortman, Max Hart, Robert E. Maciel, Sr.

1. Existing Bridge – Independent Review

- Several items were discussed regarding details to finalize the consultant's report, as discussed on October 21:
 - In the first draft, there was no mention of the theory related verbally at the previous meeting that the wooden piles may be fatigued or fractured below the mud level. The second draft includes a reference on page 5.
 - The apostrophe still needs to be removed from "town's" on the cover.
 - There was some confusion among the readers of the first draft regarding recommendations for repairs to the concrete decks of the approaches; items 5 and 6 on page 16. In the second draft, the items remain separate, confirming that they relate to separate actions.
 - In the first draft, there was no mention of the potential discussed at the last meeting to weld the bridge shut. This appears in the second draft, as item 11 on page 23.
 - In the first draft, "Beach" was misspelled as "beech" and "gauge" was misspelled as "gage" on page 24. In the second draft, "beech" and "gage" remain, however "gauge" was accepted as a variation.
 - It was noted that the cover should include a date or be marked "final", to differentiate it from the earlier drafts.
- The Committee voted to accept the second draft as final, with the corrections to the cover and to spell "Beach" correctly on page 24.
- Fred will deliver several copies at the District 5 office in the morning. He will ask for their assessment of risk reduction impact of recommended repairs, maintenance, and traffic control, to send to Boston. He will ask for a meeting with District 5 in 2 weeks regarding the immediate items, to be followed by a meeting with Steve McLaughlin in Boston regarding the longer-term issues, with the date December 2 targeted (to be confirmed). Fred will also submit the report to both Boards of Selectmen, recommending release of payment.

2. Existing Bridge – Traffic Control

- Bridge tender Bob Maciel reported that overloaded trucks are currently using the bridge, making it vibrate. He added that speeding cars also make the bridge vibrate.
- It was determined to ask State police and local police (through the Boards of Selectmen) to enforce the existing weight and speed limits; to publicize the limits through a press release, possible flyer distributed by SSA, and phone calls to local truckers; to determine the weights of the buses and consider asking MassHighway to lower the weight limits to allow the buses, but to restrict the larger trucks; and to ask MassHighway to consider establishing a truck route that would not include the drawbridge, and to consider lowering the speed limit on the bridge from 40 mph to 30 mph.

3. Permanent Bridge

- Bridge tender Bob Maciel reported hearing from 2 potential bidders on the permanent bridge project that their scope was for a permanent bridge alongside the existing bridge. This will be further investigated, as most present believe that the RFP is for a permanent bridge in place of the existing, after construction of a temporary bridge. He added that they had appeared to be concerned about the existing house, but that he believed that the Town of Tisbury had a solution. This was also not confirmed by others present, although it was generally agreed that the Town of Tisbury had looked into it.

4. Other

- A meeting with the Tisbury and Oak Bluffs Boards of Selectmen will be requested, target date Tuesday, December 13 (to be confirmed).
- There was discussion of a general public session, possibly sponsored jointly by MVC, County Commissioners, Tisbury and Oak Bluffs Boards of Selectmen, JTC, etc. for airing of issues, with no decisions planned. There was no consensus.

5. Next meeting

Wednesday, December 2, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.

Minutes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor and Mark London.