

Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee
Minutes of the Meeting held on February 8, 2006, 2006
At the Offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission

Members Present: Melinda Loberg (Chair), Fred LaPiana, Tristan Israel, Steve Berluca, Mark London, Derek Cimeno, Dave Grunden, Jay Wilbur

Invited from local law enforcement: Lt. Tim Williamson, Oak Bluffs Police; Lt. Bob Moore, Mass. State Police; Chief Ted Saulnier, Tisbury Police

Observers: Jo-Ann Taylor, Kerry Scott, Srinivas Sattoor and Chris Fried

1. Discussion with local truckers and law enforcement

- There were no members of the trucking community in attendance; ideas about outreach to the truckers, requesting their voluntary cooperation were discussed, including possibly reaching out one-on-one to targeted truckers such as dump truck operators, or possibly inviting them to another meeting, possibly to a Selectmen's meeting.
- Regarding enforcement of existing speed limits, the officers advised that speeding by trucks doesn't seem to be much of an issue; most obey the speed limit, and both towns frequently deploy patrol cars nearby in convenient pullouts. There was a suggestion that the truckers could be persuaded to voluntarily reduce their speeds over the bridge.
- Regarding enforcement of weight limits, Lt. Moore advised that he has requested, and the "truck team" has agreed, to come to the Island more often to weigh trucks; media coverage will be encouraged.
- Regarding designation of an alternate truck route:
 - There was concern for impacts to Barnes Road, including safety concerns and issues of wear and tear. Could a separate weight limit be designated for Barnes Road? Could maintenance of the roadways involved in alternate routes be included in the project?
 - MVC was asked to investigate origin and destination of trucks typically using the drawbridge historically.
 - There was concern for trucks using residential neighborhoods in Tisbury, also.
 - There was discussion of sending trucks up-Island, via Old County Road, e.g.
 - There was discussion of the need for an alternate route, in the event of construction closures, apart from the specter of a failed bridge.
 - There was a suggestion that MassHighway should reimburse the towns and State Police for traffic supervision expenditures during construction, as part of the project.

- There was a suggestion to consider using right turn lanes at the “Blinker” intersection, although this may not be feasible with a 4-way stop.
- The issue of an alternative truck route will be discussed at an upcoming joint session of the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Boards of Selectmen. MassHighway officials have indicated a willingness to cooperate, should the towns request such a route.
- Regarding potential to lower the speed and weight restrictions:
 - There was a suggestion to request that MassHighway establish a construction zone sooner rather than later, with special temporary weight and speed limits.

2. Minutes

- The draft minutes of the December 7 Public Session were taken under advisement.
- The minutes of the December 17 and December 20 meetings were approved as presented.

3. Temporary Bridge

- It was noted that the US Coast Guard permit for the temporary bridge had not been issued, and a draft letter to the Coast Guard was circulated and approved. (Note: News arrived subsequently that the permit has been issued.)

4. Next meeting

- Wednesday, February 22, 2006 at 9:00 A.M.

Minutes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor

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