

**LAGOON POND DRAWBRIDGE COMMITTEE**  
**c/o Martha's Vineyard Commission**

P.O. Box 1447, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts 02557  
508-693-3453 [www.mvcommission.org](http://www.mvcommission.org)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on February 7, 2007, 9:30 A.M.**  
**At the Offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission**

Members Present: Melinda Loberg (Chairman), Tristan Israel, Steve Berlucchi, Fred Lapiana, Derek Cimeno, David Grunden, and Mark London

Observers: Bob Ford and Chris Fried

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**1. Meeting Minutes**

- The minutes of the meeting of January 17 were approved.

**2. Project Schedule – Permanent and Temporary**

- Mark reported from a phone call with Steve McLaughlin, MassHighway. The contract for the permanent bridge should be signed soon, its issue having been resolved. The bid package for the temporary bridge was still not ready, which may delay the April 3 bid opening date.
- The Committee reviewed a draft letter to Bernard Cohen, Secretary of Transportation, regarding the project schedule, made amendments, and agreed to send the letter after circulating the revised draft by e-mail.

**3. Temporary Bridge**

- Derek presented a draft letter suggesting a plan to relocate shellfish seed that are in the channel at a cost of about \$5,000 per town, as proposed by Derek at the last meeting and agreed by Dave Grunden. This should be less in cost and in impacts compared to mitigation at the time of construction. The Committee reviewed the draft letter and agreed to amend it to include the Oak Bluffs side and to send it from the Committee after circulating by e-mail.
- It was agreed that we would request a copy of the agreement with the owners of the house near the bridge. Fred will draft a letter, from the Drawbridge Committee, and bring it back to the committee.

**4. Contingency**

- There was a discussion of various contingency situations in case of bridge failure which could cut off vehicular access, boating access, or both, for indefinite periods of time.

- It was agreed that the Drawbridge Committee would send a letter to the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Board 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. This plan could include:
  - Sending advance warning letters to boaters in the Lagoon, Oak Bluffs Harbor, and Vineyard Haven Harbor, advising them that the bridge may fail at any time and that they should be prepared to make alternative plans.
  - Arranging to send boats to Tashmoo or Oak Bluffs Harbor.
  - Asking Edgartown whether, in an emergency before the temporary bridge is in place, boats from the Outer Harbor could use Katama Pond for temporary anchorage.
  - Developing a plan for communication with boaters.
- It was agreed that the Drawbridge Committee would send a 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 a contingency plan as well as prepare estimates of costs for details, etc. to be prepared to request funding from MassHighway.
- It was agreed that the Drawbridge Committee would draft, but not send, a request to the Coast Guard to ask them to temporarily leave the bridge in the closed position in case of failure, should this be possible. It was noted that the study indicated that, depending on the type of failure, this is not likely to be an option. We should also have letters from Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, ambulance departments, the Hospital, and possibly Board of Selectmen supporting this request, so they could be sent quickly in case of failure. It was also suggested that Delahunt's office be kept informed of the situation, so they could be called on for support if needed.

## **5. Upcoming meeting**

- The next meeting of the Drawbridge Committee will be on Friday, February 23, 9:00 A.M.

*Minutes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor*