



Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

November 1, 2019, *Adapted 12/02/2019*

MEMORANDUM

To: Budget Subcommittee and MVLBC

From: Ian T. Peach, Land Superintendent

Re: Some Future Aspirations and Ideas for Land Bank Land Management Team

1. *TIME FOR FULL PROPERTY TUNE UPS*: Choose a select number of properties or geographically proximal groups of Land Bank properties and block out multiple weeks of focused work: repairing and replacing all signs, boardwalks, trail infrastructure, UA access points, repair trail erosion, and organization of sign station experience. Spend a defined and substantial amount of time each winter.
2. *WEBSITE AND SIGNS*: Hire a graphic designer to overhaul the website, making it more professional and aesthetically appealing with key information and Land Bank accomplishments more widely available. Utilize the same graphic design contract, with input from land superintendent, to design layout standards for signs and orientation maps.
3. *TRAILS*: Categorize trails in multiple types that should receive specific methods of maintenance. First category could be: Universal Access Trails (short sections that have minimal grade change and are made of a compacted aggregate surface) A second category could be Primary Trails (trails that are main routes and used regularly – develop maintenance regime that highlights these trails). A third category could be Secondary Trails (trails that are more remote and will be maintained at something similar to our current standards for passive recreation). A final category could be Ways (ancient ways or public ways (old roads) that are keep open and passible with more minimal maintenance.

4. *SEASONAL TRAIL CREW*: Draw talented young trail builders (like SCA or AMC) and set them up on trail improvement projects focusing on surface, erosion, boardwalks, stonework, and trail drainage.
5. *TRAIL BUILDING TRAINING*: Invest in training full-time staff on trail building techniques.
6. *ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION*: Develop a more robust ecological restoration design and planning goals for existing and future land management projects. Spend more time planting.
7. *CLIMATE CHANGE*: Make comprehensive strategic plan for how the land bank will address climate change.
 - a. Study feasibility for renewable energy use on all structures and office, electric vehicles in our fleet
 - b. Develop plan for vulnerable areas (coastal areas) where we will either retreat (restore ecologically) or maintain an access strategy that can adapt with a changing climate. Some Examples; Ramble Trail coastal bank access, trail to outer islands Poucha Pond Reservation.
8. *AGING STRUCTURES*: Invest in comprehensive utility and structure updates at Land Bank's aging houses. For example, Tisbury Meadow House will be in need of a full plumbing and electrical overhaul in the near future. Invest in Field Crew Shop (new roof) and storage layout.
9. *LOCAL LUMBER*: Mill wood we harvest locally and use in projects as much is feasible.
10. *PROPERTY ATTENDING*: Invest in iPads for property attending to capture data and share photographs and information about each property. Limit attending to the greatest degree possible while still keep property use management flowing during summer season.
11. *CONTRACT CERTAIN FORESTRY AND MOWING*: For future large-scale forestry work, contract with professional ecological forestry team, with oversight and support from staff as needed. This could free up existing staff to focus on property-specific details and upgrades during the "winter work" period. Look into hiring someone to mowing defined areas in season and/or trails to expand our mowing reach during busy times of year for the Conservation Land Assistants. Look into having a mower kept on Chappaquiddick and contract trail mowing to expand regularity of trail mowing intervals.