Natural Environment Work Group Core
Meeting Notes of January 4, 2007, 12 noon, MVC

Present - Members: Tom Wallace (Chair), Tim Boland (by telephone), Judy Crawford, Dick Johnson, Brendan O’Neill, Matt Pelikan, Leah Smith, and Tom Chase
Present – MVC Staff: Jo-Ann Taylor
Present – Observer: Susan Shea, Natural Environment Work Group

1. Subtopic – Biodiversity

Utilizing the Management by Objectives model: Vision Statement -> Goals -> Objectives -> Strategies:

- Vision drafts from core members were shared with the result (wording to be refined into a single draft vision statement):
  - Ensure sufficient and appropriately managed acreage to restore and maintain viable populations of all the Vineyard’s native species.
  - Wide variety of species/alternative species
  - Adequate space for natural processes to take place (habitat)
  - Viable populations
  - Native includes both resident and migratory populations
  - Be explicit concerning reintroduction and restoration
  - Ecosystem services provided by native species, etc. (this needs more work)

- Items raised but deferred for further discussion:
  - Define native
  - Global climate change
  - Explicate linkage between biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - Ecosystem services (almost in vision)

- Some goals were identified from the vision discussion:
  - Maintain viable populations of all native species – resident and migratory
  - Restore extirpated species where appropriate, relevant to the present climate
  - Provide appropriate management

- Discussion of objectives was initiated:
  - For viable populations:
• need baseline data on species that are here, and their needs and conditions – this may be best approached by focusing on key species (e.g. eelgrass in ponds) and identifying their requirements
• need baseline of minimum viable patch size – identify size and numbers of core areas, where and how they should be laid out

2. Other
• For overall vision for natural environment – the natural environment of the Vineyard should inspire us and should also be a showcase to the world
• Importance of promoting our successes – the plan should identify our successes, such as proliferation of harriers, ospreys and piping plovers, in order to build proprietorship and confidence
• Management by objectives model includes the vision statement; goals which are more specific than the vision statement; objectives which are measurable; strategies of how to get to each objective

3. Upcoming Meeting
Core – Thursday, January 18, 2007, 12 – 1:30 P.M., at MVC (bring a bag lunch) – continued discussion of Biodiversity; review vision statements for Recreation and Biodiversity, introduce vision for Character

Notes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor