

ISLAND PLAN

CHARTING THE FUTURE OF THE VINEYARD

c/o MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION
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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