

Ewell Hopkins

Oak Bluffs Planning Board Member
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Dear Martha's Vineyard Commissioners & DRI staff members,

As of this letter, having waited until the day of your public hearing and allowing time for at least one Board of Selectman and Planning Board meeting to take place since the North Bluff Seawall project referral, I remain concerned that neither the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission (appointed) nor the Board of Selectman (elected) have acknowledged the importance of the Martha's Vineyard Commission DRI process in the overall planning effort of a project of this scale.

For this reason I remain skeptical of the level of foresight given to this project.

Below listed, please find several of my outstanding questions:

What is the purpose of the boardwalk component of the project?

Is there a shore protective aspect of the boardwalk itself?

With a fully functioning sidewalk in place next to the proposed boardwalk, how do we justify this expenditure of public funds?

What was the reason given for the rejection of the federal grant application for the replacement of the seawall?

There would have been a determination as to its status made by the federal inspectors. Why was this information not shared with either the MVC or the town Planning Board?

How does the ground soil differ in the proposed construction site from that of the section of seawall recently replaced approaching the harbor?

Why is the section of the sea wall from the fishing pier to the Steamship Authority boat wharf not addressed by this proposal?

Has approval been granted by all governing authorities for re-building the beach? If so, why was this information not shared with the local planning authorities?

What is the time frame for re-establishing the beach?

If steel construction materials are to be used and a protective coating to be applied, what is the planned maintenance schedule?

In terms of fiscal responsibility, I have the following questions:

How do we plan to fund the cost of sand?

What is the proposed source and cost of the sand for re-nourishing the beach?

How do we plan to fund the cost of on-going maintenance of the protective coating?

Who prepared a cost/benefit analysis of the boardwalk component of the project?

How will boardwalk maintenance be funded?

I request this information as an elected member of the Oak Bluffs Planning Board, having not been afforded the benefit of having this information available to the Planning Board.

Sincerely yours,

Ewell Hopkins
Oak Bluffs Planning Board—Member