

Paul Foley

From: jordan wallace [wallacejordan5@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 1:24 PM
To: foley@mvcommission.org
Subject: Proposed North Bluff Boardwalk

Dear Mr. Foley and Martha's Vineyard Commissioners,

I'm writing to express strong reservations about the proposed boardwalk in its current form. This project has evolved from a relatively modest sea wall repair to an extensive reimagining of the coast between the Harbor jetty and the steam ship dock. This reimagining includes aspects myself and many others find troubling, notably a corrugated steel wall facing the ocean, and a row of boulders in front of the wall that would, in effect, eliminate the beach. That stretch of beach is frequented by scores of people in the summertime, from young families escaping the large waves of South Beach or the huge crowds of Inkwell and State, to dog walkers looking for a friendly spot. Many residents of the North Bluff and the larger downtown swim there every day. The plan in its current form would eliminate a valuable downtown resource in favor of a boardwalk connecting the steamship dock and the harbor, a connection already established by a sidewalk in good repair spanning the stretch on the top of the bluff.

There is a way to save the beach, avoid the aesthetic crime of a corrugated steel facing the ocean, and have the boardwalk; drive the steel in behind the current cement wall and build the boardwalk back from that, rather than forward, encroaching on the beach. This proposal has been discussed, but the current political ethos seems to involve barreling ahead with a poorly vetted plan which fails to take into account the value of the beach.

This area of coast is one of two major gateways by sea to this island. Thousands of visitors and residents disembark from the Steam Ship, the Island Queen, the Hyline each year. I'd sooner see a beach returning home than a corrugated steel wall fronted by boulders. There is an opportunity to beautify the coast in conjunction with fixing the sea wall, (the original objective) but this is not it.

Sincerely, Jordan Wallace.
Oak Bluffs =