

Nancy F. Phillips
39 Gull Landing
P.O. Box 2061
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Martha's Vineyard Commission
New York Ave.
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re: North Bluff Sea Wall Project

Dear Commissioners,

With all due respect to the residents of the North Bluff in Oak Bluffs, I can appreciate their desire to continue to have access to a swimming beach near their home. It is unfortunate that the North Bluff beach, perhaps envisioned from their youth, no longer exists except at very low tide. It is fortunate that they have access to our town beach opposite Ocean Park along the Sea View Ave in less than a 5 minute walk or the town's Jetty Beach west of the Oak Bluffs Harbor Entrance- in about a 5 minute car ride.

I would like to expound upon reasons that the MV Commission should vote favorably in going forward with the North Bluff Sheet Wall Project. As a former Chairman of the Oak Bluffs Parks Commission and the Oak Bluffs Boardwalk to Beach Task Force, I had cobblestoned grant funding from the National Parks, the MA Division of Conservation and Recreation, the Community Preservation Act and the voters of Oak Bluffs, and the Friends of Oak Bluffs - to revitalize the Sea View Avenue and it's North Bluff extension -over approximately a 6 year period. Part of this grant funding was for the restoration of the Historic Clay and Brick Bathhouse. This Bathhouse and contoured courtyard and sidewalk was painstakingly engineered to complement the Steamship Authority Ferry terminal project, the Lake Street Pedestrian and Road project, the MA Division of Marine fisheries pedestrian fishing pier AND the connecting Broadwalk proposed over the replacement for the failed North Bluff sea wall.

The ramp connecting the courtyard from the Historic Clay and Brick Bathhouse to this proposed "Broadwalk over the seawall" going to the Oak Bluffs harbor sidewalk is a part of our town's efforts to meet **Universal Access** standards for our citizens and the thousands of visitors who arrive by ferry daily in the summer months. The current sidewalk on the North Bluff is too narrow and made even narrower by overhanging parked cars. People in wheelchairs, parents with strollers, and pedestrians with wheeled luggage have great difficulty or just cannot negotiate the narrow sidewalk. They resort to traveling in the street along with moving buses, cars, mopeds and bicycles. This is an unsafe situation and not universal access friendly. **I cannot say enough about how important the new sea wall is to saving the North Bluff, the road and building infrastructure, and for improving Universal Access** to and from the many ferries that arrive in our harbor to public transportation such as the VTA bus service and beyond.

Our town administration and our Conservation and Parks commissions have planned for many years to protect the North Bluff and improve access to the majority of people. The people of the North Bluff do have other options for swimming and can take advantage of this. I believe it is in the best interest of the townspeople and its visitors to go forward with the current proposed Sheet wall project that has been funded. We cannot afford to lose this funding and the possible detrimental domino effect that will ensue. Please vote in favor of going forward with this project as is. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy F. Phillips