

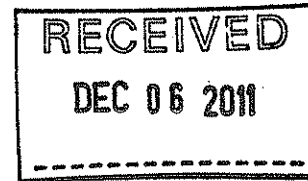
Jo-Ann Taylor

From: Brendan O'Neill [boneill@vineyardconservation.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 1:38 PM
To: Bill Veno; taylor@mvcommission.org
Subject: Island Roads DCPC testimony

via email

December 6, 2011

MV Commission
Old Stone Building
Oak Bluffs MA 02557



RE: Testimony of the Vineyard Conservation Society in support of proposed amendments to Island Road District Special Ways DCPC

Dear Commissioners:

The Vineyard Conservation Society (VCS) supports your efforts to amend the Island Road District DCPC, refining the description and rules regarding special ways. Such action is a sensible way to recognize these old ways as important historical, cultural and recreational resources and to bring better overlay protection through the zoning bylaws of our towns.

Whether private or public, these ways represent an important resource for the Island. Many are indeed quite ancient. Howard S. Russell in "Indian New England Before the Mayflower" (at p. 201, 204, University Press of New England, Hanover, N.H. 1980) states: "The landmarks of the aborigine turned into road marks for the succeeding English. Unmapped, unmarked except in the atlas of memory, these prehistoric ways of communication for centuries formed a familiar and essential feature of the landscape all through the eastern United States."

The Massachusetts Historic Commission's "Historic and Archaeological Resources of Cape Cod and the Islands (1987), states: "Land transportation for both Native Americans and Europeans continued to be based on the native trail system. (at p. 66.)

Your action will help ensure that these old ways remain an intact historical resource. Some of them will also offer current or future opportunities for passive recreation, providing access to, or linking, conservation lands around the Island for the benefit of the public.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer supportive testimony.

Sincerely,

Brendan O'Neill
Executive Director

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