

07.29.2021

The Buzzards Bay Coalition would like to hold an informational gathering about protection of the environment for Vineyard residents at Menemsha Beach (at the end of Basin Rd) on Thursday, September 23rd from 3:00-4:30 PM. The gathering would be a standing event (no chairs) and would include a brief presentation by Coalition President, Mark Rasmussen including time for Q&A. I have spoken with Betsy Larsen of Larsen's Fish Market who has agreed to provide cups of chowder for our guests during this event.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition, founded in 1987, is a member-supported organization working throughout the Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound watersheds to protect and restore coastal, river, and drinking water quality and the upland forests, wetlands, and streams that support a healthy ecosystem.

Some recent highlights of our work relevant to people who love Menemsha include:

- preserving nearly all of the remaining large developable property on Cuttyhunk and opening a new reserve to the public with improvements to the existing trail network, signage and amenities that will make it easier for visitors and residents to fully enjoy these newly protected areas.
- And completing our 29th season of monitoring through our nationally-recognized Baywatchers monitoring program. In 2012, the Coalition expanded the program to include Vineyard sound, and in 2016 partnered with the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah to further monitor Menemsha and Squibnocket Ponds, James Pond, and Lake Tashmoo.

The Coalition has made a long-term commitment to closely monitor these ponds, summarize the data into easy-to understand Bay Health Index scores, and ensure that consistent, high-quality science is always at the heart of Vineyard Sound and coastal pond protection efforts. All of our science is conducted in close partnership with the Marine Biological Laboratory's Ecosystems Center in Woods Hole.

I have completed the Town of Chilmark Beach Event Application to the best of my ability and have attached it below. **Will you please advise me as to the feasibility of the proposed event?**

I do have a couple of additional questions:

- 1) Knowing that Menemsha is a dry town, I'm wondering if we can provide cups of beer and wine for our guests.
- 2) We'd like to arrive via our 31' Steiger Craft and request dock space if that is available.
- 3) Since we plan to make a general invitation to local residents, please advise me regarding the transportation requirements listed on the application. I would expect that local residents would determine their own mode of transportation.

Thank you for your consideration

Donna Cobert
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