



Martha's Vineyard Commission

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September 28, 2021

Chilmark Select Board
Town of Chilmark
PO Box 119
Chilmark, MA 02535

RE: Special Town Meeting Warrant Article Request – Storm Tide Pathways Project

Honorable Select Board:

I understand the town is planning a Special Town Meeting. I would like to know if I may submit an article seeking local matching funds for the Storm Tide Pathways grant project. I would request \$5,000 for the Chilmark share.

In the first year of the two-year Storm Tide Pathways Project, 700 flood pathways were identified Island-wide that will flood as the sea rises and storm surges increase. The project is being done by the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown. This project is very valuable for first responders – there will be real-time water-level forecasting on a National Weather Service website. It will also be a valuable climate change planning tool. The towns will be provided with an app containing the mapped pathways and an inventory of low-lying roads and infrastructure. The project also includes hazard mitigation curriculum for middle school students.

All the Island towns identified flooding as a priority in the MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program resiliency workshops.

Thus far the County has contributed \$25,000 and the Town of Tisbury \$8,000. I will be asking the Town of Oak Bluffs for \$8,000 at their Special Town Meeting. West Tisbury is pending.

I appreciate your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Liz Durkee
MVC Climate Change Planner