

LUCY VINCENT BEACH EMERGENCY PATH REPAIR

The existing emergency that goes from the West side to the East side, has fallen into the ocean this winter due to some bad storms 2023/2024.

This path is used by Chilmark Fire Department if there is any emergency from Lucy Vincent heading east all the way to the Quansoo cut. If the cut is closed, they can get all the way to trustees in West Tisbury. The path is also used by any beach patron both on and off season in case the tide is very high or heavy surf prevents them from passing cliff area safely.

Current condition of the path we have no clear direction or access unless you are dangerously close to edge of cliff with unstable ground.

The repair is needed both ends. east side and west side. I will map out the projected area needing to be cleared to access the existing path. Tomato stakes and rope can be placed on each end to assure all traffic has minimal effect on what is left of the fragile dune and cliff area.

I have spoken to Jim Glavin from DECA and he is willing to do a site visit and will consider assisting the Beach Department with this project.

To accommodate an ATV we need a path repair to be 5 to 6 feet wide.

I have spoken to the Chilmark Fire Chief J. Bradshaw and he will provide drone photos of area and will also assist me with placement of markers if needed.

Thank you for your consideration
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I walked the path today to run some radio test with town hall and I placed a few markers in areas that have fallen into the ocean. The path that is still there goes over the back side of cliff not at top or near the edge. But the beginning and end of the path has fallen into the ocean. It is very clear that people are still walking this path and they are already making the alternate route. My concern is the alternate route is very close to the edge in some areas. A few years ago we had to close off areas that looked like a path leading up to the top. The tribe accesses this area in a body is discovered but no one should be on top. I saw at least two new areas that need closing off. Each year we cut the grass on the back path and assure it is wide enough for emergency response with room for any walkers to get out of the way. I think it is important to remember we want to keep people away from any edge of the cliff as the ground is very unstable. In addition to preserving any low cliff areas to try to stop further erosion making it clear where foot traffic is allowed or encouraged. right now it is free for all.

Honestly I am not even sure we can find anyone who can do this work as sand and brush cutting do not go very well.

all of the sand has been pushed back toward the pond on both the east and west side of the cliff. The good news is the sand has also been settling on the beach.

I understand we are to meet Monday at noon I will attach the fire chief this info so maybe he can also join us.

The cliff is not a cliff anymore there are several areas that have collapsed and new exposed rock., some very sharp.

This winter was a dramatic year for beach erosion for the entire island. Last time I saw this much damage was in 2011. That is the year the ocean opened up to the pond. That area continues to get wider each season.

The main path to the beach has been shortened by over 100 feet and the bluff to the right of the end of path washed over to almost non existent. Leaving the main path with no protection to incoming storms.