March 24, 2020

Dear Citizens of Chilmark,

Earlier today, the Chilmark Board of Selectmen in alliance with the Chilmark Board of Health took extraordinary measures to protect the lives of the residents of this town. The Chilmark Police Department applauds their measures to keep our population healthy. The COVID-19 virus, now on this island, is very contagious and does not yet have a cure. The best way to battle this virus is to stop its spread by limiting personal contact. The measures taken in today’s emergency order are in line with taking immediate action to accomplish this goal.

I understand there are many questions about today’s order, and I want to address the police department’s role. Massachusetts General Laws permit the municipal police to assist the board of health in these types of emergency orders. The Chilmark Police recognize the importance of compliance with this order and gladly will assist our board of health with it’s enforcement. Simply, we ask that all you please read the order carefully, understand the important message and our ultimate goal.

Please feel free to call or email me (jklaren@chilmarkma.gov) if you have any questions.

We are all looking forward to brighter days (and sunsets).

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Peace,

Jonathan P. Klarén

Chief of Police