

DATE: August 18, 2014

TO: Jim Malkin, Chairman; Town Committee on Squibnocket

FROM: Chilmark Board of Selectmen; Bill Rossi, Chairman

SUBJECT: Comments on the Squibnocket Project and Plan

As requested, this provides the Board of Selectmen's comments on the Squibnocket Project.

It is prudent to review the voter-approved Chilmark Master Plan—Open Space and Recreation Plan section. The following outlines the successive observations and recommendations made over the 18-year period of 1985-2003 for Squibnocket beach, parking and for beach, homeowner and pond access.

1985 Master Plan

Squibnocket Beach is leased from the private sector and is limited to town residents. It has a soft parking lot prone to erosion and separated from the sea by a steep stone wall. The beach is not universally accessible. There is one portable toilet. Transition Plan for 1999-2000: Obstacle: sea wall, surf and continuing erosion. Consult with Selectmen and conservation commission about feasibility of a ramp for the pond access.

1990-1992 Master Plan Supplement

There is ample evidence from observations during the summer season that the existing facilities are being used to capacity. At Squibnocket the leased portion of the beach becomes crowded. At present time conditions are not adequate. As the Town grows and the attendance at beaches increases the Town will have to secure additional space if it desires to maintain the quality of beach areas for Town residents. Consider extending beaches or acquiring new beaches to maintain quality and for growth of the Town. Acquire additional beach front wherever feasible.

2000-2003 Master Plan Supplement

As the Town grew in the 1990's, parking and traffic problems at Squibnocket Beach intensified. By 1998 conditions became serious. Often residents along roads to the beach were unable to access or leave their homes because of cars waiting in line for space in the lot. Also, full parking lots frequently necessitated turning cars away. As the summer population increases and the beaches in Town become more and more crowded, efforts should be made to acquire additional shore property other than in Menemsha.

Today

The Selectmen would like to see the Squibnocket plan address and solve the problems outlined in the Master Plan over the 1985-2003 period—the conditions of which have deteriorated even further from 2003 to now.

The Plan emphasizes the need for:

1. Additional beach front property at Squibnocket and,
2. Squibnocket Pond access for Chilmark residents.

The following outlines the specific features outlined in the Master Plan for the additional beach and pond access:

- Have the beach parking lot and beach shoreline safely accessible for our senior citizens and those with disabilities.
- Solve the parking problem in a manner that improves conditions for all Town residents using the beach and does not require the Squibnocket Farm homeowners or emergency services to drive through the Town's beach parking lot to get to their homes.
- Have an exit plan for removing the current revetment "sea wall" and raised parking lot and restoring the area back to a natural barrier beach and wetland. This plan should try to anticipate impacts of this on Squibnocket Road, the barrier beach and the pond.
- Provide seasonal rest room facilities of some sort for beach patrons.
- Provide safe public boat access to Squibnocket Pond.

In addition to these Master Plan objectives and to save Town taxpayers extra construction expense the plan should meet the conditions and timing required for the \$280,000 Coastal Zone Management grant the Town received on May 30, 2014.

Thank you for your time and consideration.