

## **To the Town Committee on Squibnocket**

### **A possible win-win solution for preserving both Squibnocket Beach and access to the Point: Artificial reefs**

In speaking with homeowners from both sides of Squibnocket Pond, I discovered that none of them had considered a possible option for saving both the public beach at Squibnocket and access to Squibnocket Point - the creation of one or two small, properly positioned artificial reefs.

I fully understand that people living on the point have concentrated on a solution that they can:

- 1) control, since they have the right to reach their properties along the route of the proposed bridge, and
- 2) achieve with enough rapidity to complete before the next big hurricane.

But the solution has several drawbacks, including its expense, which may be considerably greater at \$4.5 million than the cost of creating a couple of small artificial reefs composed of a few sunken scows (which could probably be bought for their value as scrap metal) loaded with rock or concrete. Although the positioning of such reefs would have to be finely calculated by an expert in coastal engineering, I envision two structures, one at an oblique angle to the beach off Stonewall, which would divert sand moving from east to west along the south shore inwards towards the public section at Squibnocket, and the second parallel to the parking lot to protect the thickening beach. Neither of these two reefs would affect the surfing areas just to the east and west of the public road. Furthermore, they would add "structure" to the sea bottom, which would enhance fishing.

Finally, I doubt that the solution would take much longer than the proposed one, which seems so divisive, since several of the homeowners from both sides of the pond have embraced the idea. This apparent consensus suggests that the solution would end the threat of lawsuits among them, which could put the construction of the bridge on hold.

In summation, the creation of such reefs might provide a win-win solution for:

- the town, by saving its beach,
- the owners in Black Smith Valley, who are worried that the proposed bridge would be a visual blight,
- the people living on Squibnocket Point,
- and, last but not least, the creatures of the pond, which would be saved from having to adjust to a saltier environment by preventing a new channel from forming between them and the sea.

I hope these ideas are useful not only in saving the beach where we swim and fish, but in bringing neighbors together.

My best wishes.

Duncan Caldwell