

**Virginia Parker Dawson  
24 Blacksmith Valley Road  
Chilmark, MA 02535**

July 18, 2013

Mr. James Malkin  
401 Middle Rd.  
P. O. Box 119  
Chilmark, MA 02535

Dear Mr. Malkin:

I am writing in response to your letter of June 26, 2014 following up on my December 6, 2013 letter to the Conservation Committee opposing the proposed bridge and parking lot. The creation of your committee is evidence that Chilmark voters are not willing to rush to a decision on a subject of such importance to the Town's future. I hope your committee will find a way to provide Squibnocket Ridge residents with continued access to their properties while working toward restoring and enhancing the Town Beach for public use. Squibnocket Ridge owners knew the risks of depending on a road along a fragile barrier beach when they purchased their properties. They should not expect the community to support a radical solution to their access problem that privileges their needs over those of the rest of the community.

A bridge is completely out of keeping with the values that make the Vineyard different from the mainland. Vineyard voters have consistently opposed traffic lights, fast food restaurants, and mega grocery stores. A \$4 million bridge for a dozen part-time residents, regardless of who pays for it, is an affront to these values. A bridge in this location would spoil the beauty of Squibnocket beach and pond for beachgoers. The entire project will accelerate erosion.

I would like to point out that the development of Squibnocket Ridge in recent years has made our walk to the beach increasingly dangerous as cars and large trucks, speeding to service the gated community beyond Money Hill, round the blind curve at the Vytlacil house. With dense vegetation on both sides of road, there is literally no room to step out of the way. Walking to the beach would become more perilous if we were expected to walk across, or under, a bridge. Furthermore, the new beach, to be located west of the present one, is unsuited for bathing because of rocks and seaweed, a condition unchanged for the last 60 years.

I have attended two of your meetings. Thank you for your willingness to consider dispassionately all sides. I hope you will make a viable Town Beach a priority and not cave into the demands of a few seasonal residents determined to protect their investment in Chilmark property with a poorly thought out plan for a bridge.

Yours Truly,

Virginia P. Dawson