

Friends of Squibnocket PO Box 267 Chilmark, MA 02535

Jim Malkin, Chair,
Town Committee on Squibnocket

Dear Jim

Thank you for your recent letter, as well as your leadership of the Town Committee on Squibnocket. As you have often stated, the mission statement of the Town Committee is to be receptive to all proposals that address the three directives of the Article passed by Town Meeting in April -- improved access to Squibnocket Farm, the restoration of Squibnocket Beach and parking.

As of this date there are two active proposals currently under consideration -
- the Squibnocket Farm Homeowners Association (SFHA) proposal for a raised causeway on property they own or control and the Friends of Squibnocket (FOS) proposal for a dune ridge in the same location.

When we initially engaged in this effort to develop alternatives, we indicated that a hard structure would be a solution of last resort and that we would be researching a proposal that would be consistent with Managed Retreat. After our further analysis of the affected area supported the feasibility of a coastal dune ridge, we determined that a coastal dune ridge would be our recommended strategy.

As documented in our presentation, a coastal dune strategy is clearly the best solution from an environmental perspective. A dune ridge improves the access to SF and is more appropriate for the rural nature of the surroundings. The beach would soon be restored in terms of quality, not just linear feet of shoreline. Parking and pedestrian access needs are also addressed through this strategy. The FOS recommended strategy of a coastal dune not only successfully addresses all three interests expressed in the Town Meeting Article but also does so at a fraction of the cost of the raised causeway.

Following up on the motion passed at the end of our September 16th meeting, we agree that a constructive engagement between SFHA and FOS could lead to a resolution of this issue and allow the Town Committee and the Town Meeting to support a common proposal. We most certainly are

willing to meet and hopefully build a greater consensus on the foundation of our common interests and objectives

Our position is that the engagement should not be confined to consideration of alternative locations for the bridge but should be more broadly framed and include discussion of the FOS dune ridge strategy we have just presented.

Given Larry's time constraints, any meeting will have to be set up after he returns, as we have prior commitments this week.

Sincerely,

Anthony Orphanos
Doug Liman
Wendy Jeffers
Charles Parker