

Beach Management Plan Working Group
Session 6 – February 16, 2023
Public Questions

Question 1: There has been a lot of discussion about earning trust from the public back. If/when TTOR states a commitment to start a new communication plan (or any other commitment) and those of us in this process take the leap and say "Ok, we will try to trust this commitment and hope for change" What does this group envision the process will be for holding TTOR accountable to meet those commitments if they are not met?

Answer 1: The beach management stakeholder group has requested continuing these meetings on a regular basis similar in fashion to the meetings The Trustees, MV Beach Access Group, MV Fishing Derby, and MV Surfcasters have had monthly in the past. In this manner, we can continue the important dialog around beach access and protection of the beach system, working together collaboratively, and holding each other accountable.

Question 2: What actual ACTION has TTOR taken to date working towards repairs/replacement of Dyke bulkhead they've owned for past 64 years?

Answer 2: The Dike Bridge (and its wingwalls and abutments) are owned by the town and inspected by the Mass Department of Transportation. Accordingly, we are working as a partner to the town to support bridge maintenance operations and care as well as with an engineering firm to confirm the needs and responsibilities for maintenance of approaches (such as the bulkhead) necessary to access the bridge. Below is an inventory of recent activities related to the Dike Bridge:

- The Trustees has taken steps to advance our understanding of the needs at the Dike Bridge and improve our partnership with the town on this infrastructure.
- In the last several weeks:
 - We have been in contact with Mass DOT and the author of the most recent inspection to better understand the conditions and concerns flagged.
 - We have also been in contact with the Highway Department in Edgartown to get a better understanding of the needs and opportunities for us to partner more effectively on the maintenance requirements.
 - We have been in contact with Jane Varkonda, the Conservation Agent for the Town of Edgartown, on the best path forward to securing permits for future maintenance.
- Mass DOT inspected the Dike Bridge and bulkhead in September 2021 and found no acute issues requiring immediate attention.
- The damage caused by the Christmas storm was remediated by the Town thereby precluding the need for The Trustees to pursue an emergency permit. The areas addressed by the Town's work included portions of the bulkhead.

Question 3: If TTOR states, as they have repeatedly stated in these meetings, they do not have the budget, staff, other resources to operate on Chappaquiddick in a way that meets the needs and requests and recommendations of this hand picked consensus group, how does that factor into the ENFORCEMENT of this BMP, regardless of what gets written into it. How can the public think that this process is nothing more than an exercise in wishful thinking at best, or fiction at worst.

Answer 3: It is important to clarify the difference between securing the financial resources needed to implement new recommendations proposed by the working group and the inaccurate statement that

The Trustees does “not have the budget, staff, or other resources to operate on Chappaquiddick...” The Trustees has been managing the pristine beaches and delicate land on Chappaquiddick since 1958. As an organization designed to protect land for the public’s use and enjoyment forever and with a 130-year history, The Trustees has been and will always be poised to responsibly manage these exceptional places. New initiatives take planning and resources to implement, and The Trustees has an established history on both these and their implementation and management. We are committed to working with the community to build trust as well as working on the planning and resources required for improved practices and better management.

Question 4: Beach closure signs TTOR displays are not directed towards Cape Pogue Residents. They’re directed towards OSV’s wanting to enter the Refuge. We need to be kept informed of closures in a timely manner for our activities of daily living.

Answer 4: The Trustees has ordered new signs for better wayfinding, including Trustees property boundary signs. We have communicated this with our neighbors at Cape Pogue and will work with them on the placement of these signs.