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APRIL/MAY 2010

Oak Bluffs Facelift

Work is nearing completion on the Lake Avenue project in Oak Bluffs, the reconfiguration of the streets and sidewalks between the Steamship Authority Ferry Terminal and the Oak Bluffs Harbor.

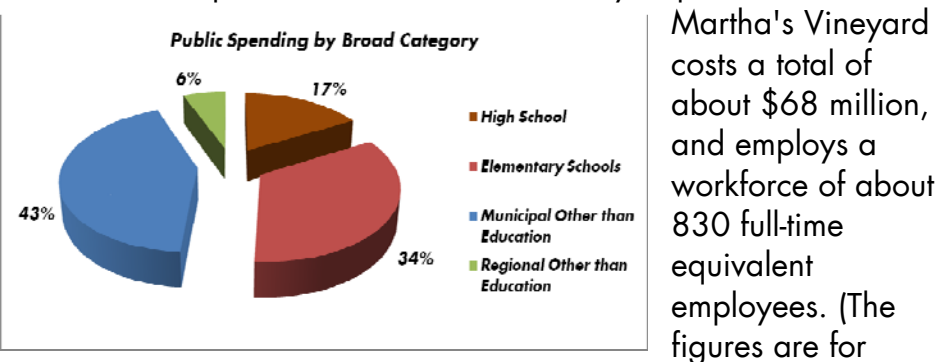
This area at the foot of Circuit Avenue probably has the highest concentration of pedestrians on the Vineyard, both day and night. However, sidewalks were seriously inadequate or, in some locations totally missing, leading to an unsafe situation where pedestrians commonly walked in the roadway. Also, there were no continuous road shoulders to accommodate bicycles. At the same time, there was an excess of asphalt; in some places there a single lane of traffic was over twenty feet wide, twice the normal highway standards.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission worked closely with the MV Joint Transportation Committee and the Town of Oak Bluffs to define the Lake Avenue project and secure about \$2 million in federal and state funding to reconfigure the roadway, sidewalks, and shoulders to safely accommodate for all modes.

Public Services Study

The University of Massachusetts Collins Center for Public Management has completed a report on the "Delivery of Public Services on Martha's Vineyard". The report was initiated as a result of discussions at the All-Island Selectmen's Association about the possibility of exploring alternative ways of delivering services. The report was contracted by the Martha's Vineyard Commission in cooperation with the County of Dukes County and with participation from the six Island towns. The study was funded by a Department of Housing and Community Development District Local Technical Assistance Grant.

The purpose of the report was to analyze the current delivery of town, multi-town, and regional services on the Vineyard as a baseline for future discussions. The consultants used 2008-09 data from the Department of Revenue, the towns, and other public entities. The report indicates that the delivery of public services on



Martha's Vineyard costs a total of about \$68 million, and employs a workforce of about 830 full-time equivalent employees. (The figures are for

appropriations of direct expenses related to delivery of services, and do not include fixed assets, borrowing, insurance, or capital improvements.)

The consultants identified several areas where it might be worth considering alternative ways to deliver services based on experiences elsewhere in the Commonwealth as well as suggestions from Island town officials, namely: 1) Financial - Accounting, Assessing, Treasury, & Collector; 2) Inspectional - Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Gas, & Health; 3) Public Safety - Animal Control, Police, Fire, & EMS; and 4) Elementary Education.

The report will be presented to the All-Island Selectmen on May 13. It can be obtained from the MVC website or the Commission.

Information: Christine Flynn flynn@mvcommission.org.

Wind Energy Planning

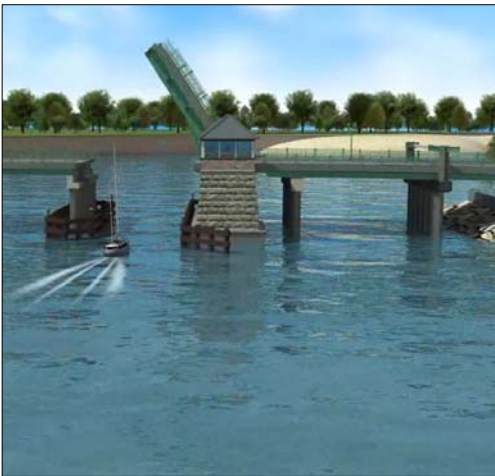
The Wind Energy Plan Work Group continues its efforts to look at the possibility of locating wind turbines on land or offshore. To keep informed about the ongoing work, ask to be put on the mailing list. The Work Group meets the second Thursday of each month at the MVC.

Information: Bill Veno veno@mvcommission.org

Preliminary Plans for Permanent Drawbridge

The preliminary plans for the permanent Lagoon Pond Drawbridge will be on display in the offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission for the next two weeks. The bridge will replace the temporary drawbridge now in place. MassDOT expects to begin construction in about two years, and that the permanent bridge will be completed in five years.

MassDOT showed these plans at a public hearing held on April 29. MassDOT officials said that comments received in the ten business days after the hearing will form part of the official transcript, but they will also consider comments received after that date.



The Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee, appointed by the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Boards of Selectmen, will be compiling a consolidated set of comments over the next few weeks, and invites feedback from town boards and members of the public. Please send your comments to london@mvcommission.org.

The MVC offices are located in The Stone Building, 33 New York Avenue, Oak Bluffs, and are open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The plans are also available on the Martha's Vineyard Commission website: www.mvcommission.org (search for the keyword "drawbridge").

Excerpts from the Public Services Report

"The current state of the national, state, and local economy is leading state and local governments to consider greater efficiencies in the delivery of public services. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been supportive of municipalities and regions considering efforts to regionalize or consolidate public services while recognizing that regionalizing services is not always the best solution. The possibility of sharing services could be looked at as a way to save money or as a way to improve the quality of services, even if costs cannot be reduced.

"Several factors make comparisons between Vineyard and other communities difficult. First, the huge seasonal variation, far greater than even Cape Cod, means that services are being provided to a much larger number of people than accounted for when using census populations. Second, the fact that the Vineyard is an island introduces a whole series of considerations related to transportation and the availability of work force. Third, as a largely tourist and seasonal community, the economy depends on providing an excellent experience to seasonal residents and visitors, which translates into an expectation for an exceptionally high quality of services."

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, May 11, 5:00 p.m.

Bicycle Pedestrian Committee
MVC Offices

Wednesday, May 12, 2:00 p.m.

Joint Transportation Committee
MVC Offices

Thursday, May 13, 4:00 p.m.

Wind Energy Plan Work Group
MVC Offices

Please check the Calendar section of the MVC website for the latest updates.

DRI Status Report

Island Fuels – modification, West Tisbury (#566-M2) – Approved 04/15/10

Rickard Bakery – retail use, Tisbury (#311-M2) – Approved 04/01/10

YMCA – landscaping, Oak Bluffs (#600M) – Approved 04/15/10

Ferry/Art Gallery – change of use, West Tisbury (#598M) – Remanded 04/15/10

Tom's Neck Farm – Modification, Edgartown (#483-M) – LUPC 05/10/17

Wavelengths – multi-use building, Edgartown (#623) – PH 05/06/10.

Hart Plumbing – modification, West Tisbury (#549M) – PH 05/06/10.

Tisbury Market Place – multi-use building, Tisbury (#485-M5) – Continued PH t.b.d.

10 State Road – multi-use building, Tisbury (#622) – PH t.b.d.

Williams / Big Sky – commercial building, West Tisbury (#618M) – LUPC t.b.d.

Surfside Motel/Condos – Modification - hotel to condos, Oak Bluffs (#295-M) – On hold at Applicant's request

LUPC Land Use Planning Committee review
CR Commission Concurrence Review
PH Commission Public Hearing
DD Commission deliberation and decision
WD Commission vote on written decision
t.b.d. to be determined

All meetings at MVC offices unless otherwise noted. (Information: Paul Foley, ext. 18, foley@mvcommission.org, or on the website)

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