

*Siasconset Civic Association
Post Office Box 360
Siasconset, Massachusetts 02564*

June 12, 2013

Mr. Rick Atherton
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Town of Nantucket
Broad Street
Nantucket, MA 02554

Re: Urgent Need for Stabilization of Sankaty Bluff

Dear Chairman Atherton and Members of the Board of Selectmen:

I am writing on behalf of the Siasconset Civic Association to urge that you act in a positive and timely manner to protect Baxter Road by the installation of a bluff stabilization system in advance of this winter's storm season. We understand that a viable plan for doing so is now being considered by the Selectmen and that a decision is needed by you this month if we are to have a chance to protect the road.

We have been following closely the discussion about what to do and believe strongly that a plan that is broadly supported by the community and is largely privately financed can be devised with the leadership of local stakeholders. However this community approach requires a sincere effort supported by you to save the road from imminent closure as a core element. The alternative access routes are all likely to be contentious, highly problematic and in any event only temporary. Most in our community are convinced that stabilizing the bluff will work as it does elsewhere on the Massachusetts coast and will make the alternative access routes unnecessary. While alternative access may be prudent on a back-up basis, it can only be arranged if the primary effort is to keep the road open and the bluff protected.

We look forward to assisting in guiding the concern in our community over the crisis caused by the last winter's devastating threat to Baxter Road into an opportunity that will finally address the erosion problem that is eating away at our homes and our tax base.

Sincerely,



Mark Donato
President, Siasconset Civic Association

