

**From:** [danneatherton@comcast.net](mailto:danneatherton@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Erika Mooney](#)  
**Cc:** [Josh Balling](#)  
**Subject:** LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN W/COPY TO I&M AS LETTER TO THE EDITOR  
**Date:** Monday, April 07, 2014 4:12:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [NCC LtrBOS I&M Editor.pdf](#)  
[ATT00004..htm](#)  
[NCC LtrBOS I&M Editor.docx](#)  
[ATT00005..htm](#)  
[NCC-Email-Signature1.jpg](#)  
[ATT00006..htm](#)

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TO: ERIKA AND JOSH

FROM: D. ANNE/NCC

RE: LETTER TO THE BOS

COPY: I&M/LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Attached please find a letter to the members of the Board of Selectmen from the Nantucket Coastal Conservancy.

We would appreciate it being distributed to the individual Board members, as well as the Town Manager.

By way of this communication, we are also submitting it to the Inquirer and Mirror, with the request that it be printed as a Letter to the Editor.

If both you, Erika, and Josh, would kindly acknowledge that this message and the attachments have been received and all is in order, we would appreciate it.

Best regards,

D. Anne for the NCC Coordinating Team

ATTACHMENTS (2): SAME DOCUMENT IN PDF AND WORD

April 7, 2014

The Board of Selectmen  
Town of Nantucket  
Nantucket MA 02554

Dear Members of the Board:

You should be aware that your partner, the Siasconset Beach Preservation Fund (SBPF), with whom you entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, is disseminating false information.

In a lengthy email, as well as a Letter to the Editor that was printed in the paper last week, the SBPF President says, to cite just one example: "This project is privately funded, designed and constructed to high professional standards, and will save the Town the significant costs and engineering challenges of relocating Baxter Road."

In regard to the statement that the project is "constructed to high professional standards," the reality is quite the contrary. The applicants were issued an Enforcement Order by the Conservation Commission citing four violations, for which SBPF took full responsibility. In addition, the construction process came under the scrutiny of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for another possible violation, for which the ACOE has declined to provide a written finding of exoneration.

As to saving the Town money, you have been informed by Town Counsel that all of the costs related to relocating Baxter Road — including litigation — are recoverable by betterments, a special tax levied on the affected property owners. While there may be up-front expenses incurred by the Town for engineering and relocating Baxter Road, these costs will eventually be paid in full by the private property owners who are impacted, just as they did when Sheep Pond Road had to be moved.

The fact is this project has already cost the taxpayers money. During the past months, considerable staff time has been diverted from other Town priorities. The DPW Head has called her Baxter Road work "a second full-time job." Other Town officials have also spent large amounts of time working on the project, turning staff attention away from important initiatives. As stated publicly by the Town Manager, these include implementation of the fertilizer regulations and collecting past-due sewer-fund payments. The latter, if not collected in timely fashion, will never be recoverable.

SBPF seems to presume that their hard-armoring project's success is pre-ordained and guaranteed, and thus that Baxter Road will definitely not have to be relocated. This is, of course, an absurd presumption, especially as there has been ample photographic evidence since the construction was completed that the bluff continues to erode. Time will be the test of the geotubes: Touting their success at this point is premature.

We support an informed public dialogue, based on facts about the merits of the geotube project, as we are sure you do. To this end, we request that you insist that your partner do the same. Providing distorted, incomplete or downright misleading information to citizens for public relations purposes is simply unacceptable. While this has been going on for months, if not years, it is time for you to bring it to an end.

Sincerely,

Peter Brace  
Sunny Daily  
John Merson  
Linda Sperry  
Liz Trillos  
Charley Walters  
Mary Wawro

COPY: Letter to the Editor, Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror