

Dawn Hill Holdgate  
Chair, Select Board  
16 Broad Street  
Nantucket, MA 02554  
By Email

February 9, 2018

Re: Application for Erosion  
Protection at Baxter Road

Dear Chair Holdgate,

On January 3, 2018, the Siasconset Beach Preservation Fund Inc. submitted a request to the Select Board seeking consent from the Town to file a Notice of Intent with the Conservation Commission for the expansion, in time and distance, of the existing erosion protection system now installed along 87-105 Baxter Road. The expansion would be from about 950 feet to about 3,800 feet, along 59 Baxter Road to apportion of 122 Baxter Road, which matches the current location of bluff erosion, a portion of which is on Town owned land.

I request that this matter be placed on the Select Board agenda for February 14, 2018 so that the matter can be heard at the Conservation Commission on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The consent requested of the Board is limited solely to allowing the Conservation Commission to consider the application – it would not authorize any work, which would be negotiated in a later lease or license with the Board, and it would not predetermine the details of the project or its mitigation, which would be set by the Conservation Commission upon review of the project at public hearings with proper technical and public input.

The prior request contained a detailed description of the project, a timeline of prior events, a plan showing the existing and proposed location of the project, photos showing the system as installed (geotubes covered in sand, with a vegetated bluff and a wide beach), and a propose assent. This information is attached here again for your convenience.

In addition to SBPF filing for this permit with the Conservation Commission, I want to inform you that Epsilon Associates Inc. has also recently filed the latest annual report on the project with the Conservation Commission, and this report is currently under peer review by their third-party expert. SBPF is very pleased to report that the substantial data collected in the past four years demonstrates the following:

- The system has been successfully performing as expected.
- The rigorous mitigation protocols have been maintained.
- No failure criteria have been met.

- There are no adverse effects to adjacent beaches, to the nearshore hard bottom environment, to the wetlands at the top of the bluff, or to beach invertebrates. In particular, the cobble habitat offshore from the project area is healthy and productive.
- Erosion in front of or adjacent to the geotubes has not accelerated in excess of historic data. Shoreline positions and the rate of shoreline change are similar to historic patterns.
- The sand mitigation contribution required at Sconset is in excess of mitigation required elsewhere on Nantucket and in other coastal communities, and is far greater than the natural rate of contributions - the project area has contributed nearly three times more sand than the adjacent unprotected bluff areas over the last four years.

The annual reports and the third party-review will be incorporated into the expansion review process.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Cohen" clearly distinguishable.

Steven Cohen  
Counsel to SBPF