

Town of Edgartown  
Cape Pogue DCPC

Minutes of Meeting  
March 31, 2022 5:00 P.M.

In Attendance (virtual):

Edgartown Board of Health (Chris Edwards)  
The Trustees of Reservations Membership (Bob Hayman)  
The Trustees of Reservations Staff (Darci Schofield)  
Cape Pogue Property Owner appointed by the Edgartown Board of Selectmen (Rachel Self)  
Conservation/Wildlife Specialist (appointed jointly by Sheriffs' Meadow Foundation, Vineyard Conservation Society, and Vineyard Open Land Foundation) (Matt Pelikan)  
Edgartown Police Department (Sgt Ryan Ruley)  
Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee (Ed Handy)  
Edgartown Shellfish Constable (Rob Morrison)

Meeting called to order at 5:02 P.M.

Discussion of abuse of natural resource by boats on the water

Received commentary from members of the DCPC committee regarding how the anchoring moratorium has assisted in protecting the resource, and whether there is any data available regarding any changes occurring as a result of the moratorium.

James Hagerty, Rob Morrison, Bob Hamon, Matt Dyroff, and Edward B. Self agreed that anecdotal evidence existed that the moratorium had lowered the number of boats from the year before, but that there appeared to be low compliance with boats using the designated anchorage zone, perhaps due to confusion.

Attendees noted a lack of enforcement or monitoring of the zone by the town. Sgt. Ryan Ruley indicated he would attempt to obtain records from the Edgartown Police Department regarding the number of complaints regarding the zone, and explained that EPD has not had a presence on the water in the last couple of years, and that the Harbormaster would normally have handled any complaints and called EPD as needed.

Engaged questions from community members regarding anchoring moratorium.

Victor Colantonio inquired as to whether the moratorium would continue into the next season, or whether it needed to be renewed in some way. He believed the moratorium worked well and should continue. Attendees discussed whether the Committee could extend the moratorium itself, or whether the Committee should instead make recommendations to the Selectmen regarding whether or not to renew. Rachel Self, Matt Dyroff, and Ed Handy expressed that enforcement of and education regarding existing regulations was important, as well as exploring where responsibility lay for enforcement.

James Hagerty later indicated that based on records of previous meetings, moratorium was enacted for one summer. Rachel Self recalled it was enacted as a temporary measure to see how it went. Rachel Self and Ed Handy agreed that if Committee agreed, Marine Advisory Committee could advise Selectmen regarding moratorium. James Hagerty indicated a vote could be taken at the next Committee meeting after review of any proposals.

#### Discussion of abuse of natural resource by vehicles on the land

Chairperson Rachel Self expressed that abuse of the resource by vehicles on the land was a longstanding concern to residents, and that it did not appear there were any regulations in place or monitoring of vehicle numbers. Welcomed commentary from attendees,

Victor Colantonio expressed serious concerns regarding the consequences of vehicle traffic concentrating in a single path down the center of the peninsula, due to frequent impassability of inside road. The overburdening of trails by hundreds of cars per day going back and forth along the road was deteriorating the landscape. He expressed that the Trustees had cordoned off the jetties, which further exacerbated the traffic issue, and that his property had been cordoned off during bird season preventing him from driving on his own land.

Alexis Colantonio inquired as to whether a moratorium on cars could be enacted. Rachel Self indicated that one challenge was obtaining access to numbers of vehicles coming onto resource. James Hagerty expressed doubt that Selectmen would approve such a moratorium without such numbers and raised questions regarding legal authority to impose moratorium.

Rachel Self inquired as to whether there was a beach management plan in place for Cape Pogue, and who might be enacting it. Darci Schofield indicated a beach management plan had been drafted by the Trustees, and that Trustees planned to use the summer season to collect feedback from other stakeholders, including holding public forums perhaps in August, and then to use the fall season to make necessary adjustments to the plan. She indicated she did not believe any other stakeholders had a hand in drafting the beach management plan.

Welcomed commentary from attendees on abuse of natural resource by vehicles on the land.

Edward Self recounted difficulty of obtaining numbers of vehicles crossing the land from the Trustees, going back to the 70's and 80's. He questioned why the east beach road has been so frequently closed, requiring traffic to use the center road. Suggested that opening this road would decrease the impact on other areas, and suggested that the town might hire someone to collect vehicle numbers.

Thomas Ross indicated no one had spoken to him regarding beach management plan.

Alexis Colantonio expressed concern that no stakeholders had been consulted in drafting the beach management plan.

Ed Handy inquired whether the Trustees had a capacity control system for Chappaquiddick as they do for Norton Point. Darci Schofield provided some vehicle numbers: on a daily basis during the summer there is a low of 43, high of 267, rarely over 200 vehicles. Numbers are consistent across years. Vehicle counters will be set up in the next couple of weeks.

Darci Schofield expressed willingness and desire to meet with land owners.

Rachel Self expressed that abuse by vehicles on the land has been a longstanding concern for residents, and that the potentially exponential increase in vehicle usage was a serious problem for such a delicate natural resource. Was hopeful that regular meetings of this Committee would finally begin to address the issue. The Committee was formed to protect the resource, and as circumstances evolve the Committee should determine how to identify and solve issues. Asked attendees to send any thoughts regarding the meeting, in order to prepare next agenda.

Next meeting set for April 28, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 P.M.