

**To: Edgartown Conservation Commission and Edgartown Planning Board**

**From: MV Beachgoers Access Group's Leadership Team**

**Subject: Support for Trustees of the Reservation's Projects - June 26th, 2024 Edgartown Conservation Committee Meeting**

**Date: 6/20/2024**

The MV Beachgoers Access Group (MVBAG) is a non-profit organization of Vineyard residents, business owners, and frequent visitors dedicated to preserving the balance between responsible beach access and active conservation on the Island. We have a leadership team of 10 people and a vibrant Facebook community of over 2200 members. We are writing to express our support for the Trustees of the Reservation's projects on the agenda of the Edgartown Conservation Committee meeting on June 26th, 2024 as well as potential future meetings of the Conservation Commission and Edgartown Planning Board.

### **Wasque Stairs**

The stairs at Wasque near the Fisherman's Parking Lot are a vital part of the historical walk-on access. Wasque is a renowned fishing destination, not only in the state but also nationally. Due to changes in the beach and other factors, there is no public OSV access to the Wasque properties. The stairs provide the only practical access, especially for elderly and mobility-challenged individuals. We urge you to approve the Wasque Stair NOI, enabling the Edgartown Planning Board to obtain a DCPC Special Permit.

### **Tom's Neck Trail Reconfiguration**

Tom's Neck is a cherished spot for families to enjoy the calm and safe area of Cape Poge Bay. As part of the Trustees' adaptive management strategy, they have recognized that the current trails were not safe for OSV travel and did not comply with the Wetland Protection Act. They have replenished the area and closed the unsafe trails to restore the marshland. The Trustees have submitted a comprehensive plan to reconfigure the OSV trail system to allow public access to Tom's Neck. We ask that you review and approve this plan.

### **Extension of SE20-1672**

With the recently approved Orders of Conditions, SE20-1702 (Leland's/Wasque) and SE20-1703 (Cape Poge Refuge), being appealed to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), extending the current Order of Condition (SE20-1672) approved in 2023 is crucial. This extension will ensure practical access to the majority of the beaches managed by the Trustees until the appeal process is resolved. We request that the Edgartown Conservation Committee approve any extensions of SE20-1672 that are requested by TTOR.

Thank you for your consideration.

MV Beachgoers Access Group

Peter Sliwkowsk - Edgartown Homeowner and Full-time Resident

Jonathan Herman - Edgartown Homeowner

Chris Kennedy - Independent Consultant and former Island Director of the TTOR

Karen Cambray - Edgartown Homeowner

John Piekos - Edgartown Homeowner

Bruce Dew - Frequent Renter in Edgartown

Brad Holley - Edgartown Homeowner

Morgan Herman - Edgartown Homeowner

Jay Hunter - Edgartown Homeowner

Bob Bottary - Edgartown Homeowner