***CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE ADVISORY COMMISSION THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTH MEETING***

HELD AT CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE, Marconi Station

Area, Park Headquarters, South Wellfleet, Massachusetts, on Monday, March 13, 2017, commencing at 1:03 p.m.

SITTING:

Richard Delaney, Chairman Larry Spaulding

Nat Goddard Lilli Green Joseph Craig Sheila Lyons Mary-Jo Avellar Mark Robinson Maureen Burgess

Bob Summersgill, alternate Also present:

George Price, Superintendent

Kathy Tevyaw, Deputy Superintendent Lauren McKean, Park Planner

Sue Moynihan, Chief of Interpretation & Cultural Resources Courtney Butler, Assistant to the Superintendent

Nita Tallent, Chief of Natural Resources & Science (partial) Donald Palladino, President of the Friends of the Cape Cod

National Seashore Audience members

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**I N D E X**

Page

Adoption of Agenda . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

(December 12, 2016) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3

Reports of Officers. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 4

Reports of Subcommittees . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5

Update of Pilgrim Nuclear Plant Emergency Planning. 5

Nickerson Fellowship. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 7

Superintendent's Report. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8

Highland Light. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8

Advisory Commission Appointments . . . . . . . . . 11

Storm Damage/Erosion Update . . . . . . . . . . . . 12

Shorebird Management Plan/Environmental Assessment Update . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 14

Kitesurfing Update. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 14

Seashore Projects . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 20

Nauset Spit Update. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 25

Nauset Marsh Dredging . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 25

Improved Properties/Town Bylaws . . . . . . . . . . 30

Herring River Wetland Restoration . . . . . . . . . 36

Ocean Stewardship Topics - Shoreline Change . . . . 64

Climate Friendly Parks. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 64

Healthy Parks, Healthy People . . . . . . . . . . . 70

Old Business . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 72

Update on Horton's Campground Private Commercial Properties Related to their CSCs . . . . . . . . 72

Live Lightly Campaign Progress Report . . . . . . . 81

New Business . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 83

Date and Agenda for Next Meeting . . . . . . . . . . . 91

Public Comment . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 92

Adjournment 109

[Reporter's Certificate 111](#_TOC_250000)

# P R O C E E D I N G S

1. MR. DELANEY: Good afternoon, everyone. I am
2. pleased to call to order the 360th meeting of the Cape
3. Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission and the 54th
4. meeting of Superintendent Price as superintendent and,
5. sadly, his last meeting at the other end of the table.
6. MS. AVELLAR: I'm so sad you're leaving.
7. MR. PRICE: As you're smiling.
8. (Laughter.)
9. MR. DELANEY: So we have a long agenda and a lot of
10. things to cover today on some very important topics, and
11. then we'll talk more about Superintendent Price at some
12. point.

# ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. MR. DELANEY: So I'd like to adopt the agenda. As
2. always, it was sent out in advance. If there are no
3. suggested changes or additions at this time, I'll
4. entertain a motion to adopt it as printed.
5. MS. AVELLAR: So moved.
6. MS. LYONS: Second.
7. MR. DELANEY: All in favor?
8. BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (DECEMBER 12, 2016)

1. MR. DELANEY: You also have the minutes from our
   1. last meeting, which was December 12. It's usually been
   2. the role of our representative from Eastham to be the
   3. primary scribe.
   4. MR. GODDARD: I've raised the question of one word
   5. in the entire thing. That was on page 98. And I
   6. checked it with Linda, and she said that's what it was.
   7. MR. DELANEY: Okay, so if there are no further
   8. problems, we can --
   9. MR. GODDARD: It's line 20, second word in.
   10. MR. DELANEY: Good editing. Thank you.
   11. MR. GODDARD: It stays as it is.
   12. MR. DELANEY: You fulfilled the job of the Eastham
   13. rep.
   14. Any other changes or additions or corrections?
   15. (No response.)
   16. MR. DELANEY: Hearing none, I'll accept a motion to
   17. approve the minutes as distributed with that one change.
   18. MS. AVELLAR: So moved.
   19. MR. GODDARD: Second.
   20. MR. DELANEY: All those in favor, signify by saying
   21. aye.
   22. BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

# REPORTS OF OFFICERS

* 1. MR. DELANEY: Reports of Officers. I don't believe
     1. there are any on tap.

# REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

* + 1. MR. DELANEY: So we'll go to subcommittees and ask
    2. Maureen to update us on her two subcommittees, the
    3. Pilgrim nuclear plant and the Nickerson fellowship.
    4. UPDATE OF PILGRIM NUCLEAR PLANT
    5. EMERGENCY PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
    6. MS. BURGESS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
    7. So you did receive, commissioners, in your packets
    8. at home the letter which was drafted February 24, 2017.
    9. Remember we discussed at our last meeting sending a
    10. letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission with
    11. our concerns regarding the Pilgrim plant, especially in
    12. light of the e-mail that came out in -- back before our
    13. last meeting? And so you should have all received that
    14. letter. If anyone wants a hard copy today, I can make a
    15. copy before you go.
    16. I will not read the whole letter. I think I'll
    17. just give you the last paragraph for the benefit of the
    18. people who are visiting today. So the last paragraph
    19. says -- and this went to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
    20. Commission: (Reading) As representatives from the six
    21. Outer Cape towns of Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet,
    22. Orleans, Chatham, Eastham, Barnstable County, and the

1. Governor of Massachusetts, we have felt that it is our
2. responsibility to remain informed on the status of
3. Pilgrim. A radiological release there would have a
4. catastrophic impact on Cape Cod Bay, our towns, our
5. citizens, and visitors to the Cape Cod National
6. Seashore. In light of the recent e-mail from the chief
7. of operations, we feel more strongly than ever that we
8. deserve to have a meeting with the NRC representatives
9. to get the full report and express our concerns (end
10. reading). And the letter was signed by our chair, Rich
11. Delaney, and a representative of the Cape Cod National
12. Seashore Advisory Commission.
13. So, Mr. Chairman, have we received a response?
14. MR. DELANEY: We have not.
15. MS. BURGESS: We have not.
16. We are adding our voices to many other groups that
17. have voiced concern, and I just wanted to tell the
18. commissioners and those in the audience that on March 21
19. the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will be having an open
20. meeting in Plymouth. It's the Plymouth Memorial --
21. Memorial Hall at 83 Court Street. And it's either at
22. six or seven. I'm not absolutely sure of the time. If
23. you're interested, I can let you know.
24. So they will be releasing their final report on
    1. their most recent inspections. They did have a meeting
    2. in February which Lilli and I were heading to go to, but
    3. the snow turned us around. So this time they will
    4. actually be giving the full report on what they had seen
    5. as was reported in the leaked e-mail that went kind of
    6. rogue. So I'm hoping that I can go, and if it would be
    7. okay, I would introduce myself as a representative of
    8. the Commission, if that has everybody's approval.
    9. MR. DELANEY: I think it sure does. Thank you. We
    10. appreciate it.
    11. MS. BURGESS: So I don't have anything.
    12. Lilli?
    13. MS. GREEN: (Shakes head.)
    14. MS. BURGESS: Anybody else?
    15. (No response.)
    16. MS. BURGESS: So I think that's the most salient
    17. thing about the Pilgrim Subcommittee.
    18. NICKERSON FELLOWSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE
    19. MS. BURGESS: I just wanted to say a brief update
    20. on the Nickerson Fellowship Committee.
    21. Dr. Tallent did get the RFPs out in later February.
    22. So we could not do that without the help of the staff of
    23. the Park because they provide all of that outreach for
    24. us in terms of getting the request for proposals out.
25. So they are out, and when they are collected, the
26. committee will be meeting probably in April.
27. You know, it's a small committee. I'm your
28. representative from the Commission, always welcome to
29. have more representatives from the Commission. We have
30. a representative from the Friends, and then we have some
31. members at large who have scientific backgrounds who
32. review the RFPs.
33. So that's all I have on that.
34. MR. DELANEY: Thank you.
35. Any questions on either one of those topics for
36. Maureen?
37. (No response.)
38. MR. DELANEY: Okay.

# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. MR. DELANEY: We will turn to the Superintendent's
2. Report. George?
3. MR. PRICE: It's kind of a long one. I'm going to
4. try not to cough through the whole thing. I'm on week
5. five of my cough from the flu. So I'm not allergic, but
6. we'll move ahead.
7. HIGHLAND LIGHT
8. MR. PRICE: I just wanted to actually bring up two
9. things prior to my extensive report. Number one, we had
10. a field trip this morning to the Highland Light in
11. Truro, and we had three of your members join me on that
12. field trip. Bill Burke was there and Paula, who
13. actually runs the place for Eastern National. The
14. reason I wanted to do that is I just wanted to make the
15. Commission aware of the future work that's going to have
16. to be done out there. So I put by your place for
17. everybody that was not on the field trip a brochure that
18. we talked about, and on the back of the brochure,
19. there's actually an outline of all the structural issues
20. that (inaudible) actually identified.
21. So the issue is that the way the lighthouse was put
22. together and designed, the way it was supposed to be
23. maintained, it was kind of lost to history even while
24. the Coast Guard was still there. And in order to move
25. the lighthouse in '96, they actually had to fill in some
26. of the air spaces between the brick walls -- there were
27. three concentric brick walls there -- and to make it
28. solid enough to pick it up and relocate it. So
29. consequently, all the passive air circulation within the
30. walls and in the interior tower were fundamentally
31. changed. That has now resulted in spalling and a number
32. of other structural things. That's what we talked
33. about.
    1. So it's going to take about a million and a half
    2. dollars. The Park Service is lining up that project
    3. work. We've already had early phases of work done,
    4. structural work to make it safe to go up to the tower,
    5. and it's still a testing phase to determine what the
    6. next phases will be, how long they'll be. At some point
    7. the entire tower will probably be covered with a
    8. material, and they'll be taking off all of the exterior
    9. material that's on the outside. I say material because
    10. it's not just paint, but there was an elasticized
    11. coating at one point to try to keep moisture out.
    12. Unfortunately, that also kept moisture in. So all that
    13. will be redone. There will be a time at some point in
    14. the future when the tower will have to be closed for an
    15. extended period of time. Eastern is aware of that, but
    16. I just wanted to have the community be aware of it so
    17. nobody is shocked.
    18. So for you commissioners that were not on the tour,
    19. I was just going to say tough, but Paula was nice enough
    20. to give you all her card. And she said if you would
    21. like a personal tour of the tower and not have to pay
    22. the fee and to have her point out some of the things
    23. that we talked about this morning, she'd be more than
    24. happy to do that so that you all are totally up to
34. speed.
35. Yes?
36. MR. SPAULDING: George, I know it got moved a while
37. ago. As part of (inaudible) there's nothing here about
38. moving it. Have they analyzed the erosion and what's
39. going on there so we don't do all this work and then
40. they've got to move it ten or fifteen years from now?
41. MR. PRICE: Well, we might at some point in the
42. future. We're going to have to do the work anyway or
43. it's going to fall down in place. Frankly, the same
44. thing will be true for Nauset Light at some point where
45. we'll have to -- you know, we thought that was moved
46. back for generations, but at least the Nauset Light area
47. has an accelerated erosion rate. The Highland Light
48. area is still pretty traditional. We are going to have
49. to pull back the viewing tower, the viewing platform
50. area because of the erosion there.
51. ADVISORY COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS
52. MR. PRICE: I also want to give you an update.
53. I've actually only heard from a few of your towns on the
54. appointment letters that I sent out in January, and this
55. basically I sent letters to all the towns to have new
56. letters sent in so that we could send them to Washington
57. to the policy office. And I guess Courtney will be able
58. to tell us exactly what towns we've heard from already.
59. We can't do it now, but the bottom line is that we're in
60. the process of doing that. In some cases where there
61. have been changes in the nominated officers, there's
62. either been some confusion, communication, or they've
63. decided to take different directions.
64. So I just bring that up now to let you know that
65. that's some of the feedback that we've heard. We've
66. gotten some confusion on the county, which we think is
67. resolved, but we still don't have anything in writing,
68. and we're probably going to have some changes on the
69. Governor's side. So I just wanted to share that with
70. all of you so it doesn't come as a surprise.
71. STORM DAMAGE/EROSION UPDATE
72. MR. PRICE: So storm damage. Not counting the
73. nor'easter we may have tomorrow, we again have suffered
74. pretty good storm damage as a result of these
75. nor'easters even though we haven't gotten the tremendous
76. amount of snow that comes along with them sometimes.
77. The wave action has been pretty damaging at Nauset Light
78. Beach and Marconi Beach, which hasn't been damaged in
79. probably about four years, and more damage up at Herring
80. Cove North as well.
81. So here at Nauset Light Beach, even though the
    1. bottom part of the supports were washed away, our
    2. maintenance crew was able to actually go back in and
    3. reconstruct enough supports so that the stairs would
    4. reopen. We also have a plan to do a path that's going
    5. to bypass the stairs themselves at some point in the
    6. future, and once we get some engineering documents from
    7. our consultants, we'll be able to put that in as well.
    8. We're still monitoring the future status of the
    9. septic tank, and we have a meeting set up with the Town
    10. of Eastham to kind of give them all the particulars as
    11. to what's happening there.
    12. Marconi Beach, we're putting together the contract
    13. documents, and we feel pretty confident that we might
    14. have the money in-house and won't have to go to regional
    15. for emergency funds. And that will probably be in the 16 $120,000 range.
82. MS. TEVYAW: 150.
83. MR. PRICE: 150 range.
84. The Herring Cove North parking lot, if you've seen
85. it, it's unbelievable. It looks like a disaster movie
86. with all the additional damage that's happened up there.
87. Just like last year, we're not going to be repairing the
88. whole lot. We're just going to have the spaces open
89. that we can open up and be safe.
    1. I've notified the town that, as far as I'm
    2. concerned, with my timelines everything is in place that
    3. will still help us move forward with the planning for
    4. this year for the -- for this final design contract
    5. ready documents for the Herring Cove North project.
    6. That's slated to be funded in 2018. So if I didn't have
    7. those things in place, then I would be more antsy, but
    8. because they are in place, barring other things
    9. happening, we should have that moving forward.
    10. So that's where we are on those particular
    11. projects, and barring additional storms, which can
    12. happen between now and the beginning of May, we
    13. certainly know that that's always a possibility.
    14. SHOREBIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - UPDATE
    15. MR. PRICE: The shorebird management plan has still
    16. been postponed. We basically after we did the EA and
    17. received all the thousands of comments from them -- we
    18. went back in and decided that the whole thing needed to
    19. be reedited again, so we're in the process of doing
    20. that. So it will be a while before that actually comes
    21. out again.
    22. KITESURFING UPDATE
    23. MR. PRICE: On the kiteboarding issue, which
    24. certainly was a topic at the last meeting, we had gone
90. through a process where we had public comment and a
91. public hearing -- or excuse me -- a public information
92. session at the Salt Pond Visitors Center. And frankly,
93. as a result of all of that, we have actually had the
94. opportunity to kind of take another look at it.
95. So as you know, Holly Kuhn, who actually was at the
96. last meeting, had filed a lawsuit, and it's certainly as
97. a result of that lawsuit that we took a step back and
98. reexplored that, the process again. I have to tell you
99. two things, I guess. Number one, we had already taken a
100. step back prior to that. You may remember that several
101. years ago when we first implemented the partial ban we
102. had a gentleman here, Luke Hinkle, who was an avid
103. kitesurfer, and he actually sat down with us and our
104. chief of -- our chief scientist, our chief ranger,
105. myself, and others and carefully took a look at
106. everything. And at that point senior staff and myself
107. still did not believe it was prudent to allow
108. kitesurfing anywhere with the exception of what was
109. already posted with the partial ban and the allowance in
110. Wellfleet. So just to refresh your memory, the partial
111. ban was a ban between March 15 and October 15
112. everywhere, with the exception of a corridor going out
113. to the bay side from Duck Harbor in Wellfleet and the
114. Wellfleet Beach.
115. As a result of this round, we all again met with a
116. lot of kitesurfers. We looked at their letters and had
117. conversations with them. And by looking at our history
118. of shorebird nesting, which we had also looked at
119. before, we actually believed that we could allow
120. kitesurfing over this mile and three-quarters section.
121. Basically if you can picture it from north of the
122. guarded beach at Coast Guard Beach to north of the
123. guarded beach at Nauset Light Beach. And we believe
124. these kitesurfers will be able to stay clear of the
125. recreational swimmers. They've assured us that at other
126. places that they've worked, that they've been able to
127. accommodate that. So that was only just posted last
128. week, and that had to do with the process that we have
129. to go through when we're dealing with our solicitors and
130. our policy people.
131. So that's how that decision actually came to be.
132. And I want to stress it's not a pilot per se. It's the
133. decision. And the only reason we would change that is
134. if our observation from a management perspective was
135. that the change would be warranted. We still have all
136. the seasonal restrictions on the rest of the Seashore,
137. so the concern there is with shorebirds basically
138. historic nesting and all the other areas over the last
139. number of years that we have documented, to have
140. kitesurfers potentially too close to the shoreline we
141. believe is detrimental to the shorebirds. So that
142. restriction stays in place.
143. So that's what's been put out. And actually I'm
144. trying to reach out to Mr. Hinkle just to explain to him
145. because he had the patience and spent the time with us,
146. and we weren't able to come to that conclusion with him
147. at that time, but with this second opportunity to take a
148. look, this is what we decided. So I just wanted you to
149. know that that's where that came from.
150. MR. DELANEY: I think that sounds like a
151. well-reasoned decision. I'm sure it makes some sense.
152. There was some discussion with other kitesurfers
153. about potential legal action. Can we assume or have you
154. heard is that off the table now as a result of this?
155. MR. PRICE: We have not heard.
156. MS. LYONS: Have you heard back that they're
157. satisfied? Is this like a win-win and everybody's
158. happy?
159. MR. PRICE: Well, if you read the quotes of Holly
160. Kuhn, she wants more.
161. MS. LYONS: She wants more?
162. MR. PRICE: But she's going to wait till the
163. superintendent retires and give it another try.
164. MS. LYONS: And really the restrictions are
165. seasonal.
166. MR. PRICE: Well, it's a significant seasonal
167. restriction.
168. MS. LYONS: Right.
169. MR. PRICE: So it's between March 15 and October
170. 15. And what they've explained to me is, unlike the
171. surfers with their wetsuits and the way that they
172. operate year-round, kitesurfers, it's not an enjoyable
173. sport in the middle of winter.
174. MS. LYONS: I would imagine because there's the
175. wind and you're not -- plus you're in the water.
176. So I was just wondering. So there are -- so if
177. somebody was windsurfing -- say you had those days,
178. those odd -- that seem odd now. I'm sure they'll become
179. more familiar. In the winter seasons where we had a 66-
180. degree day and somebody says, "I'm going to go," there's
181. no problem?
182. MR. PRICE: Correct. Yeah, the shorebirds don't
183. start arriving until the end of March, beginning of
184. April, and they've almost all left by October 15. So at
185. this point that could change. At this point that's our
186. focus. And the effect of the kites going back and
187. forth, especially people who are in shore because some
188. of them like to ride amongst the crest of the wave, that
189. kite is certainly in the area where the shorebirds are.
190. And that's our focus.
191. Now, they also have to watch out for the seals
192. because they are an endangered species that are
193. protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and they
194. also have to watch out for the white sharks that are
195. also protected.
196. MS. LYONS: And maybe hungry.
197. MR. PRICE: And maybe hungry.
198. MR. DELANEY: It's an adventure course.
199. MR. PRICE: So that's where that stands. I'm not
200. sure -- actually, Holly had said she was going to be
201. here, but I don't think she's here.
202. MS. McKEAN: She's not here.
203. MR. DELANEY: Lilli?
204. MS. GREEN: Thank you.
205. I did want to say I wanted to thank George and the
206. staff here at the Park for taking a serious look at this
207. again and for listening to Heidi (sic) and others and
208. finding places where they could enjoy their sport and in
209. a longer period than there had been. I understand that
210. Heidi (sic) is not entirely satisfied, but I would like
211. to thank you for that report.
212. MR. PRICE: Thank you.
213. SEASHORE PROJECTS
214. MR. PRICE: Seashore projects. Another one that's
215. been very controversial.
216. There hasn't been a public meeting that I've
217. attended where the Red Maple Swamp topic hasn't come up.
218. So this is one of the trails that was installed in the
219. early '60s when the Seashore was established. We have
220. several of them that involved boardwalks. The Red Maple
221. Swamp is in the Fort Hill area between Fort Hill and
222. Hemenway Landing. Out here we have the White Cedar
223. Swamp. We have other places. Many of the trails in the
224. Seashore unfortunately have been allowed to deteriorate
225. from a maintenance point of view. About three years
226. ago, we actually -- Kathy and I were able to focus some
227. money towards reestablishing the roads and trails crew.
228. So they have been gradually working on all the trails in
229. the Seashore, especially the ones that had storm
230. liability issues. The Red Maple Swamp Trail had
231. deteriorated to the point where no patching was working
232. anymore. The posts that were going down into the swamp,
233. the support beams were all rotting away. And not only
234. did we close it, but we actually pulled up a lot of the
235. boardwalk sections because people were hopping over and
236. walking through.
237. So there's been a large pushback specifically from
238. the Eastham community. This is the type of trail --
239. and, Rich, you lived in the neighborhood. So it's the
240. type of trail that was near and dear to everybody's
241. heart, and that area is just like Herring Cove is to the
242. citizens of Provincetown. So we're involved with the
243. whole Seashore, but there are areas that some people
244. care about more than others.
245. We came to the conclusion that it was going to cost
246. a million and a half dollars to actually fix that up
247. before we were going to go out of contract, and we were
248. not successful in obtaining federal funds for that. And
249. it was kind of on hold. We had people come forward,
250. especially the Friends, to try to see if we could do
251. fundraisers and all of that, but a million and a half is
252. a lot of money. If you recall, the biggest individual
253. contribution from our Friends group was a hundred
254. thousand towards the Penniman House. But they did work
255. with us, and they did have a fundraiser, and they did
256. get some community involvement, and they did pass the
257. $25,000 check to the Seashore just the other day. I
258. have a copy of it in the lobby for you to see.
259. We were able then to bring in some technical
260. assistance from the chief of facilities from Fire Island
261. National Seashore, who also has had boardwalks and swamp
262. trails down there. And he worked with our crew, and
263. basically together in this -- this man named Jim Dunphy
264. said, you know, what he does, because his budget is such
265. that he doesn't get large money at any one time, he
266. phases these things in as he has the crew, as he has the
267. money for supplies. So we said, well, that sounds like
268. a good idea. And in working with the Friends, we were
269. able to start the phasing of the Red Maple Swamp. We
270. had a press event the other day that talked about that.
271. The crew, both with the Friends, volunteers as well as
272. our crew was able to start on it, and we actually have a
273. pretty good section along the way.
274. In the meantime, part of the phasing is our version
275. of adaptive management actually because the type of
276. plastic wood that we have is not very forgiving, and our
277. staff invented an on-site furnace so they could actually
278. put pieces of wood into this furnace, heat it up to the
279. 140 degrees I think it is that it needs to be heated,
280. they take it out, and then they could shape it in the
281. form that was necessary for the tow routes especially
282. because the trail meanders. It's not a straight line.
283. So kind of like the way a woodcrafter might steam wood
284. to bend it. Steam isn't going to work on this stuff, so
285. they actually have to heat it. So I was very impressed,
286. and Jim Dunphy was very impressed. He's going to steal
287. the idea back in Fire Island. But it was really
288. remarkable at this point.
289. In the meantime, Kathy and the rest of the staff
290. has been submitting project proposals, and the Seashore
291. has received $500,000 for this trail work. So we're
292. going to be able to continue this, and we anticipate
293. we'll have a section done for the public before this
294. season, and it will be about another 18 months before
295. we'll have all of that phased in. And then, more
296. importantly, we'll be able to use this model on some of
297. our other trails, like the Red Cedar Swamp before it
298. gets into such a deteriorated condition we have to close
299. it.
300. So all of that I consider to be a win-win and just
301. wanted to share that with you.
302. We just had installed a new sound system at the
303. Salt Pond Visitors Center. If you get a chance to go
304. down there now with the subwoofers, Rich, your body will
305. shake if the bass is turned up. And this is to
306. anticipate our new film that was funded. So we have a
307. new film that will eventually replace the *Sands of Time*
308. as an orientation film. That will actually be the *Sands*
309. *of Time* and other movies will still be shown, but our
310. key orientation film is all this brand-new technology.
311. We were able to install that at this point through this
312. contract.
313. We're waiting for the snow to leave and the asphalt
314. plants to open up again so we can finish the Salt Pond
315. amphitheater. So that's pretty exciting.
316. MR. DELANEY: George, the *Sands of Time* must have
317. set a record for one of the longest running productions
318. on Cape Cod.
319. (Laughter.)
320. MS. LYONS: But it was very informative for a very
321. brief film.
322. MR. PRICE: What do you mean was?
323. MS. LYONS: It still is. That's right. It is.
324. No, it's very -- very relevant.
325. MR. PRICE: Yes, it is.
326. So we've got several things happening, still coming
327. up. We're going to be resurfacing the Little Creek
328. parking lot.
329. MS. TEVYAW: Fort Hill.
330. MR. PRICE: And Fort Hill.
331. MS. TEVYAW: That might be it.
332. MR. PRICE: For parking lots. Obviously the
333. Herring Cove one is the big one.
334. And we're actually receiving the money to totally
335. restore the Penniman barn, and then we hope that we have
336. the solution for the leaky roof at the Penniman House.
337. And once that is resolved, I believe we've solved the
338. leaks. Then we'll be developing projects where we can
339. actually do some work on the interior. So at some point
340. the entire Penniman complex will be (inaudible). That's
341. certainly very exciting.
342. NAUSET SPIT UPDATE
343. MR. PRICE: I have on my continuing list Nauset
344. Light Spit. There's been no additional information on
345. that, but I did want to reference the dredging project
346. that you might have read about.
347. NAUSET MARSH DREDGING
348. MR. PRICE: The Town of Orleans approached us
349. because the channel that comes out of Town Cove for both
350. their fishing and their recreation fleet, the channel is
351. getting quite dangerous as far as the material that's
352. filling in. That actually started a couple of years
353. ago. I went to a combined town board of selectmen
354. meeting with Eastham and Orleans, and they were asking
355. about this.
356. So just so that you're clear, from a legislative
357. point of view, the Seashore does not get involved or
358. interfere with navigation. So our position is that if
359. it's determined that it's a safety issue of navigation
360. and the town or the county or whoever wishes to do a
361. dredging project, we're supportive of that. It's a
362. public safety issue. The issue then becomes, what do
363. you do with the dredge material? And we've had this
364. discussion with the Town of Chatham many times over the
365. years, and the bottom line is that no one's allowed to
366. dump the dredge material within the boundary of the
367. Seashore without doing a NEPA process, an EIS or an EA,
368. and as it turns out, this project, even the dredging, is
369. going to require a MEPA process, a Massachusetts
370. Environmental Protection Act process. So I've talked to
371. their consultants, and we did the MEPA/NEPA with the
372. Herring River project, so we feel that this is something
373. that these consultants should be able to do. It's
374. basically the same processes. So that's moving along.
375. The issues have to do with our concern about the
376. material that might be in the dredge material, whether
377. that would work on an upland dune within the Seashore;
378. will it affect wildlife; does it have the cysts in it
379. from the red tide, which we know are out there and about
380. there; is it the same grain size of the sand because
381. that has a big impact as to how you would actually --
382. how it's going to weather with the other dune material.
383. So specifically, for instance, they're interested in
384. taking some of this material to help support the dune at
385. Nauset Beach, which is having a serious impact from the
386. nor'easters, and my response has been if they were to
387. use other upland sand, beach sand that exists and use
388. that to support the dune, then that would not require a
389. NEPA/MEPA in our point of view. We did the same thing
390. in the Town of Truro up at Ballston Beach, but the town
391. was able to secure other sand and actually bring it in,
392. and it matched grain size. So the scientists were fine
393. with that. And that was also on town land that they
394. actually put that sound barrier -- sand barrier. So if
395. Chatham was able to come up with that type of sand in
396. their situation, they would not have to go through this
397. process. If they're going to do the dredge material,
398. however, they would.
399. MS. AVELLAR: Where do you get the sand?
400. MR. PRICE: Wherever people get sand from for
401. beaches.
     1. MS. AVELLAR: (Inaudible)?
     2. MR. PRICE: Sure, and other places too.
     3. MS. BURGESS: Which was collected, as I recall, at
     4. Coast Guard after a big storm that had encroached on the
     5. parking lot and was pushed aside, Mary-Jo. So it was
     6. extraneous and it was taken down to Ballston, as I
     7. recall.
     8. MR. PRICE: Right.
     9. MS. AVELLAR: We were able to create beaches in
     10. Provincetown when they dredged the harbor to -- in the
     11. east end where there were no beaches at high tide. And
     12. they just took that dredge spoil and laid it down, and
     13. everything between -- I forget where on the west end as
     14. far as Howland Street in the east end people got beaches
     15. for the first time. And the property I grew up in was
     16. always under water until that happened. I didn't
     17. realize that there might be things in the sand in the
     18. harbor that could have been -- could have been a
     19. problem. And now there's beachgrass and everything.
     20. It's a whole new world for people in the east end of
     21. Provincetown now.
     22. MR. PRICE: Well, certainly a lot of people
     23. replenish beaches with dredge material. They did it in
     24. Centerville at Craigville Beach. They've done that
402. numerous times in Sandwich, but I don't know what kind
403. of processes they went through to vet the material.
404. MS. LYONS: I don't really remember. I don't
405. recall a lot of that discussion when we would be dealing
406. with a dredge and they were going to be taking materials
407. beyond the shore. That never came up, the NEPA/MEPA
408. problem.
409. MS. GREEN: You're talking about the county, right,
410. Sheila?
411. MS. LYONS: Yes, right, when Wayne would be telling
412. us about different projects.
413. I was surprised that the sand size is that crucial.
414. I mean, I can sort of appreciate that there could be
415. other things, even if boat leakage seeped in or --
416. MR. PRICE: Well, sand size probably is more
417. relevant to a primary dune situation. What Mary-Jo's
418. talking about, there was no primary dune. They were
419. just -- they were creating a beach --
420. MS. AVELLAR: No, now we've got beachgrass all over
421. the place.
422. MS. LYONS: Right.
423. MS. AVELLAR: We didn't have that before.
424. MR. PRICE: So in any case, I just wanted to share
425. that with you all. I know there were a lot of people
426. that were shocked that we didn't have a problem with the
427. navigational channel. Obviously public safety is
428. important, whether it's recreational or commercial. We
429. supported the same thing in Chatham at the time, and I
430. know you all are having more problems in Chatham as
431. well.
432. IMPROVED PROPERTIES/TOWN BYLAWS
433. MR. PRICE: The improved properties and town bylaws
434. and everything, the one town that we've been working on
435. in most recent times has been the Town of Truro. There
436. have been several people in Truro similar to what was
437. happening in Wellfleet many years ago where these
438. individuals have come forward, and they're working with
439. the town offices to try and get what we would consider
440. to be a more realistic or sympathetic zoning standard
441. within the Seashore District.
442. And, Lauren, if you don't mind, I might just ask
443. you to say a few words.
444. MS. McKEAN: Sure. We were recently requested to
445. put in writing the purpose or position on what the Town
446. of Truro had come forward with, and if any of you want a
447. copy of the letter, it just went out last week. They
448. had a proposed sliding scale similar to what Wellfleet
449. had done in terms of coming up with brackets of
450. different lot sizes and then a corresponding increase of
451. square footage that you could make good on. They also
452. had under a special use permit -- a special permit --
453. excuse me -- that you could increase the size of the
454. house mostly by 1,000 square foot per bracket. And so
455. in review of the bylaw, basically our finding was that
456. the smaller lots were -- they were overly generous with
457. the smaller lots and also then with the larger lots
458. because those smaller lots could -- even a half-acre lot
459. could have a 3,100-square-foot house on them by right
460. and a 4,100-square-foot house on them under a special
461. permit and that's through a zoning board of appeals
462. review. You know there's three-acre zoning in the
463. Seashore, and those are quite undersized lots. So that
464. was one reason we felt that way. And then at the higher
465. end, we found seven and eight thousand-square-foot lots
466. on the largest of the lots in town that are in the 20-
467. acre range. There are not that many of them, but those
468. are the size of, say, the Kline house or we know from
469. experience with the Blasch house, which was 6,000 square
470. feet, what that looks like on a landscape. So that's
471. really where we came from in providing those comments
472. back to the town.
473. They're going to be deliberating. They're going to
     1. be taking it to the town board of selectmen shortly. So
     2. we'll see what (inaudible).
     3. MR. PRICE: For town meeting?
     4. MS. McKEAN: For town meeting.
     5. MR. PRICE: Well, first of all, we certainly
     6. appreciate the willingness of some citizens to come
     7. forward and try to get a handle on this even though we
     8. sort of still have comments on sizes, for instance. The
     9. opportunity to be able to provide some input is really I
     10. think positive.
     11. One of the things I wanted to remind you all is
     12. when the Seashore was established, there definitely was
     13. an attempt to try to have zoning that was appropriate
     14. within the Seashore, and at that point in the 1950s, I
     15. remind you, when this was all being discussed, how many
     16. towns even had zoning anyway or how rigorous was it?
     17. And what did it mean? And I have found, as I've read
     18. the records, I think there are a lot of things that they
     19. took for granted that people knew what they meant, so
     20. they came out with statements like to keep the Cape Cod
     21. character and to keep the integrity of existing
     22. structures. Well, in 1959 and '60 when you're sitting
     23. down around a table like this writing the legislation,
     24. everybody knew what you meant and no one assumed you
474. were going to tear down a perfectly good house to build
475. something that was three times larger. It just wasn't
476. in the psyche. So as the Seashore moved along, the
477. Seashore propagated -- remember the 50 percent rule,
478. which the way it was presented made it sound like it was
479. part of the law, which it wasn't, and then there was a
480. lot of backlash from that. The 50 percent law was
481. criticized because -- the 50 percent rule was criticized
482. because they felt it was unfair one-size-fits-all. If
483. you had a large lot and you only had 50 percent and if
484. you had a very small lot and you had 50 percent, where's
485. the equity in that? So that's partly why the towns of
486. Wellfleet and Truro did not move forward with any of the
487. corrections. Wellfleet obviously was adjusted a while
488. ago, and now with Truro taking a crack at it, we really
489. do appreciate that.
490. Any comments on the zoning?
491. (No response.)
492. MR. DELANEY: If not, maybe I'd like to just
493. interject a thought, if I may, for a moment here because
494. you just mentioned going back to the 1950s the origin of
495. zoning legislation as part of the Cape Cod National
496. Seashore. You used the words integrity and the
497. character in Cape Cod, and it brought to mind the sad
498. announcement in today's paper that Jonathan Moore has
499. passed away. Jonathan Moore was a person who was
500. absolutely critical in all of those discussions, has
501. worked with Senator Saltonstall and Senator John Kennedy
502. at that time, an Orleans citizen, a very -- one of the
503. -- if you read any of our history books about the
504. establishment of the Cape Cod National Seashore, his
505. name comes up repeatedly.
506. I meant to mention this at the outset of the
507. meeting, but before I forget again, I think the record
508. should show that we are all here at this table and the
509. Park is here in large part because that individual -- a
510. lot of people to be credited, but Jonathan Moore should
511. receive his due credit for yeoman service in making this
512. thing a reality.
513. He died just, Mark, yesterday?
514. MR. ROBINSON: Wednesday.
515. MR. DELANEY: Wednesday. So the announcement, the
516. obituary is in the paper today.
517. MR. ROBINSON: It's in the *Globe*.
518. MR. DELANEY: Yeah, it's in today's *Globe*.
519. So just a moment of remembrance, reflection, and
520. gratitude to Jonathan Moore.
521. Mark?
522. MR. ROBINSON: It would be nice if the Park Service
523. and the Advisory Commission could send a card to Katie,
524. his widow.
525. MR. DELANEY: Good suggestion. We'll do that.
526. MR. PRICE: I was fortunate enough to meet him
527. several times. The first time I met him he called me up
528. and wanted to get together, and we went for a picnic at
529. Fort Hill. And he said he was so unaware of what the
530. heck I was talking about, where would we go because it
531. was a day like today. We had to sit in the car and look
532. at the view and have our sandwiches. He was thrilled.
533. Of course, he later became ambassador to the United
534. Nations, and then he was the head of the Kennedy School.
535. He still had an office up there when I was talking to
536. him.
537. So I found out that -- many of you heard my story
538. about Fort Hill when the bill -- obviously the bill
539. didn't get passed right away. It was submitted in '61
540. and wasn't signed -- excuse me. It was submitted in
541. '59, and it was signed in '61. And they decided to
542. bring up the congressional delegation, and they decided
543. to bring them for a picnic at Fort Hill. Jonathan was
544. the one that helped set the logistics up for that. He's
545. the one that actually saw the stakes in the ground at
546. Fort Hill for the Fort Hill stakes because that was all
547. going to be privately developed. So that group, the
548. story is that that group when it went back to D.C. not
549. only invigorated to push the bill but also to make sure
550. the Fort Hill section was included in this new national
551. park. And every time I take a visitor there I look over
552. at the Orleans section, which is another beautiful
553. promontory up to Nauset Heights -- and it's not a
554. criticism because that's a different definition of what
555. you do with ocean property -- but Fort Hill would have
556. looked like that, and it would not have been available
557. to all the citizens. So I think that's amazing.
558. Jonathan was a large part of that.
559. MR. DELANEY: Well, thank you.
560. And thanks, Mark, for the suggestion. We will send
561. condolences and thanks.
562. MR. ROBINSON: I'd be happy to draft the letter for
563. you to sign.
564. MR. DELANEY: That would be great. Thanks, Mark.
565. Sorry for the interjection.
566. HERRING RIVER WETLAND RESTORATION
567. MR. PRICE: Herring River Restoration. So we
568. actually had the second meeting of the executive
569. committee under the MOU 3 with the towns of Wellfleet
570. and Truro all last Thursday, and I think we actually
571. made some real headway. And for this particular update,
572. I'd like to invite Don Palladino, the president of the
573. Friends, to give us a little update.
574. MR. PALLADINO: Thank you, George.
575. I'd like to also introduce other members of our
576. team here. Martha Craig is our project manager, and
577. Karen Brady (phonetic) has been working with us on a
578. variety of strategic and fundraising and outreach and a
579. whole variety of other activities as part of the Friends
580. of Herring River organization.
581. I think in order to give a briefing on the current
582. status it's important to put it into context in that
583. today this follows ten years of study, engineering
584. study, environmental study, monitoring, a whole variety
585. of other activities by a group that was established in
586. 2007 between the two towns and the Seashore, MOU 2, to
587. establish the Herring River Restoration Committee. And
588. that work was completed last year in terms of providing
589. a recommended plan of action for the restoration of the
590. estuary. It was approved by the Commonwealth of Mass--
591. -- it being the recommendation to move forward with an
592. implementation plan that was approved by the
593. Commonwealth of Massachusetts in terms of a certificate
594. of compliance, which is governed by the Massachusetts
595. Environmental Protection Act and similarly by the
596. federal government, which is governed by the National
597. Environmental Policy Act. So there's been a significant
598. amount of work done over these last ten years to look at
599. the need, what are the options with regard to the
600. estuary, including the do nothing option, leave it as it
601. is, what are the other various options we have, what are
602. the impacts both negative and costs, all the factors
603. that led to the decision to go forward with a
604. recommended restoration plan.
605. The plan has a number of significant elements. It
606. will result in the replacement of the current dike at
607. Chequessett Neck Road with a new bridge structure and
608. control structure. It will put a dike with control
609. structures on the two main tributaries, Mill Creek and
610. Pole Dike Creek, two main tributaries that feed into the
611. lower Herring River. It removes impediments to flow
612. through the entire estuary. For example, removal of
613. High Toss Road, which crosses the marsh a mile or so
614. upstream from Chequessett Neck. It improves the
615. facility to have the tide move up into the system by
616. replacing culverts, raising roads, protecting private
617. structures and so on.
     1. With the approval by both the federal and the state
     2. government, we are now moving into the permitting phase,
     3. and that involves preparing all the permit ready
     4. designs. Those should be completed by early summer, and
     5. then there will be a series of applications to the
     6. various permitting agencies; local agencies, county
     7. agencies, state and federal agencies. That will go on
     8. for another year and a half or two years. In the
     9. meantime, there will be fundraising and other activities
     10. involved with putting the project together.
     11. There's been a considerable amount of work in
     12. dealing with private property owners both individually
     13. and in small groups to protect structures on their
     14. private property, and structures being a building, a
     15. driveway, a septic system, a well, something that would
     16. be affected by the return of the dikes.
     17. And the whole project is being put together in
     18. terms of phases, so initially the restoration would
     19. occur up to a given water level within the Lower Herring
     20. River. The area of Upper Pole Dike and Mill Creek would
     21. not be part of that first restoration until we reached
     22. agreement with the property owners for the mitigation
     23. features, and then we'll continue on with further
     24. progression on the way up.
         1. So that's kind of the general scheme of how this is
         2. all coming together, where we are at the moment. I know
         3. you have a lot on your agenda. So I could probably go
         4. on for another couple of hours, but if you have a
         5. question, Rich, or members of the team you want to ask.
         6. MR. DELANEY: Well, thank you. I think they do
         7. want to discuss this a little bit. This is a project
         8. that probably has been on the majority of George's 54
         9. meetings. We've been, as an advisory commission, very
         10. aware and very supportive of this project for a long
         11. time. I know there's a lot of history, especially
         12. picking up speed in these last ten years as you just
         13. alluded to. But I think it's worth getting us up to
         14. date and maybe a quick discussion and maybe some
         15. questions.
         16. George, do you want to add onto that?
         17. MR. PRICE: Just before we open it up to the
         18. questions.
         19. So this leadership group, the executive council
         20. consists of three members of the board of select-- --
         21. well, two members of the board of selectmen and the town
         22. manager, both of Wellfleet and Truro. And I see that
         23. Selectperson Helen Miranda Wilson is here representing
         24. the Town of Wellfleet. She has been actively involved
618. with all the committee members.
619. And then another part that the group is charged
620. with is setting up stakeholders, which will also be an
621. ongoing part of the restoration project, along with the
622. technical groups and the Friends. So that's the
623. extended team, if you will, as to how this is moving
624. forward.
625. MR. PALLADINO: What I've just handed out is a map
626. that shows the main features of the plan showing the
627. various subbasins and the activities that I spoke about
628. a moment ago. And then secondly there's a small
629. briefing package that includes a representation of
630. what's wrong with the river today, why does it need to
631. be changed, what's the justification for doing it. It's
632. not going to get better. It's going to continue to
633. degrade. We're very concerned about the shellfish.
634. We're concerned about the sedimentation. We're
635. concerned about the health of the marine environment
636. because it's basically a marine environment nursery for
637. sea life out in the Gulf of Maine.
638. So with those two documents -- and we won't go
639. through them, but hopefully you'll have some additional
640. background information. I'll be happy to answer
641. questions.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | MR. DELANEY: Thanks, Don. |  |
| 2 | Larry, you had a question? |
| 3 | MR. SPAULDING: I do. |
| 4 | Hi, Donald. |
| 5 | MR. PALLADINO: Hi, Larry. How are you? |
| 6 | MR. SPAULDING: Good. Is it anticipated that | it |
| 7 | will be necessary to actually take any property as | far |
| 8 | as the project? |  |
| 9 | MR. PALLADINO: It is not anticipated in an |  |
| 10 | election year for (inaudible). |  |
| 11 | MR. DELANEY: Lilli? |  |
| 12 | MS. GREEN: Thank you. I have a number of |  |
| 13 | questions and concerns that people in my community | from |
| 14 | Wellfleet have expressed to me recently especially. |  |

1. But there is one aspect that I would like George to
2. explain that he talked about earlier today on the field
3. trip and over lunch, and he was talking about a concept
4. or an idea based upon a recent determination about
5. herbicides. So if someone can explain what the
6. determination was about the herbicides, and then,
7. George, you could talk about an idea that you expressed,
8. I think that might be informative.
9. MR. PRICE: Well, I think specifically the decision
10. was made, the recommendation by the technical
11. subcommittee which was accepted by the group on Thursday
12. is that for the permits that are being sought, that the
13. towns would actually be the sponsors for, that it does
14. not include any herbicide application. So as you
15. probably read, that's been certainly a hot point of
16. contention as the program -- as we saw in the
17. presentation made by Tim Smith, who's been here to
18. present to you all of updates in the past, the concern
19. is Phragmites, which is the common reed which has the
20. ability to propagate very, very quickly. And there are
21. all kinds of issues related to that once that actually
22. takes hold. So as Tim pointed out, the majority of the
23. Phragmites is located in the lowest basin that you can
24. basically see when you cross the dike road at this
25. point. And the belief is that almost all of that
26. Phragmites will be taken care of by the intrusion of
27. saltwater, although there will be anticipated cutting
28. and burning of that road to stress the plants so the
29. saltwater can really kill it. We also then have a
30. couple of other small pockets also. The issue is the
31. concern way down the road as saltwater starts to intrude
32. further up into the system. It could be that Phragmites
33. could potentially gain a hold at that point, and we have
34. to take -- we have to see what's going to happen down
35. the road in those areas.
36. So as far as the project is concerned that's under
37. agreement right now with these permits, we will not be
38. using herbicides.
39. MR. DELANEY: That was an issue that had raised
40. some concerns. I'm glad that's satisfied and is solved
41. basically, that issue.
42. MR. PRICE: For this project.
43. MR. DELANEY: This project.
44. MS. GREEN: And also, George, would you mind
45. sharing what you shared with us as far as an idea about
46. labor and what direction that we might explore so we'd
47. have it on the record and we could refer back to it? I
48. thought it was a really brilliant idea to explore.
49. MS. LYONS: Brilliant.
50. MS. TEVYAW: Write that down twice.
51. (Laughter.)
52. MR. DELANEY: Really, just because it's his last
53. meeting, we don't have to be really nice to him.
54. (Laughter.)
55. MR. PRICE: What we were talking about at lunch,
56. this is something I expanded on at the meeting the other
57. day. So there are a couple hundred acres that are going
58. to be required to be cleared of upland woody vegetation
59. on this whole project, and one of the things the
60. committee has done is they have met with a number of
61. different groups anticipating this kind of work and how
62. it will be taken on. And Tim showed in our slides there
63. are ways to do it. You can bring in a contractor, like
64. a big contractor with all kinds of heavy machinery, and
65. clear it all, you know, hopefully if you had the money
66. to do that, if you could figure out how to mitigate the
67. impact on the environment, or you could take a look at
68. what the Park Service has done. Some of you have been
69. on my field trips with the fire crew where we've done
70. the heathland restoration here with Dave Crary and
71. basically that process. And one of the terms that Tim
72. put was maybe a use of veteran crews. And one of the
73. things that I recommended and, if I were to continue to
74. be involved, I would strongly support, is the AmeriCorps
75. type of concept. Whether it's exactly AmeriCorps or
76. not, I'm not sure. It's an opportunity over time to
77. develop teams that could undertake this type of
78. worthwhile work. And last year at the AmeriCorps
79. graduation, I spoke with a Mr. Basl, who was the
80. national head of volunteers for the Obama
81. administration, and he was so impressed with not only
82. what AmeriCorps Cape Cod has done but specifically what
83. Dave Crary has done with the AmeriCorps and fire crew
84. that he was -- his wheels were spinning. He said, you
85. know, he's been trying to figure out a way to engage
86. veterans in this kind of work, so maybe this is a
87. concept that could be further developed. Because what
88. happens here with the AmeriCorps is these young people
89. learn these skills, and at the conclusion of the
90. program, they're trained to get a red card which
91. qualifies them to fight fires anywhere in the country if
92. they're interested in doing that. So that was the --
93. because we were talking a lot about some sort of
94. community work similar to AmeriCorps but not just for
95. young people. Maybe there's a larger people.
96. But I don't know -- Lauren and I were asking -- she
97. was asking who could do this. Well, you need to have an
98. organization that can do this, that is structurally set
99. up to be able to handle something like this, has
100. insurance, has the ability to do the training and
101. oversight and everything else, but it's an idea that
102. hopefully wouldn't be lost as one of the approaches the
103. committee might be able to take.
104. MS. LYONS: I think it's a great idea in the sense
105. that it's therapeutic as well. I mean, there's a
106. therapy in that, and there's something about working
107. with your hands and kind of working it out.
108. There is a group -- I'm actually going to talk to
109. the woman who founded it because she's one of these
110. people that you could -- I think she's thought about
111. this part, is basically supportive of veterans coming
112. back. But that's great, but what they need is a
113. realignment and a purpose. And I'm going to talk to her
114. about it and see what she thinks. Great idea.
115. MR. PRICE: Now, that individual -- that individual
116. left with the last administration, so I don't know if
117. that's the type of a position that gets replaced again.
118. But he was hot on it, and I was giddy getting the
119. positive response from them.
120. MR. DELANEY: Thank you. Very good.
121. Any other questions or comments from others?
122. Lilli? I'm sorry.
123. MS. GREEN: Thank you again.
124. One other issue that we discussed, it was about
125. insurance. We were talking about adaptive management,
126. and we were talking about the project as it moves
127. forward. I've been reading a lot about adaptive
128. management, and several people from my community have
129. approached me about what if something doesn't go as
130. planned, what if adaptive management doesn't catch it
131. before it has unintended consequences, and if there
132. could be insurance. And if you would, for the record --
133. because, of course, you're not going to be at the next
134. meeting, unfortunately. You're going to have a lot more
135. fun then we are, and I wish you all the best. But if
136. you could tell us a little bit about insurance and where
137. the Park Service stands on insurance of this project or
138. any history of the Park Service having any insurance for
139. any project of this type.
140. MR. PRICE: The bottom line is, as part of the
141. federal government, we're self-insured. And I don't
142. mean to sound flip, but when people are aggrieved, they
143. sue. They sue us. So we don't do anything called
144. insurance for projects. Whether a different party does
145. or not, I'm not sure. The whole issue of adaptive
146. management is intended to be a very thoughtful, measured
147. approach so that you're able to do things.
148. Like I said about the Red Maple Swamp Trail, it's a
149. phased approach, and at each phase we'll have a
150. technical committee of other folks doing analysis. Are
151. we getting the results? Are we not getting the results?
152. Are there flags being raised? And what I have said when
153. we were developing the MOU 3, frankly, from my
154. perspective is the beauty of that is if we're going too
155. fast or we get something that we don't feel good about
156. it, we can always go back. It's a case of opening and
157. closing the gates.
158. MS. LYONS: Right.
159. MR. PRICE: So it's not a gigantic change to
160. things, and therefore, we have this very measured
161. approach where the technical committee will be coming to
162. the executive committee and making a proposal with all
163. the bells and whistles. We're going through all the
164. reports. And if the recommendation is to open up the
165. gate three inches and the committee is satisfied, we can
166. open it up three inches. If there's a problem, we can
167. close it those three inches. So that's -- I think the
168. beauty of this particular project is adaptive management
169. in the Park Service all the time.
170. For those of you that are familiar with Fort Hill
171. -- and that doesn't involve any direct private property,
172. but there was an example when I got here the vegetation
173. was pretty high. And you could sit up at Fort Hill in
174. your car in the summertime and not see the view. And
175. what we ended up having to do was bring together a
176. multidivision work group that involves cultural
177. resources, natural resources, and fire management and
178. maintenance to actually approach this because we had
179. natural resource goals, we had cultural viewshed goals,
180. and then we had to do it in a way that the budget would
181. work. So this isn't anything you hear about because we
182. just do it as a matter of practice, and we have for
183. years now been going through this cycle of mowing and
184. burning and reviewing and testing and analysis in order
185. to come up with the landscape you see. So if you go up
186. there for a view right now, you'll think it's terrific,
187. and you'll have no idea what went on behind it.
188. Did I see Nita come in?
189. MS. TEVYAW: Yes.
190. MS. TALLENT: Yes.
191. MR. PRICE: Nita, you just had a review meeting on
192. that recently, right?
193. MS. TALLENT: Yes, we did.
194. MR. PRICE: So basically we physically went out
195. there. You met Dr. Steve Smith, our plant ecologist,
196. and Dave Crary of our fire maintenance crew. And they
197. physically go out and they look at it. And did we get
198. the results that we wanted? And if not, what can we
199. change? And some things are a little bit up in the air.
200. Dave Crary will tell you it's impossible to put a date
201. on the calendar six months from now and say, "I'm going
202. to burn on that day" because if the conditions aren't
203. right or if the crew's not right or if they're called to
204. do other things, it may not happen. So we have to be
205. flexible and adjust over time.
206. So that's what adaptive management is about, and
207. that's why I for one feel very confident about it. And
208. then the reality is you're not going to get insurance
209. from the federal government to (inaudible).
210. MR. DELANEY: Maureen?
211. MS. BURGESS: George, can you just tell us who's on
212. the technical committee that will be reporting to the
213. executive committee?
214. MR. PALLADINO: Well, the Herring River Restoration
215. Committee continues on in its current role as advisor
216. to the executive committee, and the concept is the
217. executive committee would rely upon and request
218. recommendations from the restoration committee regarding
219. any of the matters dealing with technical issues
220. associated with policy issues. The executive committee
221. dealing with policy issues, with making decisions
222. regarding opening and closing the gates, a variety of
223. activities that will surround this, what they -- I
224. think it's fair to say Helen will be requesting and
225. demanding that the executive committee in some way
226. make recommendations to them on the various technical
227. aspects upon which they're going to be basing their
228. decision. The restoration committee. I've got it
229. backwards.
230. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. MIRANDA WILSON): Yeah, in the
231. MOU 3 -- I'm Helen Miranda Wilson. I'm on the
232. selectboard, and I'm one of the people on the executive
233. council, and also I'm something else. I have been
234. sitting in on most of the day-long meetings of the
235. Herring River Restoration Committee since I got
236. reelected.
237. In MOU 3, it isn't just that the executive council
238. requests information from the technical committee, the
239. Herring River Restoration Committee, it's that they have
240. to have a recommendation from them before they can make
241. a decision. It's absolutely written in stone. And the
242. reason for that is probably obvious to everybody, which
243. is that the people on the selectboards and the town
244. administrators, town managers can come and go, but the
245. people on the technical -- you know, the scientists and
246. some of these people from agencies have been working on
247. it since before MOU 1, you know, in public meetings and
248. are really privy to everything about it.
249. MR. PRICE: So, for instance, the state and federal
250. agencies are on that group.
     1. MS. BURGESS: So ecological restoration?
     2. MR. PALLADINO: Division of Ecological Restoration.
     3. The state -- NOAA is represented on the group. Natural
     4. Resource Conservation Service, NRCS, is on it. The two
     5. towns, Wellfleet and Truro, each have a representative.
     6. The Seashore has a representative. Fish and Wildlife
     7. Service is represented on the group. That's the
     8. composition. So it's federal, state, local agencies.
     9. As Helen suggested a moment ago, people have been
     10. working on this for a long time.
     11. MS. BURGESS: Thank you.
     12. MR. PRICE: And our Steve Smith -- Tim Smith --
     13. excuse me -- who has also presented before this group,
     14. has been working on ecological restoration his entire
     15. life. We were able to get him from the state Coastal
     16. Zone Management team, and he actually helped staff a lot
     17. of these committees.
     18. MR. DELANEY: Mark?
     19. MR. ROBINSON: I think we've been on record in the
     20. past in supporting the goals of the project. I know
     21. there are some things coming up at town meetings that
     22. might be wise for us to reendorse the project as it
     23. stands now. I think this map is very helpful to me. I
     24. mean, I'm familiar with this area. I've been working
251. around it for a long time, but to see it broken into the
252. subbasins and to show in a sense adaptive management for
253. these subbasins, Mill Creek, having a controlled
254. structure there would be useful. As a triage decision,
255. we'd love to open that up to natural tidal flow too, but
256. in support of the overall broader goals of the project
257. and things like that I think show that the committee has
258. done its work in thinking about each individual section
259. of the system. And I would move that the Advisory
260. Commission endorse this project yet again if necessary.
261. MR. DELANEY: Okay, thank you.
262. Is there a second on that?
263. MS. BURGESS: Second.
264. MR. DELANEY: We'll have discussion, and I'll just
265. preface it by saying you're right, we have been on the
266. record, many times actually, in support of this project.
267. So I think it would be timely to reaffirm that support
268. should you like to as a group.
269. Discussion about the motion? Lilli?
270. MS. GREEN: Yes, I do support the project, and I
271. have said that numerous times. But there are a lot of
272. concerns from people in my community, and they have been
273. talking to me. With that caveat, could we modify that,
274. amend it to say phase one of the project?
     1. MR. ROBINSON: Well, I said the goals of the
     2. project, which is to reintroduce tidal flow through the
     3. existing decisions that are made, been made to the
     4. state.
     5. MS. GREEN: Okay.
     6. MR. DELANEY: I think we're at the level of the
     7. concept part of the overall goals, and if I could just
     8. come back to the word *adaptive management*. I think when
     9. those people raise concerns -- and I know you're hearing
     10. them -- and they ask you about adaptive management,
     11. adaptive management is the answer to those concerns. It
     12. used to be -- for those of us who were involved in
     13. environmental management projects for several decades,
     14. this is a relatively new concept. It used to be that
     15. we'd have to or the project would have to project every
     16. single detail 20, 30 years out. You know, if we spent
     17. $4 billion in Boston Harbor, what would the exact result
     18. be? Well, it's virtually impossible. So now the
     19. environmental management has adopted this thing, let's
     20. take it a step at a time so if questions come up. Some
     21. of the questions that I know you're hearing have been
     22. answered in the documentation, if those people go and
     23. read it. If there are new questions that come up,
     24. that's how they get responded to.
         1. So I think all of us are pretty comfortable saying
         2. the process is in place. The technical committees are
         3. in place. The major partners, the town and the National
         4. Park, are still fully supportive. So I think I would
         5. have no hesitation to entertain Mark's motion and see
         6. where we go from there without necessarily amending any
         7. of the small details.
         8. Yes, Lilli?
         9. MS. GREEN: I understand what you were saying.
         10. However, I really do believe that anyone in my community
         11. that comes to me with a concern I need to be open-minded
         12. enough to listen to them. And if there are unintended
         13. consequences and it does impact the economic well-being
         14. of any citizen in my community, I do feel a
         15. responsibility to take that seriously. And I do believe
         16. that people can come together in a room and talk things
         17. out, and I do believe that there are solutions. And I
         18. would support and encourage the Friends and people who
         19. have concerns to sit in a room and really go back and
         20. forth and talk things out because I think these people
         21. are concerned, and they are smart, and they are
         22. thoughtful, and they're spending the time to bring these
         23. concerns forward. So I think that's important.
         24. MR. DELANEY: I think there needs to be discussion
             1. continually through the project, but I don't agree.
             2. MS. LYONS: Yeah, I just want to -- having, like
             3. some of you, been through a lot of this, and my
             4. experience is wastewater where you have different plans
             5. and people say they want adaptive management, which is
             6. what you're trying to do so there's a concept of what
             7. is.
             8. So I really do appreciate people's concerns, and I
             9. am totally into many ways the public lead, you know, in
             10. -- you have to involve the public to have a project such
             11. as this go forward, but it's not like this -- this group
             12. of people may not have been in all of those discussions.
             13. These things have been done. Neighbors have been --
             14. I've been in the rooms myself where, you know, 200-300
             15. people of the town representing the town are in there
             16. asking questions, and some of them were pretty
             17. contentious, some of those meetings.
             18. So this has been hashed, and at a certain point,
             19. you know, you can only go empirical so long. There is a
             20. point where you have to say -- and, unfortunately, in
             21. our society today, we'd rather do nothing than have
             22. faith in ourselves, in our own ability to go forward and
             23. to go forward in partnership. So although I feel that
             24. you have to not get angry at these people but to explain
275. to them that, yes, we hear every one of those and this
276. is where those concerns are and to -- within our ability
277. as people, we are addressing every one of those. And if
278. there are those red flags, things stop so that there is
279. no damage. And I think adaptive management came, as you
280. say, because you could build this whole project -- you
281. could build a dam and 30 years later not think about it
282. coming over the other side. You know, this just
283. happened. A whole town had to be evacuated because of
284. different things that were just assumed.
285. So things are done differently, and things are done
286. more cautiously. And the public safety and are we
287. putting money -- money is much more precious. So are we
288. putting money into nothing? So although I think our --
289. your job as a leader in your town is to also help those
290. people have -- when everything is said and done have a
291. certain amount of trust in you and those that you're
292. representing on the government side. I think there's a
293. point we have to come together and have faith. And I do
294. think that, you know, by saying we have to do this, I
295. think it's being done. Constantly.
296. MR. DELANEY: Good, Sheila.
297. Helen, do you want to speak?
298. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. MIRANDA WILSON): Thank you.
299. I disagree slightly with that. I'm by nature an
300. optimist. I'm one of the people who asked very tough --
301. MS. LYONS: Right.
302. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. MIRANDA WILSON): -- skeptical
303. questions starting in the early 2000s and as a lifelong
304. resident of Wellfleet.
305. In the '70s when Mother Nature said, "We don't want
306. the dike here" and bust through, I was around for those
307. town meetings and heard all the pros and cons and
308. concerns. And the reason I'm speaking up right now is
309. part of a project like this is exactly the process that
310. has been going on since the early 2000s. And part of my
311. job on the selectboard is I listen to what everybody
312. says. I listen to the people who are incredibly
313. concerned about the nature of the area that we're hoping
314. to restore and also the people who -- I have no
315. prejudice because I have also asked those tough
316. questions, right? But I accept that there are people
317. who may come into the process at any point. This is not
318. communist China. They can come in with complete
319. ignorance and ask whatever questions they want. And the
320. great problem in this situation -- and all you and your
321. other towns and situations know -- this is just what it
322. is. It is simply getting the good information, the hard
323. facts over to the people who don't have them already.
324. And that is the great dilemma, and it's just what we
325. have to do without annoyance, with great patience, with
326. much repetition, and I have to say I've never been
327. involved in anything in Wellfleet in my whole life that
328. has had more meetings and more information supplied over
329. more time than this. It's been a very good process even
330. if it's frustrating for the people who know a great deal
331. more about it than the people who ask the questions
332. heard often.
333. Thank you.
334. MR. DELANEY: Good, thank you.
335. So we have a motion. Mark, do you want to just
336. rephrase that? Or not rephrase it but say it again.
337. MR. ROBINSON: That we reendorse the Herring River
338. restoration project's goals and the process, bringing it
339. to the point where it is today.
340. MR. DELANEY: Okay. And there was a second, I
341. heard earlier.
342. Any further discussion before we vote? Larry?
343. MR. SPAULDING: If I understand it then, we, first
344. of all, endorse the concept. Now we have this NEPA or
345. MEPA process is completed, and we're in the permanent
346. process or sort of in another phase. So I guess I'm in
347. favor of the motion, but you might add something into it
348. that we originally were in favor of the concept, but now
349. we've had these additional tests, and we're proceeding
350. ahead, and we want to reintroduce our support because it
351. sort of comes into the full picture of the way things
352. are happening.
353. MR. DELANEY: Okay. Mark, are you okay with that?
354. That interpretation?
355. MR. ROBINSON: Yeah.
356. MR. DELANEY: Okay. Any other discussion?
357. (No response.)
358. MR. DELANEY: All those in favor, signify by saying
359. aye.
360. BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
361. MR. DELANEY: Those opposed?
362. (No response.)
363. MR. DELANEY: Those abstaining?
364. (No response.)
365. MR. DELANEY: Okay, thank you.
366. Thank you, Don, for the presentation.
367. MR. PALLADINO: Thank you.
368. MR. DELANEY: Okay.
369. MS. GREEN: Excuse me, Rich. I have one more
370. question.
     1. So from the Park Service's standpoint, you had
     2. mentioned that there is a stakeholder group that is
     3. going to be formed. Does the Park Service have anything
     4. to do with that?
     5. MR. PRICE: That's part of the responsibility of
     6. the executive committee.
     7. MS. GREEN: And the Park Service has a
     8. representative?
     9. MR. PRICE: The superintendent is on that, yes.
     10. MS. GREEN: Okay.
     11. MR. PRICE: That's part of the MOU 3 deliberation,
     12. and it's part of the new federal requirement.
     13. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. MIRANDA WILSON): Yes, it
     14. turns out that it's required. At the next executive
     15. council meeting, there is a subcommittee which consists
     16. of the town manager from Truro and the town
     17. administrator from Wellfleet. We're going to go over
     18. who should be in it. They had us sort of call for
     19. (inaudible) people, and we discussed it at the last
     20. meeting. So there is going to be a stakeholders' group,
     21. but I for one want the outreach to be way beyond a
     22. stakeholders' group.
     23. MR. PRICE: Yeah, I think the -- so the
     24. stakeholders' group was thought about and also required,
371. so yes, that will be part of that. And there was a
372. group that raised their hand to do it. There was a lot
373. of discussion about -- you know, just by definition the
374. project is kind of large, and you have to manage it.
375. And I was talking about my experience in the Park
376. Service. In the Boston Harbor Islands, we had a
377. 28-member advisory group. So I think there are lessons
378. to be learned out there on how we can actually pull this
379. off. It wouldn't be as prescriptive as, say, this
380. advisory commission, and I think it's also an
381. opportunity for other voices. So I would recommend --
382. for instance, I don't think it's an expectation of the
383. stakeholders' group to have a unanimous voice. I think
384. there ought to be the opportunity for minority voices as
385. well that both the resource groups as well as the
386. executive council ought to be able to hear as they're
387. doing the deliberations and making decisions. So that
388. will be taken up at the next meeting.
389. MR. DELANEY: Good. We still have a little way to
390. go, and we do have a public comment period, so we can
391. always come back to this at public comment period.
392. But, George, while you have a little voice left, if
393. you want to persevere with the rest of your --
394. MR. PRICE: Yes.
     1. OCEAN STEWARDSHIP TOPICS - SHORELINE CHANGE
     2. MR. PRICE: I don't have anything else on ocean
     3. stewardship to offer, except to watch the storm tomorrow
     4. and see how our shoreline is going to be changed again.
     5. CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS
     6. MR. PRICE: I did want to go -- you know, as it's
     7. my last meeting, I did want to make a pitch on a couple
     8. of things. We've talked about Climate Friendly Parks
     9. before, and we've had presentations, but I did want to
     10. just leave you with this -- this handout, which is
     11. basically reiterating what your National Seashore is
     12. doing along the line of Climate Friendly Parks. This is
     13. some of the examples of our reductions in emissions that
     14. our park has been tracking over time.
     15. You can see that the reduction projection
     16. principally has been since, say, 2007 to 2014. So we're
     17. still in the process of coming up with the latest
     18. numbers. And also as we analyze our collection data and
     19. see the changes, we know that things change. So, for
     20. instance, we talk about our reduction in the use of
     21. electricity, but we're projected to bring out electric
     22. vehicles. So the good news then, we'll have electric
     23. vehicles, but we'll probably be using more electricity.
     24. So these things will have to be looked at, but I did
395. want you to be aware of that particular piece.
396. The other thing that you have had presentations
397. before from our science program has been about our air
398. quality monitoring. And there are two things about
399. this. One, I never felt so naive when I received the
400. first, second, and third notices from the state that we
401. had to post our freshwater ponds with signs recommending
402. that pregnant ladies and young children don't eat the
403. fish in the ponds because of the mercury content. And I
404. was shocked. Here we are on Cape Cod and why is that
405. the case? Well, it was because of pollution. And then
406. my first chief of science and natural resources said,
407. "Well, George, you have to realize Cape Cod is basically
408. the tailpipe of North America."
409. MS. AVELLAR: Is the what?
410. MR. PRICE: Tailpipe.
411. MS. LYONS: Tailpipe.
412. MR. PRICE: And I said, "What?" And he was saying
413. to me, "Well, all those electrical plants in all the
414. Midwest and all the coal and everything else wafts up
415. here." You know, you've seen the weather. Look at the
416. way the storm track is coming. Well, that's the way the
417. air currents come all the time.
418. I'll never forget when Ron Kaufman was the chair.
     1. And it was early on in the field trips, and it was in
     2. the fall when we went out to Coast Guard Beach because I
     3. wanted to show something about the Coast Guard Station.
     4. And I had to stop everybody and just have them take a
     5. look at the view. It was crystal clear. I had been
     6. there just the week before, and it was almost a haze, an
     7. indefinable haze. It wasn't a haze cloud. But I was
     8. looking at the ocean, and I was oohing and aahing and
     9. everything, and I was just kind of thinking about what
     10. was going to happen for the field trip. A week later it
     11. was unbelievable. I came back, and I asked Nancy again.
     12. I said, "What is going on here?" and she said, "Well,
     13. that was the fall inversion where the weather patterns
     14. have changed." So all the pollution came off the
     15. surface and was now at a higher level. So I couldn't
     16. believe how naive I was about a place like Cape Cod
     17. being affected by air pollution coming in from other
     18. places.
     19. One of the things that was said at a previous
     20. meeting to you all -- but again, I just wanted to make
     21. the point -- was here's some of the documentation of our
     22. air quality monitoring that we've been doing with USGS
     23. since 1980. And specifically it demonstrates the
     24. decline of nitrogen and sulfur oxides that really have
419. improved the air quality on Cape Cod. And what has all
420. this been tracked to? It's been the improvement in the
421. monitoring of the energy plants throughout the country
422. and certainly the switching from coal to other more
423. environmentally friendly gases. And this isn't opinion.
424. This is what we've actually found. And a lot of times
425. in my opinion, as I said to my natural resources staff,
426. I think this type of thing is missed, and I just wanted
427. to hit that nail on the head again because I certainly
428. talk about it in groups and, Rich, I know you talk about
429. these things, but very rarely do we get the science that
430. backs that up.
431. Now, part of the science program with USGS, by the
432. way, is they're concerned about pollution coming over
433. from Asia and everything else, and they're actually
434. trying to test molecules that might be coming in from
435. like Portland, Oregon, and Seattle and ending up in the
436. mid-Atlantic states and in Cape Cod. And I don't know
437. where that science is, but boy, I think this is a
438. success story. I think this is remarkable. Now, guess

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 21 | what? | It doesn't stop the mercury that's already in the |
| 22 | mud in | the ponds. Those we're going to have to live |
| 23 | with. | But I kept on saying at the time -- I said, |
| 24 | "Well, | where's the outreach?" and they said, "George, |

1. all the other states in New England already have it
2. posted. You're just Johnny-come-lately." And I just
3. think -- I don't know, Mark. That's kind of an under
4. the radar environmental disaster that I don't think most
5. people were aware of. I know, as someone that keys into
6. these things, I wasn't aware of it. So to know that
7. we've actually had marked improvement, I just wanted to
8. make sure you all knew that that was -- that was out
9. there.
10. MR. DELANEY: Lilli?
11. MS. GREEN: Thank you.
12. So, George, when we were on a field trip at one of
13. the ponds -- I believe it might have been last year even
14. -- it shocked me to hear you say that the pollution
15. could even be coming from as far away as Detroit.
16. MR. PRICE: Yeah, that's right.
17. MS. GREEN: I mean, to me this is shocking. I
18. don't think that a lot of people do know that.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 19 | MR. | PRICE: | I didn't know it. |
| 20 | MS. | AVELLAR: | Remember acid rain? |
| 21 | MS. | LYONS: | Acid rain on your car. |
| 22 | MS. | AVELLAR: | My father was obsessed with acid |
| 23 | rain. |  |  |
| 24 | MS. | LYONS: | It was ruining your cars, and it would |

1. eat paint off your cars.
2. MS. AVELLAR: Yeah.
3. MS. LYONS: I mean, we had rivers on fire. You
4. know, I mean, there were all kinds of things that were
5. going to happen again. It's all going to come back.
6. MS. AVELLAR: My father was a freshwater fisherman.
7. He never ate any of the fish.
8. MR. DELANEY: Maureen?
9. MS. BURGESS: That's wonderful, George, but why am
10. I feeling so depressed?
11. MS. LYONS: Yeah.
12. MS. BURGESS: Because I feel like this is all going
13. to go backwards.
14. MR. PRICE: Well, I don't know that it -- I'm not
15. distributing this for you to be depressed, just
16. informed.
17. MS. BURGESS: Thank you.
18. MR. DELANEY: The United States' commitment to the
19. Paris Climate Accord is based on maintaining this kind
20. of control over our power plants and then adding more
21. control over the diesel fuel that is burned by trucks
22. and large vehicles that is largely not controlled. And
23. EPA is the key agency that has put these in place and
24. needs to keep them in place and needs to add to them and
25. monitor them.
26. So, Maureen, without EPA --
27. MS. BURGESS: Exactly.
28. MR. DELANEY: -- we would be -- this may reverse.
29. That is the worrisome news.
30. MS. BURGESS: And Mr. Trump doesn't think that
31. greenhouse gases have anything to do with human beings.
32. MR. PRICE: I'm naive enough to believe that we can
33. have a positive business climate and a healthy
34. environment at the same time. I think that that can
35. happen, and I think a lot of citizens that even support
36. a lot of economic development, which our country needs,
37. to power exploration I think will be -- you know, we'll
38. see where we go with that.
39. HEALTHY PARKS, HEALTHY PEOPLE
40. MR. PRICE: One last topic under the
41. *Superintendent's Report*. I just wanted to make a plug
42. one more time for *Healthy Parks, Healthy People*. We
43. have a five-year agreement with Cape Cod Healthcare, and
44. they're continuing to work with us on that project. And
45. Courtney has been our liaison with them, and they'll be
46. putting out a schedule and will be doing a lot of that
47. sort of thing.
48. There are some other things that I'll want to say
    1. towards the end of the meeting, but I did want to just
    2. give you a status. So obviously my last day will be May
    3. 3. Kathy Tevyaw will be the acting superintendent for
    4. 120 days. There are a lot of changes that are going on
    5. in the Park Service and Department of Interior. Our
    6. secretary was just appointed a week ago Friday. You may
    7. have seen him in the news. He showed up at the Interior
    8. on a horse with his hat. He's a cowboy. We've had
    9. cowboys before. And the thing that -- something that
    10. has to happen is our previous director of the National
    11. Park Service retired before the administration changed,
    12. so that position will have to be filled.
    13. Our regional director is currently vacant. They're
    14. actually expecting there will be a turnover of a couple
    15. of acting regional directors before that is filled, and
    16. at this point we're not exactly sure what the timeline
    17. would be to fill my slot behind me on a permanent basis.
    18. Partly that has to do with the federal job freeze that's
    19. in place right now. It partly has to do with these
    20. other high level positions that are vacant. So all the
    21. actings will have to decide if they're going to move
    22. forward with the replacement of, say, a superintendent-
    23. type position at Cape Cod. My gut tells me that we'll
    24. go through a period of time with actings. Kathy for the
49. 120 days, that kind of is the typical limit. That can
50. be altered, but that's generally the rule. And then
51. generally there could be an acting even after Kathy as
52. well, so I just wanted you to be aware of that.
53. MR. DELANEY: Thanks, George.
54. MR. PRICE: So I'll be piping up on some of the
55. other projects, Rich, but that was the *Superintendent's*
56. *Report*.
57. MR. PRICE: Okay, great. Thank you.

# OLD BUSINESS

1. MR. DELANEY: Well, there is old business that we
2. do need your input on, and that's the update on the
3. Horton's Campground.
4. MR. PRICE: Sure.
5. UPDATE ON HORTON'S CAMPGROUND PRIVATE COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES
6. RELATED TO THEIR CSCs
7. MR. PRICE: I invited the attorney or I put an
8. inquiry in to see if he felt the need to come to this
9. meeting. He actually said that there hadn't been enough
10. new information in his meetings with the town and his
11. other submittals to actually -- to come and give us an
12. update, but Lauren's been working with the town on some
13. of the information that we've been receiving from other
14. places and specifically Natural Heritage.
    1. Lauren?
    2. MS. McKEAN: In your packet you'll see the letter
    3. that the town forwarded on from Mass. National Heritage.
    4. They declared that there has been a date -- has and will
    5. be a date of about 11 acres of box turtle habitat, and
    6. they are requesting that no work be done on the site
    7. until we've come up with a mitigation plan. And through
    8. that process, the zoning board is to hear the process on

9 March 20. I'd ask Carole, who is the town planner at

1. this point for the Town of Truro, about, you know, the
2. resolution of it on that evening, which neither of us
3. really anticipate it will be resolved that evening
4. because of the Mass. Natural Heritage issue.
5. MR. DELANEY: Okay. Thanks, Lauren.
6. MS. McKEAN: So if there are any questions.
7. MR. DELANEY: Oh, yeah.
8. MS. BURGESS: So just for clarification, Lauren and
9. Superintendent Price, the camp can open, correct? And
10. the other portion of the camp can function, the smaller
11. section, or -- but this is at a standstill?
12. MR. PRICE: The town has instituted a cease and
13. desist order on the new construction, so that's what's
14. been suspended.
15. MS. McKEAN: We could ask Carole.
16. MR. DELANEY: Carole, would you like to --
17. AUDIENCE MEMBER (CAROLE RIDLEY): I mean, I guess I
18. wasn't actually prepared to address this, but just
19. procedurally there are two -- two matters before the
20. town presently. One is an appeal of the building
21. commissioner's cease and desist order, and that is what
22. the zoning board of appeals will be hearing on March 20.
23. That's the only item on that particular agenda.
24. The building commissioner in his appeal indicated
25. that he believed that they are -- the applicant is
26. required -- Horton's is required to undergo commercial
27. site plan review. That is a planning board review
28. procedure. So they had submitted an application to the
29. planning board for a commercial development site plan
30. review. That hearing was opened a month or so back, I
31. think in January, and at that time they indicated that
32. actually they believed -- Horton's believed that they
33. were not required to undergo a commercial development
34. site plan review. That is the nature of their appeal.
35. So they requested that the matter be continued by the
36. planning board pending the outcome of the zoning board
37. of appeals matter, which is their appeal of the building
38. commissioner's order requiring them to go to site plan
39. review. They were required to return to the planning
40. board on the 21st, which is the day after the zoning
41. board continuance. However, it's expected that that
42. will be continued.
43. MR. DELANEY: Okay. And then with regard to the
44. suspension of the certificate of condemnation, George, I
45. presume -- well, could you just update us on where that
46. would stand and does stand and how those actions would
47. relate to them coming in, if at all?
48. MR. PRICE: Well, I think two things. Number one,
49. if you recall, at the December meeting, you all
50. recommended that I proceed with suspending the
51. certificate of suspension of condemnation. I believe
52. that I reported back to you that we, in fact, did do
53. that. After that meeting in December, I consulted our
54. attorney, our solicitor, and our regional office, and it
55. was determined that that should be the action that we
56. should take. So we sent letters both to the owner and
57. to the attorney to let them know that was our action
58. with basically the caveat that they certainly could come
59. back to the Commission if they had new information that
60. they wanted to share with us.
61. I think one of the issues in the future will be --
62. and as I've explained to them in the letter and I've
63. explained to you all publicly and I've explained to the
64. town -- the first line of position here -- I was going
65. to say the first line of defense because defense/
66. offense, frankly, is the town. So our legislation
67. clearly talks about when it comes to zoning, the town
68. really is the lead on the zoning, and it's adherence to
69. the town zoning that we all deliberate. Now, the
70. question is going to be, where does the town go? Lauren
71. and I have sat down with the town administrator and
72. others, and basically -- they basically have to
73. determine what would make the town whole on, say,
74. agreeing to move forward with the building permit, you
75. know, certificate of occupancy and all that sort of
76. thing. We then as a national seashore and as a
77. commission would have to decide could we live with that
78. outcome, whatever that outcome is. And what is the end
79. game here? What is it that would satisfy us
80. collectively that they have made amends or changed
81. things or their future plans and what have you would
82. meet our standards for compliance with the National
83. Seashore? Certainly reliance on the National -- the
84. Natural Heritage information is one clear piece.
85. Joe, you actually said at a previous meeting in
86. your experience with outfits like this that the
87. restoration plan is really only restoring the
88. landscaping for a permanent RV park. Well, I'm not
89. assuming that that would satisfy any of the National
90. Park professionals or you all or the town. So there's
91. got to be something in between. We're not going back to
92. the way it was. Everything's already been changed,
93. damaged. The topsoil's gone, et cetera. But what is it
94. that could happen here so that this amenity for camping
95. could still exist? And I think we're a long ways from
96. looking at that piece.
97. MR. DELANEY: Larry?
98. MR. SPAULDING: George, I was trying to read into
99. what you were saying that it is possible that should the
100. towns come to an agreement as to the proper restoration 14 --
101. MR. PRICE: Yes.
102. MR. SPAULDING: -- and that that would fill over
103. into the land that the Seashore owns that was basically 18 --
104. MR. PRICE: We actually made a determination that
105. the actual damage on Seashore property was minimal.
106. MR. SPAULDING: Okay, so that didn't happen.
107. MR. PRICE: We just didn't know that at the time
108. because of the way that all the clearing had been done,
109. but once our folks went out there with the GPS and we
110. tested our borders and property lines and everything,
111. there was some impact, but it was comparatively minimal.
112. MR. DELANEY: Mark?
113. MR. ROBINSON: One of my concerns you started
114. mentioning, George, is this idea that it becomes a
115. permanent trailer park year-round, which we have
116. examples of on Cape Cod. And so it seems to me that,
117. one, the town might want to look at for the first
118. instance is as part of any special permit or ZBA
119. decision, that they come up with a series of dates by
120. which nobody can be living there after a certain date so
121. that they're not year-round. It's a seasonal thing.
122. It's a recreational campground. It's not a home base
123. for someone. That's my concern.
124. MS. AVELLAR: Has it ever been year-round?
125. MS. BURGESS: No. Excuse me.
126. MR. DELANEY: Maureen?
127. MS. BURGESS: Carole, correct me if I'm wrong, but
128. the licenses currently are received annually and they
129. are seasonal. I would just have to check to see exactly
130. what the dates are.
131. MR. ROBINSON: So maybe something more than a
132. license, some kind of -- something that's recorded.
133. MS. BURGESS: Like a condition?
134. MR. ROBINSON: A condition of perpetuity. It's not
135. creeping down the road, "Oh, we need it to make money.
136. We've got to let them stay another month, another month,
137. another month."
138. MS. BURGESS: Right, some sort of administrative
139. review process where they actually go in and check.
140. MR. PRICE: So these are the elements that you all
141. in the future might be reviewing, and obviously we'll
142. continue to be in close communication with the town
143. officials as they work through this for sure. Again, at
144. the end of the day, I think it's in all of our interest
145. that a business stay there as a campground. That's
146. really what we want. I mean, into the future we just
147. don't want very high end rentals that most people can't
148. afford. So having campground opportunities I think is
149. very important. It's why we invested in the North of
150. Highlands camping area. It's why I was thrilled with
151. the Trustees of Reservations or the Dunes' Edge
152. Campground in Provincetown because a private property
153. owner could convert those. That would be too bad.
154. MR. DELANEY: Joe?
155. MR. CRAIG: That's exactly the opposite of what
156. they want to do. They want to maximize the income
157. per acre of what's there. That's what they were
158. doing.
159. MS. LYONS: Otherwise it would be cleared for
160. tents.
161. MR. DELANEY: So in answer to Maureen's initial
162. question, will the campground be allowed to operate this
163. summer --
164. MR. PRICE: Yes.
165. MR. DELANEY: -- in any form or fashion without
166. reversing the suspension of the certificate?
167. MR. PRICE: Yeah, yeah. So the certificate has
168. been reversed since whatever date the letter was
169. written.
170. MR. DELANEY: Right.
171. MR. PRICE: So they have no certificate at this
172. point.
173. MS. BURGESS: But they can still open? It's just
174. that that's --
175. MR. PRICE: Yes.
176. MR. DELANEY: They can operate at their risk.
177. MR. PRICE: Yes, at their risk.
178. MR. DELANEY: Okay. Any other discussion on the
179. Horton's Campground situation?
180. (No response.)
181. MR. DELANEY: Thank you, George.
     1. LIVE LIGHTLY CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT
     2. MR. DELANEY: Under *Old Business* as well, Mark, we
     3. finally have a chance to hear from you. We had this on
     4. the agenda, and there's an excellent article that's also
     5. in your packet about a different approach to adding to
     6. the Seashore one parcel at a time, and Mark has been
     7. spearheading that with his organization.
     8. So we'd appreciate an update.
     9. MR. ROBINSON: Okay, just very quickly. This
     10. project was mentioned in the article. These are the
     11. McArdles, Sonia and Rich. They're from Chicago, but
     12. they bought the old Joe and Evelyn Duarte place on North
     13. Pamet Road in Truro, and the Duartes have been there at
     14. least since 1940. When the husband and wife passed, the
     15. family sold it to the McArdles. Sonia has a mother who
     16. lives across the street. So they have a long connection
     17. with the area as well.
     18. This is the house and it's right on the Pamet.
     19. Here's Route 6 (indicates). The Lower Pamet, which is
     20. tidal. The Upper Pamet, which has this tiny little
     21. culvert. You can't see down here. It's about this wide
     22. (indicates). So it's like Herring River II. But
     23. there's this huge ecosystem that stretches all the way
     24. up to Ballston. And here's the river as it nears the
182. Route 6 dike (indicates). So it's actually a very
183. beautiful wetland habitat with the exception of some of
184. the Phragmites in the system. They've got a lot of
185. parallels. I'm sure it's got the same problems of
186. oxygen depletion and whatnot.
187. Anyway, so the McArdles said, "Well, this is more
188. land than we need for ourselves and our family. Let's
189. put some of it into a conservation restriction." So
190. they still own all of this land, close to 17 acres, I
191. think. And some of it is the marsh itself along the
192. river. There are also two house lots here, which they
193. have essentially retired by donating this conservation
194. restriction to the Truro Conservation Trust. This is
195. Fred Gaechter, who's the president of the Truro
196. Conservation Trust. And so they were delighted to get
197. this 11-acre conservation restriction, two less houses
198. on North Pamet Road here (indicates). The land does
199. abut the National Seashore boundary here, and the
200. Seashore owns across from the other side of the marsh
201. there.
202. So it's a nice project. We were thrilled to work
203. on it. Finished it last year with them. And we hope
204. that they'll be good residents for a long time.
205. So just an example. We've shown other examples.
     1. Sometimes it's as small as one or two acres. In this
     2. case, it was 11 acres but people who retained title,
     3. kept their privacy, retired some house lots in this
     4. case. Not always. Sometimes it's just preserving woods
     5. as woods or marsh as marsh. And every little bit helps.
     6. So it's land in the Seashore that we're interested in,
     7. land near the Seashore. In this case, abutting.
     8. MS. BURGESS: Nice.
     9. MR. DELANEY: Any thoughts or questions? Or
     10. volunteers to put a restriction on your property?
     11. (Laughter.)
     12. (No response.)
     13. MR. ROBINSON: Good tax breaks right now.
     14. MR. DELANEY: They're coming.
     15. MS. LYONS: Good work, Mark.
     16. MR. DELANEY: Good. Okay, so just a couple things,
     17. and then we want to come back. I want to give George
     18. the floor again.

# NEW BUSINESS

* 1. MR. DELANEY: New Business. Any new issues that we
  2. haven't dealt with before?
  3. Lilli?
  4. MS. GREEN: Yes, I'd like a report from the Park at
  5. the next meeting about herbicides used within the Park.

1. That's come to my attention through this whole thing
2. with the Herring River project that perhaps -- or there
3. has been the use of herbicides around ponds in
4. Wellfleet, and I would like to have an update on that.
5. MR. DELANEY: That's for the next agenda, which
6. we're going to talk about now. So we can ask for a
7. report on herbicide use in the Park as part of our next
8. agenda. Thank you.
9. Anything else? Maureen?
10. MS. BURGESS: Just, George, you were speaking about
11. the trails. I think there's some misconception. I know
12. there certainly is in Truro. Because this summer I
13. heard complaints about the trails not being maintained,
14. and Dave Spang actually responded to some of the folks
15. that were talking about that. In reality, the only
16. trails that you maintain are the ones that you know as
17. like the Red Maple Swamp or the White Cedar Swamp. All
18. of those other little trails you are not obligated to
19. maintain, correct?
20. MR. PRICE: Correct. We have an inventory of X
21. number of trails. It's about 17 miles' worth of trails,
22. and those are designated trails. There are other social
23. trails or other --
24. MS. BURGESS: Social trails?
25. MR. PRICE: -- fire roads or wood lot roads or
26. other things that have been adapted as trails that may
27. or may not be in or out of the Seashore, but those would
28. not necessarily be ones that fall into our inventory of
29. identified trails.
30. I know, for instance, Bob asked me about some of
31. that. So we spent a lot of work, for instance, on the
32. Bayberry Hill Trail and did a lot of improvements to
33. that. But then Bob was saying, "Yeah, but there are
34. these other areas that haven't been touched." Well,
35. they're not part of our trail system. So we're talking
36. about the ones that we advertise that are part of our
37. trail program.
38. MS. BURGESS: Right. Now, also has there been
39. movement to put more split rail fences to trails that go
40. into the ponds? Is that something that's new?
41. MR. PRICE: Yes. Well, it's not new. We've had
42. the ponds work group, Lauren, for how many years?
43. MS. McKEAN: Five years.
44. MR. PRICE: Five years. Again, this is another
45. area which I believe, you know, had been kind of allowed
46. to go into disrepair. It's a joint effort between the
47. towns and the Seashore, the ponds that are within the
48. Seashore, and it came to our attention that there's been
49. a number of areas that have really had overuse. So some
50. of the trails have had severe erosion. The roots of
51. trees have been exposed and all of that. We've had
52. changes in the water levels of some of the ponds.
53. I can't remember. Did we have Sophia Fox here
54. talking about the ponds in the past?
55. MS. BURGESS: We did. We did, yeah, a couple years
56. ago.
57. MR. PRICE: But I think she was probably focused on
58. the water quality of the ponds.
59. MS. BURGESS: Right.
60. MR. PRICE: We could do a piece on what our ponds
61. work group has done, specifically in conjunction with
62. the towns. And we have kind of reclaimed some of the
63. parking areas where the split rail fence had
64. deteriorated, and where there had been enough parking
65. for five, there has been 15 cars and that sort of thing.
66. MS. BURGESS: Well, I usually hear about it in the
67. way of complaint. "I can't get my car in there
68. anymore," and my response is --
69. MR. PRICE: Well, you're not supposed to be.
70. MS. BURGESS: Exactly. Yeah, exactly.
71. MR. PRICE: So yes, you've seen some new split rail
72. fences kind of reestablishing a presence. We've also
73. upgraded our interpretive signage and our regulation
74. signage because it got to the point where it just looked
75. like nobody was paying attention and nobody cared. And
76. part of that also, frankly, my assessment as a historian
77. is I think the evolution of Park management changed.
78. And at one point there was a work group that was kind of
79. all-inclusive in doing that sort of thing, and I don't
80. think we really caught up to it once we kind of became
81. more specialized in our internal functions. So we kind
82. of reestablished the approach.
83. MS. LYONS: Who is responsible for the other
84. trails? I mean, there are these trails that are not
85. necessarily part of your system. So who has -- who
86. historically maintained those?
87. MR. PRICE: If you're talking historically, nobody.
88. MS. LYONS: They just kind of --
89. MS. GREEN: Organic.
90. MS. LYONS: Organic use. Probably an organic trail
91. that eventually expanded because of --
92. MR. PRICE: Well, because of social activity.
93. MS. LYONS: Yeah, social activity, you know,
94. walking.
95. MR. DELANEY: This might be another interesting
96. topic for a fuller report with more time on the trail
97. management, maintenance, and future plans and
98. responsibilities. We haven't talked about this at
99. length, and it could be a good one for our next meeting.
100. Lilli, something else?
101. MS. GREEN: Yes, if I could just redirect the topic
102. that I brought up.
103. George, if you could give us just a brief overview
104. of the use of herbicides around the Wellfleet ponds
105. because it has come up and has been expressed to me as a
106. concern from citizens in my town and also the Park's
107. position on spraying herbicides on the power lines that
108. are within the Park Service.
109. MR. PRICE: This I think will have to come up at
110. another meeting so you have more time -- more time to
111. work on it. I was reminding Lilli probably before you
112. were on the Commission. Some of you will remember,
113. although there's only a couple of you left from those
114. days, when NStar first came to the Seashore to request
115. permission to use herbicides under the power lines
116. within the Seashore, we went through our process with
117. our integrated pest management group, which is situated
118. in the University of Pittsburgh, and they determined the
119. type of material they were going to use and the type of
120. application process they were going to use. The Park
121. Service would approve that. And I came back to this
122. group, and I let them know that they were going to
123. approve that.
124. And, Rich, I forgot the gentleman's name. He
125. always used to sit where you're sitting. And he had
126. been the botanist for -- botanical for the Brooklyn
127. Botanical Gardens or something, a famous arborist. I
128. can't remember his name.
129. MS. McKEAN: Howard Irwin.
130. MR. PRICE: Howard Irwin. I thought he was going
131. to fall off his chair. And he was an alternate I think
132. at the time. I was asked by the group could I go back
133. to that office and ask them to look at it again, which I
134. did. And they looked at it again, and they said, "Yes,
135. this is absolutely appropriate."
136. So there's been no hiding this, Lilli, that this
137. was the position of the Seashore. As far as I know,
138. NStar has never actually made any applications.
139. MS. McKEAN: They haven't within the Seashore
140. boundary.
141. MR. PRICE: They haven't?
142. MS. McKEAN: And we did have conditions also on
143. their use that was specific about humidity, et cetera.
144. MR. PRICE: And we certainly have used herbicides
     1. very selectively. You've met Dr. Steve Smith, who is
     2. our plant ecologist, and we actually have a team of
     3. specialists that helped us with this application at
     4. (inaudible) park, and it's been used in a very specific
     5. type of area to try to effect a particular strand of
     6. invasives that we believe if they went uncontrolled
     7. would really have a detrimental effect on the
     8. environment. And to date there are no other more
     9. effective ways to eliminate this. Hand pulling doesn't
     10. work. It just allows (inaudible) to expand. And this
     11. is a pretty focused type of thing. I don't expect that
     12. it's going to convince anybody that emotionally can't
     13. even consider any alternatives, but yes, the Park
     14. Service does this on a very selective basis. And we
     15. don't do it unilaterally. We have to go through this
     16. IPM process in order to get a sign-off, and then we have
     17. these people that are specially trained that actually
     18. work with us to perform the application.
     19. So, Kathy, if we can tee that up for another
     20. meeting.
     21. MR. DELANEY: Yeah, more detailed discussion next
     22. time.
     23. MS. GREEN: I'd just like to clarify. First of
     24. all, I wasn't saying that this was hidden at all. It
145. was just a concern that was expressed to me by people
146. that are smart and have a science background and have
147. done a lot of research, and secondly, you brought up the
148. fact about the power lines, and there was going to be a
149. discussion about the herbicides around town.
150. So thank you for clarifying that. I appreciate it.
151. MR. DELANEY: Good. Good information, and there'll
152. be more to come at our next meeting.

# DATE AND AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

1. MR. DELANEY: Speaking of the next meeting,
2. typically if we can set a date, and then we'll go to
3. *Public Comment*.
4. It's two months generally we go, right? So I'm
5. thinking it's May.
6. MR. PRICE: Yes.
7. MR. DELANEY: May 8 or -- I have to look over to
8. Kathy now. May 8 or May 15?
9. MS. TEVYAW: Pre-party or post-party?
10. MR. DELANEY: Oh, that's right. Post.
11. MS. TEVYAW: There's this party that we'll be
12. celebrating.
13. MS. BURGESS: Post.
14. MS. TEVYAW: Post, all right.
15. MR. DELANEY: We're going to have some stories to
    1. tell after the party. So May 15, okay. So we'll set
    2. the date for May 15.
    3. We already have two items for the agenda. Any
    4. other items or topics to be put on the agenda at this
    5. time from anyone besides all the traditional updates?
    6. MR. PRICE: Well, I actually counted three. That
    7. would be herbicides. You had the ponds working group,
    8. and you had the trails.
    9. MR. DELANEY: Oh, okay.
    10. MR. PRICE: So you'll have to determine if you want
    11. to do all of those on that date or depending on how long
    12. the presentations could be.
    13. MR. DELANEY: Okay. Good, okay. So it's set and
    14. we've got a tentative agenda.
    15. Hearing no other questions from the commissioners
    16. or for the superintendent, I will turn to *Public*
    17. *Comment*.

# PUBLIC COMMENT

* 1. MR. DELANEY: Public comment is an opportunity we
  2. have every meeting to hear from the public on any topic
  3. or suggestions from the public. Just all I really ask
  4. is you identify yourself and speak.
  5. So I saw a hand earlier. Yes?
  6. AUDIENCE MEMBER (SUSAN BAUMGARTEN): Susan
     1. Baumgarten from Wellfleet. I just have two questions
     2. actually, and one relates to the herbicide conversation
     3. and what will be on the next agenda. I'd be very
     4. interested in knowing what kind of monitoring,
     5. particularly adaptive management-related monitoring or
     6. any other monitoring that has been done on the use of
     7. herbicides to date in the Park Service area. We assume
     8. that, for example, the spraying in 2012 at Herring Pond
     9. was followed by some sort of monitoring of the
     10. (inaudible) and also any off-target effects, but
     11. whatever you can tell us about what sort of monitoring
     12. is done would be very useful. So that's the first
     13. question.
     14. MR. DELANEY: That's a good question. So we'll
     15. make sure that's part of the presentation, the answer to
     16. that.
     17. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. BAUMGARTEN): The second
     18. question is, where could someone get a copy of the 17
     19. miles of trails that are under the purview of the Park
     20. Service that are being maintained? Is there someplace
     21. we could find that?
     22. MS. BUTLER: On our website at *nps.gov/caco*. We
     23. also have brochures up front I can give you.
     24. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. BAUMGARTEN): And it lists
         1. very clearly where we could -- what trails?
         2. MS. BUTLER: Yes.
         3. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. BAUMGARTEN): Great, okay,
         4. thank you.
         5. MR. DELANEY: Thank you.
         6. Other comments in the back?
         7. AUDIENCE MEMBER (BEN GAGNON): Yes, I have a
         8. question. Ben Gagnon with *The Provincetown Banner*. I
         9. just want to follow-up.
         10. George, you said you're going to need to move the
         11. viewing tower because of erosion? At Highland Light?
         12. MR. PRICE: Highland Light, yes.
         13. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MR. GAGNON): I'm sorry?
         14. MR. PRICE: Highland Light, yes. The viewing
         15. platform. If you go up to the Highland Light and you
         16. walk around the trail, around the structure and you head
         17. on out to the cliff, you'll see the granite boulder that
         18. identifies what the tower had been in '96.
         19. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MR. GAGNON): Right, I was just
         20. asking, do we need to do this or is that some --
         21. MR. PRICE: Yes.
         22. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MR. GAGNON): Is there any more
         23. detail on that?
         24. MR. PRICE: No, I think we have to monitor anything
             1. we're doing along the coastline. And since I've been
             2. here, that platform has already been pulled back once,
             3. and it's time to pull it back again. This time we don't
             4. think it will survive another pullback. We think we're
             5. going to have to reconstruct it. So it will have to be
             6. pulled back. It's a balancing act because we want it
             7. pulled back where it will be safe for the public but
             8. they can still view and they won't be tempted to hop
             9. over the fence to get close. And for those of you that
             10. remember, it was just several 100 yards north of that
             11. spot where we had a major slump. Was it just two years
             12. ago?
             13. MS. BURGESS: It was just last spring.
             14. MR. PRICE: Last spring.
             15. MS. BURGESS: Or this past spring.
             16. MR. PRICE: It was a -- a slump is when you get a
             17. tremendous amount of material that comes down from the
             18. bluff, and it's basically, as I've been told by the
             19. geologist, there'll be a lens of clay that is really not
             20. seen by the human eye. And over the eons, the water
             21. that's been on that lens, all of a sudden you'll have a
             22. tremendous amount of material. There was a mountain
             23. that actually went to the breaker. You couldn't get
             24. around it without climbing over the top of this thing.

1. So there was tons of material.
2. MS. BURGESS: There was tons. My husband and I
3. discovered it on a walk, and it seemed to have happened
4. overnight. It was amazing.
5. MR. PRICE: And in the '70s I believe there was a
6. young person from Truro who was killed, who just
7. coincidently was on the beach when that slump came down.
8. So whether you're on top of the bluff and it goes or if
9. you're on the bottom, it's not a good thing to have that
10. much material.
11. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MR. GAGNON): I was really asking
12. more a process question, George. Is that just an
13. observation that you're making? Is it in a budget
14. somewhere?
15. MR. PRICE: It's on the big plan. It's our
16. understanding we're responsible for that.
17. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MR. GAGNON): Okay. Also, the
18. path to bypass the stairs at Nauset Light, is that also
19. -- what phase is that? Is that an idea, or is it --
20. MR. PRICE: No, the contractor with an engineer
21. last year gave us -- there's a lot of things going on
22. with Nauset Light. There are the stairs that disappear
23. every year. There's the erosion of the facilities,
24. including the septic tank, and then there's the access
25. to the beach if we don't have stairs. So we have
26. identified through that process with the Town of Eastham
27. as a participant there is a lower area to the south of
28. the current stairs where we can actually put in an
29. access path. So rather than having stairs coming right
30. from the parking lot, it will be more like what we have
31. here at Marconi where there's a trail to actually get to
32. the beach.
33. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MR. GAGNON): So that's in a plan
34. moving forward?
35. MR. PRICE: Yes.
36. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MR. GAGNON): Is there a date or
37. anything for any of that?
38. MR. PRICE: No, it depends if we have stairs or
39. not.
40. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MR. GAGNON): Thank you.
41. MR. DELANEY: Other comments from the public? Yes?
42. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. MIRANDA WILSON): Two things.
43. One is there's an organization of the people that live
44. around the system of ponds in Northeast Wellfleet and
45. Southeast Truro. It's called GUPACA, G-U-P-A-C-A. And
46. the Park does a wonderful job in meeting with that group
47. of concerned citizens, and over the years when I'm
48. elected, I'd go to those meetings. And at the last
49. meeting, which happens in the summer, Steve Smith, the
50. Park botanist, if you will -- the Park plant guy had a
51. special meeting with them here that went on for several
52. hours. And I was surprised, because I am by nature, as
53. I said before, skeptical, how interactive their concerns
54. and his and the Park's concerns were -- how
55. interactively they were shared. There was no stonewall.
56. And they're up on their hind legs screaming because they
57. don't want any herbicides or pesticides used in those
58. ponds because very often they have their wells right
59. next to them. But that's an ongoing process that I
60. think works well, and there's a listening to it. I
61. always take exception to people categorizing objections
62. to the use of pesticides as emotional because I've
63. objected to them for years and I am completely
64. unemotional about it. So I just have to say that.
65. The second comment is this -- and this is true in
66. the Town of Wellfleet -- there is a big issue with
67. maintaining remoteness, and Wellfleet has put its money
68. where its mouth is in that we don't allow off-road
69. vehicles in Wellfleet. And having grown up here and
70. enjoyed informal trails -- they're called social trails?
71. -- not every place that is, in fact, legally open to the
72. public should be sanctified with a map. There should be
73. parts of our shared area that are less overly used.
74. There are so many of us. And what happened at Salt
75. Pond, which is in Truro, with the complete erosion of
76. that bank -- and Steve Smith addressed that by changing
77. the access dam. There are so many of us, and there have
78. to be places that are a little harder to get to. And
79. I'm a good person to speak about it because I have a lot
80. of places I can't get to anymore because I've got an
81. orthotic hip. In other words, I can't go everywhere I
82. would like to go anymore in the Park, but those places
83. need some protection. So that's just my comment about
84. that.
85. MR. DELANEY: Interesting, helpful comments. Thank
86. you.
87. MS. LYONS: If I could just add onto that.
88. MR. DELANEY: Sure.
89. MS. LYONS: There's the spit down at Gull Pond.
90. When I first came here, that was the secret spot. And
91. then about two years after living here, *The New York*
92. *Times* had it in their paper with an arrow calling it --
93. saying this is one of the most secret -- you know, most
94. revered, secret spots. Then you could not get in.
95. There were 12 cars when there was room for two. That's
96. when they started really being very heavy on
97. restrictions. So I appreciate what Helen had to say.
98. MR. DELANEY: Thank you.
99. Other comments from the public?
100. (No response.)
101. MR. DELANEY: Okay. Hearing --
102. MR. PRICE: Is it appropriate to do an asterisk on
103. what Helen just said? So the challenge is -- and I've
104. been labeled in the newspaper as an aging baby boomer,
105. and I have lousy knees and feet. So the question is, in
106. a place like a national park where do you balance the
107. access for accessibility? I certainly don't have a
108. handicapped sticker on my car or anything yet, but I'm
109. certainly challenged in a lot of things, especially
110. walking over sand. And I'm approached regularly by
111. other aging baby boomers. And you have seen in some of
112. the beaches we have that little Mobi-Mat out, and we've
113. gotten thousands of kudos on that because it makes it a
114. lot easier to walk on the sand to get further out to
115. where you might want to rest. I believe I justified a
116. lot of our insistence that we make sure we have visual
117. access from the North parking lot at North Herring Cove
118. directly to the water there. I mean, I've personally
119. sat in that parking lot and counted ten whales right off
120. the beach. And I have had other planners in the world
121. of parks say, "Well, if someone can't walk a couple
122. hundred yards, then tough luck." And we need to balance
123. what we can do for access for people versus what can
124. still be considered -- obviously I'm not talking
125. wilderness at all, but more aggressive thing for an
126. individual experience, for instance. But that is an
127. ongoing challenge, especially as we age as a population
128. and then, on the other hand, as we stay relevant for
129. young people that don't have any of these challenges.
130. That's the asterisk that I wanted to get to. So how do
131. you balance it off?
132. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. MIRANDA WILSON): It's tough,
133. and it should be case by case.
134. MR. PRICE: Yeah. Should we have an elevator at
135. the Grand Canyon?
136. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. MIRANDA WILSON): No.
137. MS. BURGESS: How about the Highland Light?
138. MR. PRICE: Should we have an elevator at the
139. Highland Light?
140. AUDIENCE MEMBER (MS. MIRANDA WILSON): No.
141. MR. PRICE: Should we have off-road vehicles that
142. take you to the backcountry in Yellowstone? So these
143. are all the things that Park Service people and our
144. environmental colleagues wrestle every day.
     1. MR. DELANEY: Helen, in the end it has to be sort
     2. of custom-tailored to the situation and so forth, but
     3. this is probably a good segue into the last couple of
     4. things we want to talk about with the superintendent.
     5. And I'll just comment I've been with the Cape Cod
     6. Chamber of Commerce, and we have had a retreat thinking
     7. about this topic we were just discussing, the future
     8. economic paradigm for Cape Cod. You know, it's always
     9. been a tourist economy. Recently they're talking about
     10. having the blue economy based on water, but one of my
     11. fellow board members said maybe we should have a whole
     12. strategy on the gray economy. So I think that's what we
     13. were just talking about, and George is becoming part of
     14. -- officially about to become part of the gray economy
     15. as he retires.
     16. MR. ROBINSON: I think silver would be better.
     17. MR. DELANEY: Silver. Oh, thank you, the silver
     18. economy.
     19. MS. AVELLAR: You know, I think we have a
     20. wheelchair in Provincetown so that people can actually
     21. go into the water, down one of those Mobi-Mats.
     22. MR. PRICE: Yes.
     23. MR. DELANEY: Well, first thing I'd like to say
     24. is I hope everyone has May 11 on your calendar because
145. that will be the day when we officially say goodbye to
146. George with some reminiscing and some roasting and some
147. fun.
148. MS. TEVYAW: Courtney's handling the tickets.
149. MR. DELANEY: And Courtney will be giving us more
150. details. Are there any details to share right now?
151. MS. BUTLER: It's $30 a person and tickets --
152. checks can be made out to CCNS Employee Association.
153. And you can leave them with me or have them mailed here
154. with my name on it.
155. MS. AVELLAR: CCNS what?
156. MS. BUTLER: Employee Association.
157. MR. DELANEY: And the location and time?
158. MS. BUTLER: It's 6 o'clock at the Elks in Eastham
159. on McKoy Road.
160. MS. TEVYAW: Courtney, I thought if they got an
161. email, but --
162. MS. BUTLER: Yeah.
163. MS. BURGESS: Yeah.
164. MS. AVELLAR: Yeah, we did.
165. MS. TEVYAW: Okay, you all got an email with the
166. invitation.
167. MR. DELANEY: Okay, so refer to that. Respond.
168. Invite friends and family. It's a great spot. It's
169. large enough to accommodate lots of George's friends,
170. and he's been here for a number of years to have a lot
171. of associates.
172. I'm proud to say that I've been -- my career is in
173. a way parallel with you, George. We both had our early
174. start here in the Cape Cod National Seashore. Then we
175. went off Cape. George did wonderful things at Lowell
176. and then at Boston Harbor Islands. Meanwhile, I was
177. kind of paralleling that at Coastal Zone Management in
178. UMass-Boston. We had a whole adventure helping the
179. Boston Harbor Islands National Park get established from
180. our two relative positions. Then we ended up back here
181. together. And I just wanted to say without a long
182. speech he's always been a terrific professional and
183. wonderful colleague and great friend for all these
184. years. His list of accomplishments in each one of those
185. areas has been significant. He has made a big
186. difference here on Cape Cod for all of us. We'll have a
187. chance to say more about this on May 11, but I just
188. wanted to say now on the record thank you, George, for
189. your years of service here. All of us are saddened to
190. see you leave, but you deserve a restful retirement, and
191. we will all wish you well on that.
192. But we thought you should have the floor before we

1 end.

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MR. PRICE: Thank you, Rich.

MR. DELANEY: I'm going to turn it back to you. MR. PRICE: I'm not sure restful is on the agenda,

1. but certainly retirement. I did appreciate having a
2. couple of words because I did want to share some things
3. with you all.
4. I've been here 12 years in February, and one of the
5. things that I just wanted to pass on, especially as a
6. commission -- I think I've said this to you before --
7. I'm a big fan of this commission. And the policy office
8. in Washington is shocked that I'm a superintendent that
9. wants a commission to stay. Most commissions in most
10. national parks have not been this productive, collegial,
11. or effective. And for some of you that were here during
12. the Chatham cottage days and everything, you know it was
13. not --
14. MS. BURGESS: Pretty.
15. MS. LYONS: It was tense.
16. MR. PRICE: It was tense. It wasn't collegial
17. necessarily. However, that is few and far between,
18. but the most important thing is I really think that
19. this is an important body, and I certainly hope you
20. will all continue to be reestablished on your ten-year
21. cycles.
22. I had mentioned this at one of the last meetings,
23. Rich. I think it's in 2018 is when it has to be
24. recommissioned or reauthorized, so it's not too soon for
25. you all to be talking to the Congressman's office about
26. that.
27. What I did want to share with you, though, is I
28. think it's very important that the larger community stay
29. engaged with the Seashore. A lot of people said to me
30. over the 50th anniversary that they felt a lot of people
31. take the Seashore for granted, and I think, except for
32. the people that are closest -- I think that's probably
33. accurate on the Cape.
34. We have done a number of things to try to extend
35. the value of the Seashore beyond just the Outer Cape.
36. I can't believe how many people I talked to down where
37. I live said, "Oh, yeah, I came out on a school trip.
38. I've never been there since." But if you take a look at
39. my slideshow, my first slide always is that the Cape --
40. the establishment of the Seashore is one of the most
41. significant acts for the environment in New England
42. ever. And that was *The Berkshire Eagle* in the
43. Berkshires that wrote that. So when this was
44. established, it was a big deal and a big footprint, and
45. I think it deserves that again.
46. I think you'll often come up with a lot of people
47. that will have a lot of suggestions and requests which I
48. believe will not necessarily benefit the Seashore.
49. There have been articles in the last year where there
50. have been complaints about us for clamping down on
51. feeding the birds, that somehow people should be allowed
52. to feed the birds. We have had issues in Provincetown
53. where people feed the coyotes, they feed the geese. We
54. have people that want electric vehicles on the trails.
55. We have people that always want other things. The
56. drones are the cause du jour right now, and I personally
57. saw drones harassing seals at Coast Guard Beach.
58. So we have things on that level which are
59. constantly picking at us, and then we have things at the
60. larger level, especially as the towns get more and more
61. pressed. In my State of the Park report, I always have
62. a couple of slides about the challenges, and they match
63. almost every challenge you all have at your towns,
64. whether it's the gentrification, whether it's the cost
65. of living, whether it's the housing, whether it's water,
66. whether it's wastewater. All of these things we have in
67. the town as well. I think Mary-Jo has said the Seashore
68. is probably the seventh town out on the Outer Cape
69. because of all the responsibilities we have. But as we
70. take a look at the Seashore, I think -- I certainly hope
71. we all in this room at least believe that this is still
72. a special place that takes some special care.
73. It bothered me a lot during the whole Blasch house
74. discussion. For those of you that were here, we had
75. people that were yelling in the room over my shoulder
76. over our objection and the whole zoning issue. And in
77. the newspaper I'll never forget an article that said,
78. "This is America. Somebody ought to build whatever they
79. want to build on their property. Why is this area so
80. special?" And, of course, I'm saying it's because it's
81. a unit of the National Park Service. It was special.
82. It was designated and set aside with the goals and
83. policies of a national park unit, and the attempt was to
84. integrate with the towns in a way that actually made
85. sense but still had a recognition that even in the
86. Seashore Districts these were special places. And your
87. predecessors and the boards of selectmen all agreed to
88. that when the Seashore Districts were actually
89. established.
90. And I think you get the -- so we'll have the little
91. things that we'll have to be vigilant on, and there's
92. certainly the big thing. Certainly I consider myself
93. exceptionally lucky to be here during some of the big
94. projects that we've had here, whether it's the
95. Centennial of the National Park Service, the 50th
96. anniversary of the Seashore. And we spent a lot of
97. time talking about the Herring River. I've been such a
98. fan of the Herring River project since I've learned
99. about it. I mean, it is one of the big legacy topics.
100. I said this at the executive board meeting. I get goose
101. bumps thinking about it for future generations to be
102. able to have a positive impact on the largest wetland
103. restoration in the Gulf of Maine, and I certainly hope
104. you all continue to support that in any way you can.
105. But it's been a pleasure to be your superintendent
106. and especially to be a participant with all of you and
107. all of your predecessors that have had a lot to do with
108. the Advisory Commission, so I thank you for
109. participating.
110. (Applause.)
111. MS. BUTLER: Do you want to close the meeting?
112. MR. DELANEY: Yeah. Go ahead.
113. MS. BUTLER: Do you want to close the meeting
114. first?

# ADJOURNMENT

1. MR. DELANEY: May I have a motion to adjourn the

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | meeting? |  | |
| 2 | MS. | BURGESS: | So moved. |
| 3 | MS. | LYONS: | Second. |
| 4 | MR. | DELANEY: | All those in favor, signify by saying |
| 5 | aye. |  |  |

1. BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
2. (Whereupon, at 3:17 p.m. the proceedings were
3. adjourned.) 9

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# REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

PLYMOUTH, SS

I, Linda M. Corcoran, a Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that:

The foregoing 110 pages comprises a true, complete, and accurate transcript to the best of my knowledge, skill, and ability of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission at Marconi Station Area, Park Headquarters, South Wellfleet, Massachusetts, on Monday, March 13, 2017, commencing at 1:03 p.m.

I further certify that I am a disinterested person to these proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and notarial seal this 11th day of May, 2017.

Linda M. Corcoran - Court Reporter

My commission expires: August 28, 2020