



Hello from Lagoon Pond! As President of the LPA, I promised to write a quarterly update to our members as to what we on the Board have been doing. We have been off to a great start since the Annual Meeting and we are enthusiastically preparing to get many things accomplished this year.

Some of the things we are working on are as follows:

1. Safe Harbor Expansion: Safe Harbors (formerly Prime Marina) has an application at the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) to (i) remove 4 buildings on the site, (ii) remove 10 boats from water slips and move them to rack storage with those 10 slips remaining open for "valet" service from the racks, (iii) increasing their parking spaces from 20 to 36, (iv) adding 2 additional boat racks (with 30 additional boats) and relocating 2 others, and (v) adding an additional ~8,000 sf concrete slab. For more information, please see the MVC's "Active Developments of Regional Impact" regarding Safe Harbors at:

<https://www.mvcommission.org/dri/summary/258/59584>. The Board of the LPA opposes the project. To see the significant reasons for such opposition, please see the LPA Letter to the MVC at the above website. Once again, the implementation of this project as it is proposed depends on our membership voices being heard. If you are in opposition, please let your voice be heard by emailing the MVC at: morrison@mvcommission.org. The next public hearing is Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

2. New Board and Advisory Committee Members: We had an amazing outpouring of requests to volunteer on the LPA after our annual meeting. Please welcome new Board members David Forbes, David Reed, Chris Hall and Maria Abate. Please also welcome Cheryl Burns, Laurisa Rich, Becky Rivera, Amy Russo and Ginny Sherwood to our Advisory Board. We are sad to say goodbye to and thank both of Chuck Fisher and Dave Hearn for their service on the Board. Chuck has taken a new position in Edgartown but promises to stay involved as does Dave. We thank them both for their time, energy and commitment to making the Pond a healthier and more vibrant body of water. As for the new Board and Advisory members, we are happy to have you and can't wait to see you roll up your sleeves and see what we can accomplish working together!

3. Establishment of Committees: One of the main ways we believe we can be more effective and tap our volunteers' strengths in a focused way is to develop committees to take on certain

parts of the LPA's jobs. The current thinking on committees are as follows: Membership and Outreach Committee Fundraising Committee Science Committee Project Committee If you feel you could lend a hand in any manner to any of these committees, please contact Lani Goldthorpe and let us know! In particular, we need someone to help with our website (currently run with Four Square).

4. Collaboration: Pond organizations learning from one another is a key to improving the health of all of the Ponds on Martha's Vineyard. I met this week with Emily Reddington, the Executive Director of the Great Pond Foundation. We talked about their testing, their equipment and the possibility of doing a project together. Emily is going to come out on the Pond with me for a tour soon and we'll continue exploring ways that we can help each other. I also previously met with Melinda Loberg, President of Tisbury Waterways, Inc. (currently a Director, Bev Potsaid, comes to our Board meetings). We are discussing ways to clean up the West Arm of the Lagoon based on our collective knowledge of what is needed and what could be easily accomplished there. Doug Reece and I have a lunch planned next week with Adam Turner, Executive Director of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, to discuss Pond matters as well. In addition to other Pond organizations and the MVC, the LPA is keeping up to date on the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans for both of Tisbury and OB.

5. Projects on the Pond: There are two working commercial oyster farms on the Pond now (Tisbury side), with a 3rd to follow. It will go in between the other two. In addition, off of Hines Point, Dani Ewart and Emma Green-Beach have an eel grass propagation experiment in progress. Dani and I took a boat tour earlier this week where she showed me the eel grass project and her scallop seed. We seeded some scallops into the Pond--but I can't tell you where ;) . Dani and I had a great discussion about needs on the Pond. She is an active and amazing resource. I then had the fortune to run into Donovan McElligatt, the new OB Shellfish Constable, and he and I are going to sit down soon to discuss LPA thoughts and his needs and ideas as well. Finally, the Port-A-Potty coordinated by the LPA and installed at the Tisbury Landing has been a great success this year. Thank you Doug Reece, Dani Ewart and Richard Weiss!

I'm sure there's more to tell, but I've run on long enough. It's easy this time of year to curl up at home and stay warm and cozy. But if you have a chance, get out on the water. The Pond is beautiful this time of year--sunsets, sunrises, golden light, colorful leaves. Last week 2 great blue herons were on the Pond for a few days. If you kayak, you can have almost the whole Pond to yourself sometimes. And sometimes I just head down to the beach and listen to the peace and quiet.

Hope this has been helpful. Remember to pay your dues and/or make a donation! And, as always, I am happy to hear from you with thoughts, advice, and even complaints!

I'll see you on the water!

Sherry, President Lagoon Pond Association

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