

Fans of SBPF public private partnership

To the Editor:

This letter was originally sent to the Board of Selectmen.

We wanted to share our appreciation with many of you for the 'public private partnership' to save Baxter Road this past winter. Your ability to rise above the debate and take steps to protect the Town's interest with a robust and lasting solution deserves our sincere gratitude. As the neighbors who are most impacted by the Town's decision to protect the bluff in Sconset, we hope that you will use this project as a blueprint for other areas on Nantucket in need of protection against rising sea levels.

We live on an island made of sand, and it is shrinking. This issue is not just about Sconset, it's about our entire Island community. I met with Chairman Atherton in a conference room in the Town building last summer, and behind us was a large aerial photo of the Nantucket taken many decades ago. The loss of beaches in critical areas was startling. The problem of erosion is not going away. We can no longer fool ourselves and do nothing. As homeowners, we must act in an environmentally responsible way, and are grateful that you, the Town leaders chose this path.

Today, the sewer beds are approximately 300 feet from the dunes edge. The fence for the airport is hanging on the bluff over Nobadeer beach. Relocating these municipal properties is not feasible. They can however, be protected, much the same way that Baxter Road and access to the Sankaty Lighthouse has been protected.

Global sea levels are expected to rise at least two feet by 2050, and three to six feet by 2100, according to a recent report by UMASS Boston professor Ellen Douglas. Boston is preparing a plan, as are other coastal cities. As both residents and strong supporters of the environment, we care deeply about all of Nantucket. We are hopeful that our project can serve as the beginning of a plan by the Board of Selectman to combat rising sea levels for the entire Island, not just our Sconset community.

The Island of Nantucket can learn a great deal over time with the protection of Sankaty Bluff. The partnership with the Town was a success for all parties involved. This project saved Nantucket taxpayers many millions of dollars by avoiding the relocation of an important public road, helped to preserve a tax base, and can serve as a model for protecting other Town properties.

A sincere thank you to the Selectman and Town staff.

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DANNY KORENGOLD MARTHA DIPPELL JOHN DEANGELIS SUSAN DEANGELIS BILL MATESON MARILEE
MATESON LARRY MCQUADE MARGARET MCQUADE DEXTER & SUSAN PAINE PAT & MOLLY RYAN TOBY &
LAURIE WEBB 4/18/14