Geotube Bluff Erosion Project

The current 500 feet of geotube erosion protection at the Sconset Bluff is insufficient to protect the bluff immediately below the Sconset Village area. Next to Sconset Bay and Baxter Road, the bluff edge is one of the most visited and noted of Nantucket Island’s properties. The bluff successfully relocated and restored the lighthouse in 1996 and should still specifically to bluff erosion at the site.

The Trust board believes and strongly confirmed that its mission statement is consistent with protecting and preserving Baxter Road in its current position. To this end, the Trust board voted unanimously to have a donation from the Nantucket Head Lighthouse Trust. While we were not in a position to provide the full amount requested, we provided a gift of the amount of $500.00. We will continue to monitor the progress of the geotube system and plan for additional protection below Baxter Road. We encourage our members to support this and future projects to protect our shoreline at ‘Sconset.

Celebrating 30 Years

The headline in the July 12, 1984 edition of the Inquirer and Mirror reads “Sankaty Head Lighthouse property. Bluff erosion continues to be a major issue, and the Trust is working on policy and action strategies for issues surrounding our vulnerable shoreline. The Trust’s mission is to protect the unique character of Sconset Village through conservation and preservation of open space and structures of historic and/or architectural significance in and around the village.

Mission

The Trust’s mission is to protect the unique character of Sconset Village through conservation and preservation of open space and structures of historic and/or architectural significance in and around the village.

From the Trust Chair

Greetings to all. Our friends who live in Sconset during the off season tell us that this has been a cold and snow-filled few winters for winter 2013–14.

Mark Ruddick

Perhaps you keep in touch with these locals on check the cider listen to their stories and to find out all about it. Above is a charming photo of the “Sconset pump taken by Marianne Felch from the Inquirer and Mirror.” It is indeed a rare occasion that we set out to contact our members during the winter months for their Winter in Sconset issue. You will notice the article penned by Rob Benchley stated: “Perhaps you keep in touch with these locals or check the cider listen to their stories and the charming photo of the “Sconset pump taken by Marianne Felch from the Inquirer and Mirror.” It is indeed a rare occasion that we set out to contact our members during the winter months for their Winter in Sconset issue.

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Chair's Letter Continued from page 1.

Baxter Road. I want you to know that this special edition regarding the greenbelt is available and our work is supporting this initiative.

We are pleased to report that the Coffin Land Campaign is in the final stages of solicitation. If you make a gift to the campaign so that we can have 100% from our full membership.

The 'Sconset Trust
Executive Director

Robert J. Felt

Chair’s Letter

The ‘Sconset Trust
J. Donald Shockey, Jr.

Alice M. Rochat

Jennifer C. Price

Kennedy Richardson

Jennifer C. Price

Barry Cooper

Lesley F. Blanchard

Elliot Gewirtz,

Rhoads Zimmerman

Lorraine Milstead,

Jam es R. Poole

Pam ela B. Hendrickson

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Since the launch of the Coffin Land Campaign, the board has worked to define the best way in which to acquire Ruddick Commons for use by public benefit.

I have cleared from the earliest days of the campaign the wish to create a low-maintenance trail system that allows our community to comfortably explore the meandering property and enjoy nature. Also, the general feeling was that we should only “light-touch” the property so that the natural wonders are not marred by excessive construction and road maintenance.

Our Committee on the trail is Brin Foulks and Jam es Richardson. They have worked to design a plan that will offer residents and visitors the ability to explore the property for fun and enjoy the beauty of the geography of “Sconset. Our efforts are focused on an aerial photo analysis that seeks to understand the landscape from an aerial view.

The Ruddick Commons trail network is to be developed in a minimally invasive manner, with the aim of minimizing the impact on the natural environment. We are working with local experts to create a trail network that minimizes the impact on the natural environment.

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Since October 2013, the Town and various parties have been working in alternative access of the Baxter Road, which has been working on devising a low-elevation trail for access to the Nantucket Land Bank. Look for an update with plans for a June grand opening announcement.

Since October 2013, the Town and various parties have been working in alternative access of the Baxter Road, which has been working on devising a low-elevation trail for access to the Nantucket Land Bank. Look for an update with plans for a June grand opening announcement.

There is a great deal of complexity related to this process based on land ownership, municipal obligations, zoning regulations, financial implications, and public safety and public access. The current plan includes a rerouting of Baxter Road near the lighthouse to access the lighthouse property to 85 Baxter Road. The plan is designed to minimize the impact on the natural environment and provide for the protection of the coastline.

The following obligations of the Town are to assure access and safety before following any public and private roads on the island. Such a plan might require the “take” to “take” private property and roads by eminent domain. The plan must include permanent easements along with temporary construction easements for road, utilities, and other road safety measures. All road safety measures are to be designed by local organizations and approved by the 'Sconset Trust.

It is important to note that the ‘Sconset Trust is working with various parties to create a “shelved” solution that can be put in place to deal with public issues and other major stakeholders. The 'Sconset Trust and other County Commissions of Nantucket County must meet the County's standards. The 'Sconset Trust and other County Commissions of Nantucket County must meet the County's standards.

We will continue to communicate with you on this matter to assure you of the latest developments and any actions we are taking in a collaborative manner to address the critical community need for alternative access while protecting the accessibility of the lighthouse property.

Not all parties agree that this is a priority. Other parties have stepped forward to offer the alternative solutions in order to make the plan feasible. As one chapter, we are working with various parties to create a “shelved” solution that can be put in place to deal with public issues and other major stakeholders. The 'Sconset Trust and other County Commissions of Nantucket County must meet the County's standards. The 'Sconset Trust and other County Commissions of Nantucket County must meet the County's standards.
the protection of the lighthouse’s lifeline—started arriving in 2006. Through careful nurturing this fund since the first one-time gift of $100,000 from this fund last month. We have provided permission a robust erosion mitigation system at the toe of the Sankaty bluff. The Sankaty Lighthouse, February 11, 2014 by George Riethof

Board of Directors

Robert H. Felch    Jim Condon
Mark W. Filipski    Robert C. Binswanger
Lesley F. Blanchard    Elizabeth M. Reid
J. Donald Shockey Jr.    Rhoads Zimmerman
Kennedy Richardson    Lorraine Milstead,

Executive Director

Lesley F. Blanchard

Local Real Estate

Michael L. Jordan

The Trust board voted unanimously to provide to perm ission a robust erosion m itigation system at the toe of the Sankaty bluff. The Sankaty Lighthouse, February 11, 2014 by George Riethof

Since the launch of the Coffin Land Campaign, the board has worked to define the best way in which the access at Ruddick Commons can be used for direct public benefit.

Chair’s Letter Continued from page 1.

We can have 100% from our full membership. So, please make a gift to the campaign so that time, it would be – if you have not already done so, make a gift to the campaign so that we can have 100% from our full membership.

Chair’s Letter Continued from page 1.

There is a great deal of complexity related to this process based on land ownership, municipal obligations, zoning regulations, financial considerations, and public/carey benefits. Sufficient to say, four months after holding many public and private meetings, the issue has not been settled. In a mutually agreeable conclusion for all stakeholders.

The ongoing deliberations have been focused on the need to specify where and when a breach will occur and the responsibility for its breach yields to the equation. Many Trust leadership before the thorough, if often complex, current geotube erosion mitigation system has a good chance of alleviating conditions leading to or eliminating a future breach. 

A supportive community and environmental stewardship certainly can play a role in these new access and utility installations. Other municipalities are required to pay damages for loss of value to private property owners. The actual costs for implementing alternative access plans often are placed into a “betterment district” and are charged back to the beneficiaries of new access and utility services. In such a case a non-profit such as the Trust can be assured for betterments. Payment of betterment assessments can be extended over a 20-year period.

We will continue to communicate with you on this matter to assure you of all that we are working in a collaborative manner to address the critical community needs for alternative access while protected by the accessibility of the lighthouse property for future generations.

Baxter Road Alternative Access

Since October 2011, the Town and various parties having an interest in planning for alternative access of the northern end of Baxter Road, have been working on devising a feasible scheme for such access to be provided near north of Barbery Road.

Baxter Road Update

There is a great deal of complexity related to this process based on land ownership, municipal obligations, zoning regulations, financial considerations, and public/carey benefits. Sufficient to say, four months after holding many public and private meetings, the issue has not been settled. In a mutually agreeable conclusion for all stakeholders.

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Baxter Road Update
I look forward to seeing you this summer in Sconset. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (508) 228-6185 or mww.flip@gm ail.com.

J. Donald Shockey Jr.
Exe cutive Director

Alice M. Rochat
Treasurer

James E. Walker III
Chairman

Kennedy Richardson
Senior Vice President

Rhoads Zimmerman
Executive Director

Jam es R. Poole
Vice President

M ichael J. Lynch
Vice President

Bonnie Block Levison
Secretary & Clerk

Lesley F. Blanchard
Executive Director, Nantucket Land Bank

Kathy Arvay
Treasurer & Clerk, Nantucket Land Bank

Patti Brown,
sconsettrust.org
Email: info@sconsettrust.org

3

Ruddick Commons Trail System

Since the launch of the Coffin Land Campaign, the board has worked to define the best way in which the acreage at Ruddick Commons can be used for public benefit.

I am clear that it is important to create a low-maintenance trail system that will offer accessibility to the lighthouse and a sense of community.

So, please make a gift to the campaign so that we may make this happen.

J. Donald Shockey Jr.
Exe cutive Director

Chair’s Letter Continued from page 1.

Since October 2013, the Town and various parties having an interest in planning for alternative access of the northern end of Baxter Road, have been working on devising a feasible scheme for such access in order to broaden north of Barb ry Road.

There is a great deal of complexity related to this process based on land ownership, municipal obligations, zoning regulations, financial obligations and public safety. Further to this, four months ago several public and private points away from the Village of Sconset. These two points are ideal for people walking or taking the village of Sconset. We will place “minimalist” trail markers, so colored marking the trails but otherwise we will not engage with the bay. Further to this, the lighthouse, obelisk, etc., is a public or private property.

The map, the date is July 20th and we will place “minimalist” trail markers, colored marking the trails but otherwise we will not engage with the trails, benches or trash receptors. The next time you walk is “Puck in Park.” It is likely we will have a traffic jam near the parking lot or will provide some history and trail descriptions. We are removing adding a QR code for smartphone scanning including the trail maps. As of this writing the trails have been rough cut by our team of Ben Cham poux and our team of Ben Cham poux.

If I may make one final com ment at this point in the Campa ign is in the final stages of solicitation.

Once again we will gather for our annual Baxter Road. I direct you to an article in this special edition regarding the geotube installation and our work to support this initiative. We are pleased to report that the Coffin Land Campa ign is in the final stages of solicitation. It may be a real change of this point in time. It is time to take on the Sankaty bluff.

The Trust has met with the Com missioners and the Town Planning Manager Andrew Vorce on several occasions to help sort through these issues and processes. Other major stakeholders include the Sankaty Head Golf Course and private homeowners along both sides of Baxter Road north of the Sankaty Head Golf Course.

We will continue to communicate with you so that we want to assure you that we are seizing in a collaborative manner to address the critical community needs for alternative access while protecting the accessibility of the lighthouses and property.

Rhode Island and the property while supporting have been nurturing this fund since the first Lighthouse Fund last month. We have provided financial support from our Sankaty Head system at the toe of the Sankaty bluff. The Sankaty Lighthouse, February 11, 2014 by George Riethof. Providing an up-to-the-minute status report of should the northern section of Baxter Road be "Saunders" property east to Burnell Street.

Through our heavily wooded, including seasonal fauna and groves of Ruddick Commons entry marker. A natural greenbelt gate away to ‘Sconset. Our 45-acre parcel offers much more than is visible from the Milestone Road district and are charged back to the beneficiaries of new access and utility improvements. Payments of betterment often are placed into a “betterment fund” and are charged back to the various parties having an interest in the Nantucket Land Bank. Look for an opening announcement.

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We will continue to communicate with you so that we want to assure you that we are seizing in a collaborative manner to address the critical community needs for alternative access while protecting the accessibility of the lighthouses and property.
The current 500 linear feet of geotubes that will be deployed on the existing Sconset Bluff immediately below the nearby Bartlet Road will protect Baxter Road and the bluff edge. This installation protects between 110 and 120 feet of Bartlet Road. While most of the lots in this section are vacated, this area must be at risk for a breach. Future expansion could run as far north as the light house property and as far south as 111 Baxter Road. This additional expansion of Bartlet Road would include a vacant lot owned by the Trust at 113 Baxter Road — the 20 feet immediately south of the light house property. To date, no one portion of this bluff has been funded privately.

The Trust has been supporting the initiatives of SBP and the Town to protect the toe of the bluff and a robust structure that will stand down and even stop erosion at the bluff. We have consistently believed that Baxter Road, with its community of homeowners, is an important pipeline for the light house property and should be protected and stabilized to end erosion. We have a common goal with the Town and the Trust to protect the bluff from the threat of erosion.

Many have read or at minimum heard about the current Geotube erosion mitigation project undertaken by the Sconset Bluff Preservation Foundation and the Town of Nantucket.

“Sconset Bluff is the most vulnerable area of land and buildings along the Nantucket shorefront. The residents of the Bluff are concerned about the threat of overdevelopment of their bluff, are responding to the pressures of development open space and increased growth by forming a conservation foundation of their own. What is known as the ‘Sconset Trust, the organization will act in the same manner as the Mattaqua Conservation Foundation, on smaller scale. Planning Committee Chairman Robert O’Ferlin announced the creation of the Trust at the July meeting of the Sconset Civic Association.”

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Geotube Bluff Protection Project

Many have read or at minimum heard about the current Geotube erosion mitigation project undertaken by the Sconset Beach Preservation Fund and the Town of Nantucket.

The current 500 linear feet of geotube erosion protection started with the installation of 200 geotubes along the bluff in 2007 and 2008. The blanket of geotubes was approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection but the local ConCom scaled back the wetlands construction activities. A more intensive installation of 400 geotubes was approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection but the local ConCom scaled back the plan to 200 geotubes. A significant amount of the project includes the installation of geotubes to replicate natural sand erosion from the bluff and to protect the installation below. The geotubes were approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection but the local ConCom scaled back the wetlands construction activities. A more intensive installation of 400 geotubes was approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection but the local ConCom scaled back the plan to 200 geotubes.

It has been fully installed as of the end of February 2014. This installation was approved by the local Conservation Commission. The blue ribbon cutting ceremony was held on April 11, 2017. The geotubes were successful in stabilizing the bluff.

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