



Town of Brewster

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Response to Public Comments on the Long Pond Town Landing Improvements Project – February 2022

The Town of Brewster held a public forum on January 18, 2022, to discuss planned improvements at the Long Pond Town Landing. Residents were invited to submit public comments until February 1, 2022. In this document, Town officials seek to address the comments we received during the two-week period.

The Long Pond Town Landing is comprised of a beach, associated parking lot, boat ramp, and vehicle with trailer parking spaces on town land across the road from the Landing. The swim area is delineated through a float line and has two floating docks. Long Pond also has a series of “No Wake” floats around the entire shoreline of the pond delineating a safe area for slower boats and other recreation near shore.

The facility was constructed almost 60 years ago. The ramp has been Brewster’s only access point to launch boats into Cape Cod’s largest great pond. The ramp is typically used by residents and visitors to launch canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, sailboats, and power boats. Two years ago, the Town added seasonal kayak rack storage facilities at the site due to public demand. The proposal includes a pier and floating dock to further separate the ramp from the swim area, and to allow better entry and exit to boats, including a kayak launch amenity. We received several comments commenting on the need to repair the ramp. This has been an ongoing request as the ramp has deteriorated.

Comments on the size of boats able to use the ramp were addressed. The pond is relatively shallow at this location and larger boats may not have enough depth of water to be launched at this ramp. Given this limitation, the size of the proposed vehicle and trailer parking is also designed to accommodate moderate sized vehicles and trailers (generally less than 20’ in length. For example, the Department of Natural Resource 24’ boat is unable to launch from this ramp due to the vessel’s size. Larger boats generally use the Harwich ramp on the south side of the pond.

We received several comments from residents regarding trailer and vehicle parking. Comments were sent both in favor of and against adding trailer spots on the Long Pond Town Landing property. In addition to the 6 new spaces described in the presentation, we intend to maintain the existing trailer spots on Crowell’s Bog Road as overflow, but we will evaluate their use over time and may remove them if there is limited demand for those

additional spaces. In terms of vehicle parking for beach use, there are 33 existing spaces and the new plan proposes 35 spaces. The intent is not to significantly increase vehicle parking. One resident asked if proposed trailer parking spaces can be angled more obtusely for greater ease of backing out. Our project engineers, Horsley & Witten, completed a turning analysis for the roadway and boat trailer parking spaces, and we are confident that the proposed configuration of the spaces is optimal for backing out.

We have received requests for stop signs at both exits – we will provide stop signs and painted stop bars at both exits. We have also received requests to install signage at either end of Crowells Bog Road to direct trailered boat traffic to access the ramp via the Route 124 entrance – we plan to install this new signage.

Several residents submitted comments about stormwater and pollution. The proposed design includes a greater level of stormwater water quality treatment and runoff control. With this project, we are minimizing a direct discharge to a water body and are incorporating the new stormwater requirements outlined by MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System), the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Stormwater Handbook, and the Town of Brewster's Local Stormwater Bylaw.

One resident asked if the removal of trees will lead to increased noise for abutters from passing traffic. There will be no residences that will be directly impacted in this way by the removal of trees because none directly abut the entrance. We tried to minimize tree removal in developing the proposed design.

We received several comments regarding the usage of jet skis and motorboats on Long Pond. As a "great pond" (any pond containing more than 10 acres in its natural state) activities are dictated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. However, a Town bylaw prevents the launching of jet skis on Town land (§ 69-2.1.). In terms of inappropriate usage of the Long Pond Town Landing, it is also worth pointing out that the use of detergents, boat washing or rinsing is also prohibited by Town bylaw (§ 135-1). Town staff will make enforcement of these bylaws a priority to the greatest extent possible.

Although it does not pertain to these proposed improvements, a number of residents raised concerns about a lack of enforcement of parking stickers during beach season, as well as enforcing the restrictions against launching jet skis or rinsing of boats. Comments regarding current enforcement of regulations on Long Pond Town Landing have been passed on to the Brewster Police Department.

A resident also raised concerns regarding the addition of the floating dock, specifically, how it would affect the ability of kayakers to launch east of the ramp. We are currently evaluating the potential to put in kayak assistance on the floating portion to allow better accessibility.

The importance of having trash and recycling bins on the site was noted by one resident, and this is certainly something we concur with – we will determine the most suitable location for these receptacles.

One resident asked if it is possible to plant native plants within the swale for a more aesthetic appearance than potentially a rock pit. The only rocks in the swale will be at the mouth to prevent erosion. The swale will be planted with a combination of native grasses, groundcovers and perennials to trap sediments and take up the nutrients in the runoff. There are no larger plants proposed as people will likely be walking through this area.

We received comments regarding whether it is part of this proposal for the road to be resurfaced from Rt 124 to the entrance. While it is not included in this project, the Town has requested proposals for this work and will evaluate the cost and funding in the future. This public roadway segment is also part of the Town's Pavement Management Plan.

A question was submitted regarding the cost of the project. The Town has attempted to find alternative funding sources for the project. Applications for state grants were unsuccessful, as were efforts to find other sources of funding. Much of the cost is related to replacing the existing pavement (entry, parking, access to ramp) which requires stormwater improvements, and to safety improvements of traffic flow and the separation of beach use from ramp use. Funding to complete this project will be sought at Town Meeting in May 2022.

Questions were received regarding whether the project aligns with Brewster's Vision Plan, or if the project should be delayed. The Vision Plan identifies a need to "improve public access to and expand the use of recreational areas". Similarly, the Plan also highlights the goal to "expand recreation opportunities, and promote public safety", both of which will occur with these planned improvements at the Long Pond Town Landing. We do not anticipate this project conflicting with potential future uses of the Sea Camps property on Long Pond. This project has been in the works for numerous years and the ramp has degraded and is very difficult to use in its current condition. This is also Brewster's emergency access to the pond.

It is important to note that these proposed improvements will be reviewed at a Conservation Commission hearing on February 22, 2022. Residents will have further opportunity to make public comment at that time.