



Conservation Commission

20 W. Main St., Wellfleet, MA 02667

November 26, 2023

Re: Vehicle use on Chipman Cove Beaches

Dear Commission Members,

As one of the property owners most affected by erosion and damage to vegetation along the shoreline in both directions from the landing at the end of Old Pier Rd. I would like to address the issue.

I have witnessed the deterioration of the rules so thoughtfully agreed upon by all parties involved let's say 20 years ago as I don't know the exact time were introduced. I have gone there almost daily for over 50 years and watched what used to be a slow erosion in the area gradually increase over time, especially in the last 10 years.

In my opinion the increase is due to a few contributing factors. I believe climate change and increased vehicular use are the main culprits. There isn't much we can do to stop Mother Nature but we should do what we can not to accelerate the negative effects of climate change.

I am all for the shell fishermen to a degree. My son is a commercial shell fisherman and I am aware how hard they work to put a living together. That said I want to point out that there was never so much traffic 20 years ago. The shellfishing industry has grown exponentially over that time period and with it the traffic on the beach.

I feel that at the very least, the old map should be adhered to and the shellfish wardens should try to see that people abide by it. They tell me that they are trying to keep trucks from parking up against the dune to the left of the landing and that is a commendable but when I tried to show the old map to the one of the assistant wardens I was told that he would not stop people from driving to the right, which is my biggest area of concern by far. I was told flat out that he was an advocate for the shell fishermen and that I would have to address the issue with the Conservation Commission.

Somewhere along the line, the agreement arrived at 20 years ago has been eroded along with the barrier dunes. There is very little left on the right side to prevent the sea from

washing directly across the marsh and overcoming Old Pier Rd. and the marsh which my parents donated to the Conservation Trust. There are large ruts in this area which undermine the small dune there and I don't believe there is any way to turn around without causing more damage to the vegetation

I am a lonely voice in the storm and I commend you for your courage in the face of harsh and often uncalled for criticism. You are certainly between a rock and a hard place!

Thank you for your service and for addressing my concerns.

Sincerely,

William Nicholson

105 Old Pier Rd.

Chipmans Cove

Old Pier Road Shellfish Access

Old Pier Road

Access and Parking On Blue Road Area
Only

Please Be Advised This Is Private Property Owner Premission Required

No Driving Beyond This Point

