



Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts
Shellfish Department
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December 8, 2007

Mr. Gary Gonyea
DEP 604b Coordinator
1 Winter St.
Boston, MA

Dear Mr. Gonyea,

I wish to state my full support for the 604b proposal to develop the land use build out to be used in part to establish the TDML for Farm Pond. The Town of Oak Bluffs has been working toward the restoration of this Pond. Farm Pond was closed to direct harvest of shellfish since 1985. In 2000 the first real step took place to restore the pond by addressing storm water. Using CZM CPR funding a large infiltrator was put in under Viera Park that diverted the first one inch of rain fall to the infiltrator and not into the pond.

Since then the Town has continued their efforts to protect and improve the Pond. Currently the Martha's Vineyard Land bank owns two parcels that are now protected from development. The pond was placed on the CZM Wetlands Restoration List in 2004 and the Corporate Partnership Priority List in 2005. In 2006 a Hydrodynamic and Inlet Alternatives Analysis was performed through CZM Restoration Office. The eel grass meadows were mapped in 1999 and again in 2006. Species inventory and estimates of resident populations of the quahog and soft-shell clam are ongoing. The Town of Oak Bluffs appropriated funding to place Farm Pond into the Massachusetts Estuaries Project.

In the past couple of years there has been a growing grassroots support to restore Farm Pond to a healthy state. This ad hoc group of residents from the entire watershed not just the abutters have been working closely with the Oak Bluffs Shellfish Department towards improving the health of the pond. I web site <http://friendsoffarmpond.net> has been created and is an actively update site. I invite you to visit the site or contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

David W. Grunden