

## Hillman's Point Preserve

### Update on Progress on Implementation of the March 2024 Recommendations and Compliance with Accessibility Standards<sup>1</sup>

(March 2024 Recommendations in standard back font. Updated observations *in red italics*.)<sup>2</sup>

*Note: One of our February/March 2024 general recommendations to all municipal and non profit beach operators was to provide an action plan as to how and when the necessary improvements would be made. To MVLB's credit, on April 1, 2024, MVLB furnished a "Universal Accessibility Projects and Timeline (hereinafter "Project timeline"). How MVLB has progressed relative to both their own project timeline and our recommendations are outline below.*<sup>3</sup>

1. There are many good features at this site and can relatively easily be made fully accessible, *including a designated accessible parking spot in a small lot at the trail head which has capacity of 9-11 vehicles*. Here are the recommendations.
2. The route from the parking area to the beach consists of hard firm dirt then a wooden walkway over wetlands.
  - A. One area of the dirt section has a grade which may be slightly over 5%. The grade should be measured to determine if it is over 5% and for what length to determine if the grade should be reduced. See footnote 2 below for the grading maximums and related guidance.

*The Project timeline does not address this recommendation, nor has the grading been changed.*

- B. The wooden walkway is fine until the very end. At the end there are three steps, two of which are 7 inches high, third about 10-11 inches To make the last part of this route accessible onto the beach, one possible solution is merely to lower the wooden walkway so that the end rests on the beach. The beginning point should be far enough back so that the slope is not greater than 5% or 8.33%. A railing may be needed if the grade is above 5%. The end portion should be beveled so that there is no more than an ¼" rise from the beach onto the walkway.

*No work has been done on this yet as the plan calls for requesting permission from the Conservation Commission for installation for the 2025 season.*

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<sup>1</sup> For standards specifications/dimensions for beaches, see the USDA's Forest Service *Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails*, 8/2012 <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Accessibility-Guide-Book.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> The original recommendations were furnished in March 2024 and were based principally on June 2023 beach operators' self-surveys and September and October 2023 follow up on-site visits by Dukes County Assoc. Commissioner for Disabilities. This update is based on an 9/5/24 visit.

<sup>3</sup> The project timeline merely referenced years (e.g. 2024, 2025) as opposed to more specific dates for implementation/completion. While it has been presumed that this meant before the season began in the year specified, clarification is requested.

C. A short beach mat may be necessary to cover the 40' length *(or less)* to the water.

*This was not addressed in the Project Timeline, nor has a mat been put in place.*

3. For an update on the progress made on the cross-cutting recommendations with respect to this beach and Aquinnah's other beaches, *see accompanying Progress report on those recommendations.*

Richard Cohen, Dukes County Associate Commissioner for Disabilities  
Original Recommendations' Report 3/2024, updated 11/2/24