



August 31, 2022

Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

Brewster Select Board
Brewster Town Offices
2198 Main Street
Brewster, MA 02631

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eliza McClennen
President

Steven Koppel
Vice President

RE: Proposed Wing Island Boardwalk Project

Bob Ciolek
Treasurer

Dear Members of the Brewster Select Board:

Jack Looney
Clerk

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) offers the following comments on the proposed Wing Island Boardwalk project.

John Cumbler

Margo Fenn

Joshua Goldberg

DeeDee Holt

Thomas Huettner

Founded in 1968, APCC is the Cape region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, working for the adoption of laws, policies and programs that protect, preserve, and restore Cape Cod's natural resources. APCC focuses our efforts on the protection of groundwater, surface water, wetland resources, preservation of open space, the promotion of responsible planned growth and the achievement of an environmental ethic.

Pat Hughes

Elyse Magnotto-Cleary

Blue Magruder

Stephen Mealy

Wendy Northcross

Kris Ramsay

Robert Summersgill

Charles Sumner

Taryn Wilson

A crucial part of APCC's ongoing program work is assisting in the restoration of salt marshes across Cape Cod. Over the course of several years, APCC participated with the town of Brewster, the state and other partners on a series of salt marsh restoration projects to restore tidal flow to Stony Brook salt marsh and to Quivett Creek salt marsh. From our extensive efforts in the two salt marshes undertaking pre- and post-restoration monitoring, conducting species inventory, measuring marsh elevations and performing other duties, we are very familiar with, and greatly appreciate, the significant role the combined Stony Brook and Quivett Creek salt marsh system plays in the ecological function and health of the important marine and freshwater resources located in this region of Cape Cod.

In studying the concept design for the proposal, APCC believes that removal of the existing wooden planks extending to Wing Island and replacing them with an elevated structure would reduce environmental impacts to the salt marsh at that location. This would alleviate current adverse impacts to the underlying peat layer



and to marsh vegetation, allowing the vegetation to regenerate in the area where the planks existed. It may also improve natural tidal flow that the planks are possibly impeding.

While the concept design, including the proposed method of construction and materials such as the helical anchors, appears to reduce the extent of physical impact to the marsh compared to other possible construction methods, the potential for impacts from the introduction of structures within the fragile salt marsh system is not completely erased. APCC therefore encourages the town to seek ways to reduce the project area to the greatest extent possible, thereby minimizing shading of vegetation from the boardwalk. Reducing the size of the boardwalk project will result in a better functioning natural resource and allow for greater protection of the salt marsh and its associated sensitive habitat, including locations where rare species are documented within the marsh.

APCC thanks the Brewster Select Board for this opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director