

## **West Tisbury Byways Committee**

Meeting July 24, 2007 at 5:00 pm  
Howes House Library

Members attending: Ann Bassett (Chair), Cynthia Aguilar, Harriet Bernstein, Nina Meyer

Also attending: Bill Veno (MV Commission)

Absent: Adam Bresnick, Jeanne Baron

Meeting called to order at 5:19 p.m.

Discussed first: walk of Rogers Path on Thursday, July 19 at 5:00 pm. Attending the walk were Ann B., Harriet B., Nina M. and Lisa Rogers, former chair, Byways Comm., Rez Williams, a member of previous Byways Comm., and Joanne Whitley.

It was agreed that committee members can invite guests to join these walks, to increase citizen awareness of the town's Ancient Ways. The next walk is scheduled Thursday, August 2 at 5 pm of Holmes Hole Road, also known as the Old Mail Road.

Discussion: the town's old paths have been known by several terms over the years: Ancient Ways, Special Way, and Byway. Ann B. explained that Rogers Path was designated as a Special Way in 1991. In 1995 when the Martha's Vineyard Commission was created, they adopted the term "Special Way." Example: an old cart path that has been in common use. If an abutter complained it could go into litigation. But meanwhile the status as a Special Way cannot be blocked. It has protection from being destroyed. Example: Old Holmes Road was adopted as a Special Way. A resident tried to fence it off but the town wouldn't let him.

It was agreed that the Committee's overall goal is to compile an inventory of all the old ways in the town of West Tisbury. This will build on the work of the previous Byways committee, chaired by Lisa Rogers.

Ann Bassett urged committee members to walk on their own, in addition to the scheduled committee walks. Several Paths were mentioned. There was discussion of maps the committee would need. Bill Veno brought some maps and said he will bring additional ones.

Meetings will be on the fourth Tuesday at 5 pm at Howes House in the Library. August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27.

Monthly Walks will be scheduled Thursdays at 5 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Nina R. Meyer