



March 5, 2019

Salisbury Beach Betterment Association
PO Box 5508
Salisbury, MA 01952

Dear Mr. Champagne,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund (Fund) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) commitment to maintaining and enhancing elements of the entire Salisbury Beach State Reservation, including all 3.8 miles of Salisbury Beach. We apologize for the delay in responding to your request for an accounting of the Fund.

Attached please find a worksheet with the Revenues and Expenditures from the Fund. The Revenues include the Trust fees collected for Day Admission to the Park, as well as the Trust fees collected for Campground reservations. The Expenditures include a breakdown by both Fiscal Year and by Vendor, with notes to describe the work done by each vendor.

In my recent meeting with Senator DiZaglio, it was explained that the current balance of the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund is \$227,406.81. We expect that Fund to grow to approximately \$275,000 by July 1, 2019. The current plans for these funds include additional boardwalk and shade structure repairs, purchase of additional mobi-mats to allow beach access by people of all abilities, and additional snow fence installation and beach grass plantings where appropriate.

The Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund was created by the Legislature in 2008 "for the long-term preservation and maintenance of Salisbury Beach...imposing a surcharge of \$2 upon each fee charged and collected from admission into, camping and parking in the Salisbury Beach Reservation." DCR has collected this fee since that time, and funds are deposited daily. In 2013, the Legislature increased this surcharge from \$2 to \$3; however, this increase was not communicated throughout the agency and the increase in the surcharge was not implemented until January 2019. The surcharge is currently in effect upon the fee charged for admission into, camping and parking in the Salisbury Beach Reservation.

DCR has not made expenditures inconsistent with the intended use of the Fund. Money is collected from visitors to the Salisbury Beach Reservation, and invested back into the Reservation. These funds have been spent toward Beach Access; improvements to Comfort Stations; Boardwalk Rehabilitation; Preparation and Installation of Fencing; Storm Repair; Beach/Campground Sewer Improvements; and, a grant to the Town of Salisbury for sand harvesting and re-nourishment of Salisbury Beach.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary, Executive
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Leo Roy, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

In addition to the expenditures from the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund, the salaries and routine expenses for Salisbury Beach Reservation and beach maintenance are covered within DCR's annual Operating Budget. Also, over the past five years (FY15-19), approximately \$10 Million of state funds have been invested at Salisbury, including \$7.6 Million from the DCR Capital Improvement Plan. These projects have included: the Salisbury Sewer System Improvement Study, which replaced an aging lift station, repaired sanitary pipes, and reduced phenols and nitrogen impacts; Salisbury Dune Nourishment, which included plantings, sand fencing, sand harvesting, and emergency dune repairs; DCR Annual Sand Fence, which includes 3.8 miles of sand fence management for protection of the dunes, direct access ways for residents, and captures sand migration; Boardwalk Rehabilitation, which includes repair and replacement of new decking; Demolition of the former Sea Side Café, which included both the demolition of the site, and restoration of barrier beach dune at the site; Campground Electrical Improvements, which significantly improved the capacity and safety of the electrical system within the campground; W Street Comfort Station Modernization, which included the replacement and modernization of the comfort station and camp store; General Deferred Maintenance, which includes roofing, plumbing, generator, doors/windows, paving, and other improvements. Additional investment by the Commonwealth to the Town of Salisbury has included a \$1.4 Million grant for visitor center/bathhouse facilities at Beach Center and a \$1 Million grant from the Seaport Economic Development Grant for the boardwalk. These investments in the community dwarf the funds generated by the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund and demonstrate the state's commitment to Salisbury.

Like the SBBA, DCR takes tremendous pride in the Salisbury Beach State Reservation and will continue to invest annually in its upkeep and enhancements. Thank you for taking the time to contact me on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo P. Roy', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Leo P. Roy
Commissioner

CC: Senator Diana DiZoglio
Senator Bruce Tarr
Representative James Kelcourse
Don Egan, SBBA
Michael Kobos, SBBA
Neil Harrington, Salisbury Town Manager