

June 20, 2020

Dear SBBA Member,

Monday's Town Meeting will consider an article to approve \$5.2M of funding for construction of new visitor center and restroom buildings at the beach. The SBBA Board of Directors feels that the Town should reconsider its recommendation to proceed with their current plans. Although the SBBA recognizes the need for better bathrooms at the beach, we believe that the proposed location on the mall unnecessarily eliminates the last remaining open space at the beach center. This prospect is very disconcerting to the board. We would prefer that the Town reconsider the plan so that it is located entirely on the Town Parking Lot.

Therefore, after extensive discussion and a review of the plans, the SBBA Board of Directors has voted to introduce a resolution at Town Meeting to indefinitely postpone this article. The postponement will allow everyone more time to evaluate alternative locations and potentially less costly proposals. A postponement at Town Meeting, rather than an outright rejection of the article, will allow it to be considered again in the fall. We urge you to consider supporting our initiative to indefinitely postpone this article at Town Meeting.

Yes, we need a better bathroom in the center. We support the Town's continued efforts to find the right response to this need. The current proposal is not it. The plan shows two separate buildings: one on the mall and one on the Town parking lot. If no other locations are viable, why not build just one building on the Town lot? One of the design considerations is the distance to the restrooms from the beach. The proposed mall bathroom is a two-minute walk from the beach, while the parking lot building is only 100 feet further. There is virtually no difference in the walking distance. Furthermore, constructing one building instead of two could potentially save the taxpayers several hundred thousand dollars. Let's take a little more time, with additional public input, to explore the single building option, find out if there are less costly solutions, and see what the alternatives might look like.

The SBBA Board of Directors is disappointed in the process that was followed for this project. The first public disclosure of the plans was made on Monday, only seven days before voters are being asked to commit \$5.2M. The voters should be given more time when deciding to spend this much money and forever alter the face of Salisbury Beach. The SBBA Board of Directors feels very strongly that we, as a community, can do better than the current proposal. It is our belief that public building projects are most successful when the entire community participates in the process and decision making. An open and transparent exchange of ideas is what helped make our wonderful Library and Police Stations buildings such great additions to our Town. Kudos to the Library and Police Station Building Committees for following an inclusive and open process.

We implore Town Manager Neil Harrington and the Board of Selectmen to postpone voting on this article and to spend the summer gathering additional design proposals, meeting with the public, and returning to Town Meeting in the fall with a proposal that has the full support of the community.

We would like to hear your thoughts, as a member of the SBBA, about this proposal. We have attached a copy the Town's presentation to this email. We apologize for the short notice, but as we said, this just became known to us on Monday. Please email your comments to the SBBA board at [admin@sbba.us](mailto:admin@sbba.us). Thank you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

Sincerely,

Ray Champagne

President, Salisbury Beach Betterment Association