

For Immediate Release

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Save Popponeset Bay Awarded Green Coastline Protection Grant for Improvement of the Coastal Resilience of Popponeset Spit and Bay

\$194,188 awarded for evaluation, design and permitting of an alternative beach nourishment and dune restoration strategy

MASHPEE, MA – Save Popponeset Bay, Inc, has been awarded a \$194,188 grant from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management for the evaluation, design and permitting of an alternative beach nourishment and dune restoration strategy. The Mashpee Board of Selection and the Mass Audubon Society supported the organization’s application for the grant. The funds were awarded as part of a \$1.5 million program to improve coastlines statewide. Grants were also awarded for projects in Chilmark, Gloucester, Plymouth, Salem, Scituate and Westport.

Receiving the grant is a key step in the process of restoring and stabilizing the Popponeset Spit, a natural wildlife preserve and barrier beach protecting much of Mashpee’s watershed and land throughout Mashpee and Cotuit. The Save Popponeset Bay organization was spurred into action by the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, and has working closely with the Woods Hole Group to determine the best course of action for the preservation and enhancement of the Spit.

“We are critically dependent on the spit to maintain a healthy bay ecosystem, a navigable channel, improved water quality and to act as a shield against the ocean for hundreds of homes.” notes Save Popponeset Bay’s John Malloy Jr, who spearheaded the effort to secure the grant. “The Spit is a treasured wildlife preserve that is home to several species of endangered coastal water birds that our partners at Mass Audubon have worked diligently to protect. We will be working very closely with Mass Audubon who supported our grant application to ensure threatened species such as piping plovers and roseate terns have a long-term habitat on the Spit.”

For more information on the grant and reconstruction plans or to make a donation, please visit www.savepopponesetbay.org.

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