

TOWN OF SANDWICH, MA SUMMARY OF BEACH RENOURISHMENT & RESTORATION EFFORTS: NOVEMBER 2014

The beaches in the Town of Sandwich, including Town Neck Beach and Springhill Beach, have a history of erosion over the last century. Construction of jetties at the east end of the Cape Cod Canal (Canal) in the early 1900s by the Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) has been one of the primary reasons for this coastal erosion. The two Canal jetties cause an interruption in the natural longshore sediment transport from northwest to southeast, starving Sandwich Town beaches. This, combined with documented climate change impacts of rising sea levels and increased frequency of significant storm events have made this section of Sandwich extremely vulnerable to unprecedented erosion placing numerous public and private properties in immediate jeopardy.



Numerous steps have been taken by the Town to address these problems:

- **Dune Restoration Projects:** two projects have been completed on Town Neck Beach involving 45,000 cy (1990) and 55,000 cy (2004) of material dredged from the Canal funded by the local power plant owners
- **Failed Canal Dredging Reuse Projects:** two dredge projects in 2001 (power plant) and 2010 (Army Corps) resulted in off shore disposals rather than placement on Sandwich beaches, exacerbating the sand starvation caused by the Canal jetty
- **Failed Permitting Efforts:** in 2001 & 2004 extensive plans were filed for a Beach Management, Inlet Stabilization, and Maintenance Dredging Project; reasonable support was unable to be secured
- **Section 111 Review:** filed with Army Corps in 2006; work started in 2014; initial results promising for long term Corps responsibility to address problems created by Canal jetty

- Section 204 Review: filed with Army Corps in 2007; work started in earnest in 2014; initial results promising for requiring east end Canal dredgings to be placed on Sandwich beaches; attempting to secure approvals in time for Fall 2015 Canal dredging of 150,000 cy
- Refocused Permitting Efforts: in 2011 new permitting efforts commenced focusing on a Beach Renourishment project for Town Neck Beach with an ultimate need for 400,000 cy of compatible material
- Sandy & Nemo: these storms in October 2012 & February 2013 caused more erosion in 6 months than the last 25 years; 3 separate surveys documented losses in excess of 120,000 cy
- FEMA Disaster Assistance: December 2013 correspondence from FEMA supported erosion mitigation approval for both storms in excess of \$4.8 million; placed on hold April 2014; still under review; unlikely
- National Fish & Wildlife Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant: January 2014 Town submitted a \$5.0 million grant request to fund half of the Beach Renourishment project; grant not awarded
- Local Appropriations: in addition to multiple coastal engineering appropriations, \$1.0 million was appropriated in May 2014 to provide a match for the potential federal grant; these funds will be reappropriated to support the on-going Beach Renourishment project and sand source permitting
- Beach Renourishment Project Permitting: in May 2014 the Town submitted an Enhanced Environmental Notification Form for the 400,000 cy project; in July 2014 a waiver from submitting an Environmental Impact Report was approved; full permits are expected to be received by early 2015
- MA Environmental Bond Bill: \$5.0 million was earmarked in the approved 2014 Environmental Bond Bill for Sandwich beach erosion; the Town is pushing to have these funds released in 2014
- Coastal Zone Management Resiliency Grant: the Town will be submitting a \$300,000 grant request to fund the analysis & permitting of a near shore sand source off Scusset Beach with a 25% Town match

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