

Peggotty Beach Management Plan Feasibility Study Public Comments from November 5, 2007 Meeting at the Town library

Attendees:

Residents neighboring marsh and the beach
Several Board of Selectmen and DPW officials
Vin Kalishes, Conservation Agent
Stan Humphries, Senior Coastal Geologist (LEC Environmental Consultants, Inc)

Purpose of meeting:

The current feasibility study being conducted is intended to serve as a foundation for future engineering design, permitting and construction contracts that will implement part or all of a Management Plan for Peggotty Beach. An important aspect of the study includes Private Property Stewardship and Public Use.

The meeting was used as an early forum to gather input (voice concerns, opinions) from landowners and residents in the site vicinity. The following list is by and large organized starting with topics most discussed or emphasized to least discussed. Should there be any topics not mentioned below that one would like to be listed, please email comments or concerns to the email addresses listed on this webpage.

Beach Sections Discussed at meeting

The **south section** includes access from Town Way, the end of a stone revetment protecting Third Cliff and a cobble-dominated overwash area.

The **central section** includes the north end of Town Way Extension, several existing homes and a broad, flat area of dunes that have progressively moved into the marsh.

The **north section** includes access from Peggotty Beach Road into the parking lot, the town owned beach and a row of existing homes protected by a natural dune ridge.

Kent Street marshes, includes the roads that provide access to Peggotty Beach and the adjacent development.

Maintenance

Annual Maintenance of the Dunes/ Maintaining Town Way Extension was discussed at length (many Comments)

- Many requests for beach and dune nourishment and fencing and planting beach grass or stabilizing vegetation

- Duxbury Beach example mentioned

- Requests: make the beach beautiful with vegetation: beautify.

- Concern with width of pedestrian walkways to beach through dunes

Timeline Concerns: When can initial beach grass plantings and fencing be installed?

Several requests for monitoring and maintenance of fences and grass

Need short term and long term goals

Use of fertilizer

Timing for beach grass planting

Post-storm rebuilding

Comments: more fill that is added the more fill goes into the marsh.

Several Comments: plowing of sand onto the landward side of beach and not seaward side

Comments: Salt marsh creeks keep filling in

Historically used to plow with a tractor onto seaward side of beach

Comment: maintenance is too costly, creates same problems over and over again.

Comment: Too much maintenance of Town Way Extension

Several Comments; Type of material/source of material being used for repairs of Town Way extension (i.e concrete)

Several Comments: Monitoring of repairs is needed

Comment: Plowing fill after storm into someone's property and they had to request that the town remove it and restore area. Wants fence to stop this from happening.

Use for beach for pleasure needs to be improved.

Comment: No guidance used by town or direction of plowing maintenance

Utilities

Comment: regarding gas line shutdown

Comment: Sewer line extension onto beach: (Extension not a viable due to Executive Order 181, which prevents Growth & Development on a Barrier Beach.)

Individual sewage disposal systems,

Comment: Brown water in one residents sump pump

Homeowner access to utilities buried by sand (i.e water valve)

Comments regarding old stormwater culvert missing near Town Way terminus

Alternative Solutions:

Revetments/seawalls (examples: Rockport breakwater and Plymouth Harbor revetment).

Existing Revetments:

Many Comments regarding the fact that the stone revetments north and south of the beach (protecting 2nd and 3rd cliffs) are the reason for all the problems occurring on Peggotty Beach.

Comment: most recent extension of revetments has exacerbated the erosion issues and funneling of waves onto beach.

Hard Solutions to problem:

Several Comments/concerns regarding global warming and sea-level rise:

Is maintenance a waste of time?

Is a hard solution (revetment/breakwater) even an option?

Several Requests: look into extending stone revetments from existing revetments north and south of beach to protect the beach. Some residents believe this is the only way to fix the problem permanently. (Plymouth Harbor example)

Several Requests to look into stone break water several 100-feet seaward of the beach to stop/slow wave action and velocity

Problem: Hard/stone structures are likely very difficult to permit and very expensive

depth of water off-shore discussed

Comment: people have the right to keep their homes safe.

Concern/Comments: that the beach will breach like in Chatham and connect the ocean to Scituate Harbor

Kent Street protection from barrier beach

Parking: Public Access to Beach (During the summer and winter months)

Trespassing on Private property

Use of inner Harbor Road and Town Way Extension by public

Comment: People parking in landowners driveways

Comment: People pulling out beach grass and walking on it and killing it

Comment: No signs saying keep out

Parking Lot:

Who has rights to use the parking lot

State control & involvement with public use of beach and parking lot

Redesign the shape of lot and determine number of spaces
Restore historic salt marsh areas

Peggotty Beach Road:

Comment: Corner of road collapsing- Restore it
Emergency order to repair it discussed

Safety Hazard associated with emergency vehicle access to homes on Peggotty Beach.
Comment: Firetrucks can't access

There used to be a boardwalk on the beach

Section 1362 acquisition of property (town land and private land)

What is private land on the beach and town land and who maintains it?

Other Issues Discussed

Form a Beach Community Group

Create Contact List of members
Set up future meeting dates
Organize through web page
Raise money
Duxbury Beach group – as an example
Develop our own priorities and find consensus

FEMA, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Involvement:

Comment for more involvement of state and federal government
Past and present involvement
Federal and State funding?
Past study by ACOE was conducted in area
Can the Federal and state government fund a study of this problem associated with the impacts of the revetments on the beach?
Town needs a Beach Management Plan first for federal support
Town received money from FEMA in 78?

Endangered species impacts mentioned

Comment: Town is too focused on protecting cliffs and not the beaches of Scituate.
Request: Tax money for beaches is needed
Request: Management plans are needed for all of Scituate beaches

DPW staff are expected to discuss the beach next week.