



INCORPORATED  
**VILLAGE OF ASHAROKEN**

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Mayor Greg Letica's Comments To NYSDEC and US ASCOE 12/9/15

The Village of Asharoken strongly believes that the public benefit of the Asharoken Storm Damage Reduction project is the protection of Asharoken Avenue. The ASDRP is just as vital to the Town of Huntington and the United States Coast Guard Station in Eaton's Neck as it is to the Village of Asharoken. It is time to recognize that the ASDRP is a solution to a regional problem not one just restricted to the Village of Asharoken.

As we all know, Asharoken Avenue is the only road to Eaton's Neck. 2000 non Asharoken Town of Huntington residents depend greatly on the road being passable and safe at all times. This fact is so obvious that the USACOE mentions it multiple times in the draft feasibility study.

The need to protect the road, has been reinforced by numerous letters of support from Town of Huntington Supervisor, NYS Assemblyman, Suffolk County Legislator, Asharoken Police Department, Northport Police Department, Suffolk County Police Department, Eaton's Neck Fire Department, Northport Fire Department, the Mayor of Northport Village, the Chairman of Suffolk County Water Authority, Visiting Nurse Service and Hospice of Suffolk County, POENB (Property Owners of Eaton's Neck Beach) and other concerned property owners.

I quote Chief of the ENFD Paul Boronow, "Without Asharoken Avenue being passable at all times, the safety of the residents and the Eaton's Neck Fire Department first responders are at risk and may well be compromised". I quote Assemblyman Andrew Raia, "The Asharoken Storm Damage Reduction Project is set to protect more than just the beaches of Asharoken residents. The project protects Asharoken Avenue, which is the sole access road for the community of Eaton's Neck, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Eaton's Neck Fire Department. Given the importance of Asharoken Avenue for this entire community, it is unfair for the burden of the restoration project to fall solely on the backs of the Asharoken residents."

Because of the unique importance of Asharoken Avenue to so many lives and that it also serves an adjacent Town of Huntington community, the Village is seeking an elimination of the requirement of public access to private property. The fact that Asharoken Village

should be saddled with the full local cost share and be required to open up its private property to public use when the project benefits the road used by thousands of non-Asharoken residents daily is unfair and unreasonable.

Our neighbors in Eaton's Neck need the beach project completed just as Asharoken does. If the project is not implemented due to the proposed requirements on the Village of Asharoken, the people of Eaton's Neck will be denied the public safety benefits they truly deserve.

As I said many times in the past, the Village is ready to negotiate a compromise agreement that allows the project to move forward allowing foremost the full protection of the roadway for all the people. Thank you.