

Mayor's Report November 14th 2023

On October 5th I was joined by Mr. Phil Quarles on a call with Matt Chelbus from the NYS Department of Environmental Protection's Coastal Erosion Management Section. We discussed the possibility of the DEC reaching out to the US ACOE to see if the Corps would be willing to assist the Village in finding a solution to restoring the failing seawall and beach seaward of it. The Corps had previously told the Village that it would not work on a localized project and would only consider a full restoration of the beach from the power plant to the seawall. This plan was comprehensively rejected by Village residents in 2016. Mr. Chelbus was not optimistic about the Corps changing its mind but he said that he would contact them and see what they had to say. To date I have not received a response from Matt.

In other seawall news since the last meeting, I met with people from a large engineering firm and the owner of a coastal construction firm. Both of these meetings were very productive and gave the Village a better idea of how to use the \$1,000,000 earmark for seawall reconstruction that Senator Chuck Schumer secured for the Village. During the month the Village continued to work with its engineering consultant Holtzmacher to complete the FAPP form that the NYS DOT needs to start accessing these funds. Additionally, the Village began work on the Request for Proposal to hire an engineering firm to design a full reconstruction of the seawall and beach area. This project will be paid for by a \$1,000,000 Hazard Mitigation Grant that Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce secured for the Village.

I attended the oral arguments on the dock lawsuit at the NYS Appeals Court in Mineola. Village Attorney Bruce Migatz expects a decision in the upcoming months.

The construction of the underground electric wire from Bevin Road to North Creek Road began since the last meeting. The project is going well and should be done in about a month. In the spring the road will be fully repaved as well.

I worked with Trustee Laura Burke on a draft of the proposed Village Noise Ordinance.

I participated in the monthly zoom call with NYS Assemblyman Keith Brown and various people from Northport and the Town of Huntington.

Sadly, I am announcing the passing of long time Asharoken resident Tony Wenderoth in his 89th year. The Wenderoth family has been in the Village almost one hundred years. Over many years Tony served on the Planning Board, as well as its Chairperson, and also was the Village building inspector. After superstorm Sandy in 2012, Tony, Andy Mendelsohn and Mel Ettinger combined their vast engineering expertise to facilitate some very rapid repairs to damaged critical infrastructure. His dedication to giving back to the Village is matched by very few others and I thank him for his incredible service. Tony loved the Asharoken lifestyle and was still swimming in the bay last September. In Tony's memory the flag at Village Hall was flown at half-staff. My condolences go out his sister and Village resident Kristen, and his nephew Ed Carr who lives in Eaton's Neck.