

## Mayor's Report December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

On December 15 Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce and I, met with GEI and the NYS DEC to discuss how GEI should go forward with designing a beach with groins. Earlier in the year the Village was informed by the DEC that from the perspective of permitting it would be a heavy lift to move the road or construct a breakwater. On the other hand, the DEC stated that it would look favorably on beach fill and groins in front of the seawall.

Ben Spratford, from GEI, opened the discussion with a slide showing the conceptual plan of the ACOE for 3 tapered groins, which was proposed in 2016. He asked if a plan like this was, in principle, acceptable to the DEC.

Eric Starr, from the DEC, replied that he had shared the drawing with people at the DEC and that there was no pushback. It was agreed that without groins it would be impossible to keep sand on the beach in front of the seawall mainly because that area is in the shadow of the groin to the east of the seawall.

Eric Starr also said there were discussions about placing 5 groins to help Sandpiper Farms. SP was concerned about being in the shadow of this groin field.

Eric Starr continued to say that the DEC was very close to issuing a permit for the 3 groins in 2016. He said that the ACOE plan is only conceptual, 5-10%, and that the plan's bathymetry, sand volume calculations, beach width, and finances will all need to be analyzed. He also said the wider the beach the lower the chance of the seawall being overtopped. He said speaking for the region it was inclined to authorize the permit for groins.

The discussion then turned to a breakwater. Permitting lift for breakwater is much higher. You would start from scratch as opposed to a groin plan. The cost of breakwaters would be very high because they would need to be massive to resist the force of waves. They also discussed breakwaters placed in the SE end of Staten Island and advised VOA that it could take a look at them. In conclusion, the path forward for breakwater is not promising. Advised low-hanging fruit is groins and that VOA should pursue that.

The Village is expecting to receive plans from Hayduk Engineering this week for an emergency fix of the seawall where the sheet steel has been elevated. Once we have the plans, the Village will find a contractor to do the work.

The Village will also hold a zoom call this week with a number of agencies to begin long term planning for what to do in the immediate aftermath of a washout of Asharoken Avenue in the beach lot and seawall area.

Santa will be coming to Asharoken on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM. I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season.