

Mayor's Report January 7, 2025

I wish everyone a very happy 2025, the Village's centennial. A group of residents led by Village Historian Ed Carr are planning several events to commemorate this Village milestone. On March 29th the Village's Centennial Save the Fireworks dinner dance and fireworks fundraiser will be held at the Northport Yacht Club. As always, our hostess Carole Casamassima is working on all the details and invitations will go out at the end of January. Save this date for what promises to be an amazing birthday party for the Village. As the other events become finalized I will let you know. I thank Village resident Matt Davies for creating a centennial logo flying in front of Village Hall. Several other people are also working on additional logos that will be displayed as soon as we get them.

On December 6th the Village hosted a Zoom call with the Town of Huntington Emergency Management, Town of Huntington Highway Department, Suffolk County Emergency Management, Northport FD, Eaton's Neck Fire Department, and the US Coast Guard to discuss what could be done in the immediate aftermath of a breach of Asharoken Avenue. The meeting was very productive. The following action items were considered for further evaluation.

- 1-Research and develop an evacuation plan for Village and Eaton's Neck
 - 2-Contact NYS DOT for input on the type and sources of materials, equipment, and expertise needed to replace the roadbed.
 - 3-Contact the private engineering firm the Village is working with for similar input on the type and sources of materials, equipment, and expertise needed to replace the roadbed.
 - 4-Obtain lists of engineering firms, road construction contractors, and material providers approved for contracting by the Village (via State/County general agreements).
 - 5- Contact the NYS DEC to ascertain what permitting/approvals may be required in the event of a major road repair.
 - 6-Consider/research stockpiling of key materials at the National Grid power plant and/or boat ramp area.
- I thank Emergency Manager Bill Raisch for arranging this meeting.

Hayduk Engineering submitted the application paperwork needed for the NYS DEC to modify the village's existing permit for repair work on the seawall. This request will allow the placement of more stones on the seaward side of the sheet steel. The Village is waiting for a response from the DEC. Once the Village gets the permit modification it will hire a contractor to add more stones to the wall. This project will be funded by a grant the Village received from Assemblyman Keith Brown.

GEI has completed approximately 60% of the engineering required for the seawall replacement. Additionally, it is submitting applications to multiple federal and state agencies for the permits needed for the seawall reconstruction. In addition, GEI sent a FOIA request to the USACOE for their plans for groins and beach fill, information on a cost-benefit analysis for replacing the seawall, and copies of easements from private property owners on which the seawall sits. The Village is waiting for GEI to prepare a proposal for the engineering costs of the groin and beach fill design.

Several residents have expressed frustration about how long the various seawall projects are taking. I share their frustration. One of the primary causes of the delays is that the Village is often waiting for decisions from outside agencies before it can move ahead. Presently we are waiting for: a DEC permit to add rocks to the wall, a decision from FEMA to allow using the Hazard Mitigation grant to pay for a feasibility study and engineering to move Asharoken Avenue by the seawall, waiting for approval from NYS DHSES to have the HMG will pay for engineering costs for the beach/groin engineering, waiting from

a response from NYSDHSES to see if the hazard mitigation grant will pay for costs of preparing a multi-million dollar grant application to fund the reconstruction of the entire seawall, and waiting for the ACOE to fill the Village's FIOL request. Regardless of how hard I push for a speedy resolution to these open items, the Village is still at the mercy of the outside agencies.

Jeff Josephson, who served as a full-time police officer for 40 years, was re-hired by the Village as a part-time officer. Santa and Mrs. Claus came to the Village on December 15th. It was a wonderful afternoon and the children could not have been happier. Lastly, I thank resident Mike Mere for generously donating a set of new letters for the Village message board. Years ago, Mike also donated the message board and the welcome to Asharoken sign as you enter the Village.