

**The Seawall Subcommittee
SLR and Storm Surge in Watch Hill
4:00 PM, February 11, 2021 via Zoom
The WH Harbor Seawall: History and Future
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Joan Beth Brown, Elizabeth Bean, Grant G. Simmons, Barbara Knowlton, Mark Szaro, Hilary Addington, Richard H. Sayre, Richard Holliday, Deborah Lamm, Jocelyn Lahey, Janice Sassi, and Peter August

Convened at 4:03 PM

Deborah Lamm & Joan Beth Brown welcomed attendees. Noted the goal of the meeting was to learn of the history and condition of the Watch Hill Harbor seawall.

Joan Beth Brown provided an update on the DEM Resilience Grant. Other recipients have not received their Grant Agreement's yet. Joan Beth has contacted Liz Stone at DEM inquiring about ours. It was noted that work on the lower part of the seawall can begin at any time since it is not part of the DEM Resilience Grant proposal.

Beth Bean & Grant Simmons provided an overview of the seawall. Their PowerPoint Presentation is attached. Major points raised were:

HISTORY

- Records are sparse, still collecting information
- What we know now is based on CRMC permits
- Masonry seawall serious damaged in Hurricane Gloria, repairs over next 15 years

GEOGRAPHY

- Different sections of the seawall have different histories and different needs
- They reviewed the wall sections – Low Wall, Yacht Club, and Capped. The length of each section is provided on the map

LOW WALL

- Explained that the elevation (in feet MHHW) at top of wall and landward height is how many inches high off the roadbed
- Wall is low and is overtopped in Nor'Easters and very high tides as we have seen a few times the last weeks.
- They provided a table showing how many days each year the tide exceeded the Low Wall elevation
- Condition is poor
- No metal sheeting
- They explained the gunite coating and stone composition

YACHT CLUB WALL

- Higher up
- Decent condition
- They pointed out the uncovered metal face
- They noted the jump in wall elevation at junction with Low Wall
- Explain sheet metal issue, cannot replace, current metal sheathing is a different design

YACHT CLUB WALL X SECTION

- Pointed out engineering diagram from the permit application
- Permit approved in 1987

CAPPED WALL

- In pretty good condition
- Pointed out metal sheet under cap
- Permit approved 1997

CAPPED WALL X SECTION

- Cap design is very clear in the engineering diagram

ISSUES WE NOW HAVE

- Low Wall in poor condition. Too low now
- We already have flooding at low points
- They explained the need to have the roadbed and drains to allow drainage and stay above groundwater elevation

CONCLUSION

- Need more information on the design of the wall and the options we have to elevate it to accommodate 3-5 feet of SLR
- Grant and Beth Bean will continue search Fire District records for additional information

Important Questions Raised:

- How much money has the WHFD spent over the years on the seawall?
- Is any part of the wall fit enough to build upon?
- How deep are the pilings driven down?
- Are there engineering or construction reports available?
- What are the short-term maintenance needs?

Deborah Lamm, Next meeting is 11 March 2021 at 4:00 PM

Adjourned at 5:20 PM

Planning for a Resilient Future

THE SEAWALL SUBCOMMITTEE

Planning Meeting
February 11, 2021

Agenda

Deborah Lamm & Joan Beth Brown, *Welcome and Goals for This Session*

Joan Beth Brown, *Update on DEM grant*

Beth Bean & Grant Simmons, *The Seawall: Past, Present, and Future*

Deborah Lamm, *Next Meeting*

Thursday, March 11th at 4:00 PM

Adjourn



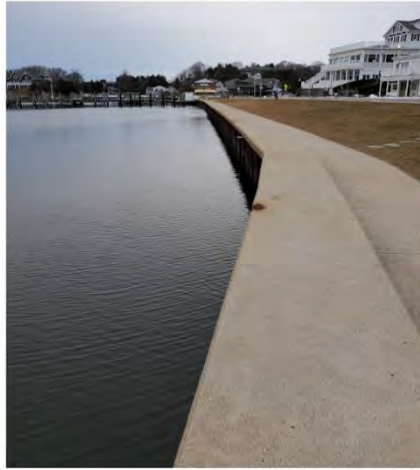
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Watch Hill Fire District
Chartered 1901

Planning for a Resilient Future

Watch Hill Harbor Seawall: History and Future

Beth Bean & Grant G. Simmons III



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History

Sept 17, 1985 – Hurricane Gloria damages masonry stone seawall

CRMC determines stone wall not sound, approves in 1988 Assent to build the Yacht Club seawall

Work completed 1993

Building Capped wall approved 1997

Seawall engineering records sparse to non-existent at this time.

Searching for more info



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Geography



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Low Wall

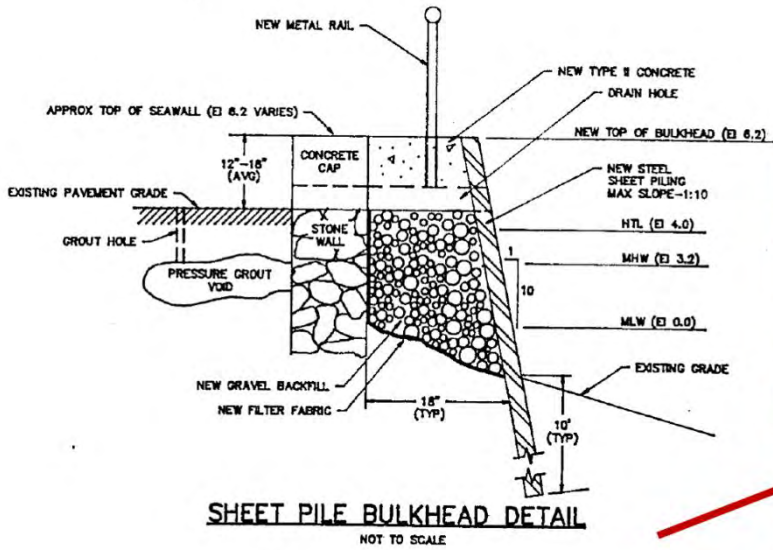


Yacht Club Wall



Yacht Club Wall

1987



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Capped





Issues

Seawall Condition



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Issues

Low Elevation Sites of Vulnerability



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