

Ocean Bluff Preservation Association
2021 Annual Report
June 2021

Dear Members:

Despite the limits faced by your Association due to Covid-19 restrictions in 2020, we made considerable progress. Below are the highlights:

- GEI completed the design study for revetment construction and made six recommendations to the DPW Board.
- DPW recommended that an annual maintenance budget be established for maintenance of the Ocean Bluff revetment.
 - \$314,000 was transferred from the capital budget to provide funding for repairs to Ocean Bluff. This project is slated to begin this summer.
- Seawall repairs from Brook Street to 7th Road were completed, adding three-to-five-ton stone armor to the foot of the seawall.
- Additional riprap/boulder work was done near 3rd and 5th roads.
- In late November, DPW authorized Northern Construction to provide emergency repairs from 500 -548 Ocean Street. The improvements stabilized the southern end of the revetment, but the December storms destroyed most of the work done near Stella Maris.
- OBPA officers maintained contact with State Representative Kearney (and staff member Lou Rizzo) and Senator O'Connor (and staff member Katie Baxter), urging their support for funding for design and completion of rebuilding the revetment.

Other highlights:

- Before Covid struck, OBPA ran a very successful winter item and bake sale.
- NBC (Channel 4) covered the need for revetment repair at Ocean Bluff, and representatives of OBPA were featured in several episodes on MCTV.
- Donna Martynowski and Gina Gianchetti received many compliments for keeping the garden at the island between Foster Ave. and Ocean Street, across from St. Ann's church.

Item of concern addressed by OBPA:

- The Woods Hole Group, represented by Ms. Leslie Fields, issued a report recommending a "boulder field" to protect Ocean Bluff; and, should that fail, to complete a "managed retreat," eliminating 12 to 15 homes.
- Representatives of OBPA and Lou Rizzo (from Rep. Kearney's office) met with Fields, and she agreed to withdraw her recommendation for Ocean Bluff until the revetment was re-built. She also agreed that repairs were urgently needed at and north of 532 Ocean Street to replace an encroaching sinkhole.

Progress in 2021:

- On February 26, 2021, GEI submitted to the Commonwealth's Dam and Seawall Fund a \$550,000 application on behalf of Marshfield's DPW for funding for design to rebuild the revetment.
- I wrote a letter of support for this funding and Officers of OBPA have contacted Representative Kearney and Senator O'Connor's office urging their support. We should hear in June or July.
- Town Engineer Rod Procaccino indicated to OBPA that FEMA has awarded \$8,000,000 to the Town for the Juno (2015) and Riley (2018) storms. He said that the Town must use this award soon, so moving on the design described above is key to keeping this FEMA funding.

Financial Condition and Membership:

As of May 31, 2021, Treasurer Helen Mahon reports that the OBPA had \$3,755.90 in its account with 28 paid members and a total membership of 94. Facebook has 743 "likes," a sign of the awareness and success of the organization. If your membership has lapsed, please consider renewing now.

We are continuing to succeed in getting attention to rebuilding the revetment. I have enjoyed serving as your president this past year and wish the Association continued success.

Sincerely,

David Miller
President