

➤ **Article 4E: Capital - Plymouth Beach Revetment**

9/15/16

David Gould, Director of Marine & Environmental Affairs, presented Article 4E. 4E and 4F are projects that are very close together and similar in scale. 4E is for repair to the Plymouth Beach revetment which is the town-owned revetment in front of Bert's and Pilgrim Sands. Several years ago the Town appropriated \$250,000 towards this work and each land owner contributed \$25,000. The project was designed and permitted and put out to bid. From that original appropriation and the private landowner funding, \$270,307 remains. The construction bids came in way over the anticipated budget and no work was ever done. Since the project was already designed and permitted we applied for construction funds via the MA Dam and Seawall Program in the amount of \$815,000. This is the amount being requested at Town Meeting. The funds would allow us to do the construction and then the Town would be reimbursed by the Commonwealth should we be successful in receiving the funding. If we do not receive the funding from the MA Dam and Seawall Program, no work or expenses would be undertaken.

Questions:

- How much did the private donors contribute? (H Helm) \$25,000 each, so \$50,000 total.
- How many times has this revetment been repaired? (B Cavacco) I can not accurately answer that. These do require maintenance. About 4 or 5 feet has eroded from the beach so that has exposed more of the revetment and the wall.
- If we did not repair this, what would happen? (B Cavacco) Repairing the revetment is relatively inexpensive. If we do not repair the revetment which protects the seawall then the seawall may receive damage. It is a lot more expensive to repair the seawall than the revetment.
- If this area was all wiped out by Mother Nature would we look to rebuild? (J Moody) Yes, we would. We would look for help from the federal and state governments as well if that happened.
- How much money and effort are we willing to invest at this location? (J Moody) I can't answer that. Streams naturally migrate up and down the coast, by locking them into one place with a bridge and surrounding infrastructure, we have a commitment to maintain that infrastructure.
- Would it be possible to retreat the road further inland? (S Sheridan) I do not know of any communities making those plans. The state would have to be involved because Route 3A is a state highway.
- We often go a little cheap on the infrastructure even though more expensive and thorough options are available. Is there an option to spend more here? (S Stephenson) Revetments should receive maintenance every couple of years so that is where the additional expense would come into play.
- Is there a maintenance budget for this recommended maintenance? (S Stephenson) No.
- What about the Environmental Affairs Fund which receives 50% of the solar PILOT revenue? (H Helm) This would be one of the uses of that fund but we are still awaiting approval from the Attorney General.

**Patrick O'Brien made a motion to recommend Article 4E to Town Meeting. Scott Stephenson, second.**

Discussion:

- This is a great deal for the owners of Bert's and Pilgrim Sands. (H Helm)
- This wall is important as it runs to and protects our beach. (S Sheridan)
- This is unfortunate but necessary expense for a coastal town. We need to repair it or lose it. (K Canty)
- We do not have a choice but to maintain it because we have infrastructure there. I hope the Environmental Affairs Fund is approved so it can help with these types of expenses. (B Cavacco)

**The motion carries unanimously (12-0-0).**