

TOWN OF DUXBURY

PUBLIC NOTICE

SEAWALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

TOWN CLERK

2018 DEC -4 PM 12: 39

DUXBURY, MASS.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Public Assistance grant funding for a project located in a floodplain and wetland. In this case, funding will be provided through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to the Town of Duxbury to restore 950 linear feet of seawall on Duxbury Beach that failed during a March 2018 storm event. The seawall reconstruction project is located on Duxbury Beach between (latitude 42.062656, longitude -70.647786) and (42.0652, -70.6484). A map of the seawall replacement project location and other details are available upon request via email to david.robbins@fema.dhs.gov or phone 617-832-4791.

The damaged seawall will be replaced with 950 linear feet of reinforced concrete wall that will be 4 to 5 feet higher than the existing wall. Steel sheet piling will be installed beneath the footing on the seaward side of the new wall. A stairway will be constructed at the southern end of the seawall. A drainage system will be installed through the wall and the slope of the replacement seawall will match the pre-damage condition. The proposed project is expected to eliminate or greatly reduce the probability of storm-related wind and wave action from overtopping the seawall, undermining the wall, and causing damage to structures protected by the seawall.

The project is in mapped special flood hazard area with wave action and one percent chance of annual flood. The beach side of the seawall is characterized as estuarine and marine wetland. The project location required identification and consideration of impacts from, and alternatives to, the proposed action.

Alternatives outside the floodplain are limited to elevating homes above the height of the wave action hazard; moving the existing structures protected by the seawall outside of the floodplain; or acquiring and demolishing the existing structures. FEMA has concluded that none of these options are practicable.

Factors considered in making this determination included the potential threat to life, safety and property if the seawall were not restored, as well as impacts to the floodplain and wetlands. The proposed project would reduce flood hazards to properties by maintaining a barrier to coastal storm surge. Avoidance of a floodplain and wetland location for a seawall is not feasible because its utility is functionally dependent on proximity to wave and flooding hazard.

Potential impacts associated with the occupancy, modification, or development of floodplains and wetlands that could result from the proposed project are expected to be insignificant because the project will replace an existing seawall in a densely developed area. The seawall will be vulnerable to impacts of wave action in future coastal storms, but design and mitigation measures are intended to make the seawall more resilient to storm damage. Minimization of impacts can be achieved through compliance with permit conditions.

Pre-construction permitting and approval required by federal, state and local agencies, including compliance with state and local floodplain protection standards are conditions of the federal award

of financial assistance. Among other permit requirements, Public Assistance funding will be conditional upon project conformity with all applicable state and local floodplain standards and permits issued under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act by Duxbury Conservation Commission/Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and under the Clean Water Act by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Comments about this project, potential alternatives, and floodplain and wetland impacts may be submitted in writing within 15 days of the date of this publication to the following:

David E. Robbins, Regional Environmental Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Boston, MA
david.robbsins@fema.dhs.gov phone 617-832-4791

If FEMA receives substantive comments, it will evaluate and address the comments as part of the environmental review documentation for this project.

This Public Notice is also on file with the Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Senior Center, and Library.