



TOWN OF JUPITER INLET COLONY
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

TOWN OF JUPITER INLET COLONY
Town Administration Building

SPECIAL MEETING
Beach Erosion Update

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Ed Hocevar called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor stated that this meeting was an update meeting and any public comments or questions be directed to him via email or in person.

2. Update on Beach Erosion

Timetable:

On February 5 and 6, a nor'easter storm impacted our shore that caused steep drop-offs in the sand as high as 10 feet and brought the water level at high tide precariously close to the edge of residents' properties and beach access points and put six homes at risk.

Goals:

- To ensure the safety of the homeowners and all who use the beach.
- To provide affected homeowners with some immediate stabilization to protect their properties as best we could, given DEP regulations.
- Explore long term solutions to securing the beachfront from future erosion.
- Pursue funding sources to pay for stabilization expense incurred.

STATE MANDATED STATEMENT

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any person requiring a special accommodation at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the Town prior to the meeting. Please contact the Town Administration Office, Administration Building, 50 Colony Road, Jupiter Inlet Colony, and FL 33469 - telephone 746-3787.



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Goal Update on Safety, Security and Beachfront Stabilization:

- The beach has been closed and Town engineers and building officials inspected homes immediately along the beach to assess damage.
- Simultaneously, we met with Government officials, Maria Marino, County Commissioner, Brian Mast, US Representative, State Senator Gayle Harrell, and State Representative John Snyder, and people close to the Governor.
- We also met with Sean Hamilton, Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and his team, and with representatives of other agencies such as Palm Beach County ERM to determine how best to deal with an encroaching sea. I appreciate everyone who helped us reach out to these officials and agencies so quickly.
- Operating under the existing Florida final emergency order issued after Hurricane Nicole, we found an immediate path forward and were able bring in sand without permits to rebuild dunes bordering the homes most affected by the erosion.
- At the February 12 Commission meeting, the Commission voted to pay for the operation from reserve funds which are earmarked for emergencies such as this. The Commission will seek ways to replenish that fund after the crisis.
- Eight days after the storm event, we had contracted with Bernie Eastman, of Eastman Aggregate, to bring in 7,000 tons of sand to the beach.
- On February 16, we closed the Beach Club, and Bernie and his team began the sand remediation process.
- Sand approved by FDEP is being hauled from Stuart Mining through the JIC Beach Club from 7 am to 5 pm six days a week.
- We thank the Beach Club and its board members for letting us use their property as a staging area and through which all sand is hauled. It is obviously closed during this remediation effort.
- Chief Kerr issued temporary street parking regulations to ensure safety while as many as 60 to 70 truckloads a day came and went on our streets.

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- Each day since February 17, a parade of trucks, bulldozers, bob cats and other heavy equipment, place sand in front of the impacted homes, so that homeowners can begin repairs.
- We anticipate that this goal — to immediately provide affected homeowners with dune stabilization — will be accomplished on or ahead of schedule.
- This is a major goal, and I'm grateful for homeowners who are impacted for expressing their support and gratitude for what Bernie will have accomplished soon.

Long-Term Solutions:

Several meetings have been held with Government officials. The most important of these was with the Secretary of Florida's DEP — Sean Hamilton.

It is rare that the head of the DEP spends time on a small project such as ours, but thanks to the outreach efforts of our officials and some people here, he and his team gave us considerable attention.

We gained good news on one front: those homes that have revetment bordering their property may proceed, without a permit, to add sand to the revetment and reposition displaced rocks, at their cost, using the field operation that Bernie has set up. There is a narrow window to act: and work must be completed without compromising the sand remediation completion schedule. Homeowners have been notified and they and their contractors can negotiate with Bernie directly.

On a second front, we didn't get good news.

Despite being warned by local and state officials, as well as contractors and communities that work with the DEP, that it was futile, the intention in meeting with Mr. Hamilton was to obtain a Town permit to extend the revetment, at homeowners' cost.

Our efforts were not successful. It is a Florida Law that no new revetment wall can be built without meeting their strict criteria for eligibility, vulnerability and the distance between eligible properties.

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We have tried every angle. Other structures such as geo-tubes used at Lost Tree can be used. They require permits and some maintenance. We have been invited to see those at Lost Tree.

The fact that the Town cannot obtain a permit does not mean that individual homeowners, working together, cannot try to apply political pressure and persuasion, though the same caveat applies: they too would be asking for an exemption to a Florida law.

If any homeowners wish to pursue this, we are happy to provide records, contacts, and research documentation.

Our goal is to find funding to pay for that dune remediation – work begins on that tonight. We are fortunate to have a reserve fund that pays for emergencies. But my fellow commissioners and I are prudent stewards of that reserve, so we will explore sources of county, state, and federal funding to try to replenish the approximately \$500k we will have to pay for this remediation effort.

Commissioner Ciarfella, who has extensive experience with municipalities and government agencies through his work, has been asked to consult with residents and knowledgeable experts about possible sources of funding.

Approved by:

Mayor Ed Hocesvar

Date

Deputy Clerk Kathi Cornelius

Date

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