



Wetlands/Coastal Dune Board

Work Session

Cape Charles Town Hall

2 Plum Street

August 31, 2016

3:00 p.m.

At approximately 3:00 p.m., Chairwoman Ann Hayward Walker, having established a quorum, called to order the Wetlands/Coastal Dune Board Work Session. Board members Russ Dunton, Bob Roche, Joe Fehrer, and Bill Prickett were in attendance. Also present were Vice-Mayor Chris Bannon, Town Planner Larry DiRe and Assistant Town Clerk Tracy Outten. There were two members of the public in attendance.

Chairwoman Ann Hayward Walker welcomed the Board, Town staff and the members of the public to the meeting.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH MATERIALS, DOCUMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS DRAFT:

Discussion was based on attached materials.

NEXT STEPS:

Ann Hayward Walker would finalize the draft PowerPoint Wetlands/Coastal Dune Board recommendations to be presented to Town Council at an upcoming meeting.

Chairwoman Ann Hayward Walker thanked the Board, Vice-Mayor Chris Bannon, Town staff and members of the public for their time and adjourned the Wetlands and Coastal Dune Board Work Session.

Chairwoman Ann Hayward Walker

Assistant Town Clerk

Cape Charles Dune Board Recommendations – 3 Sept. 2016

Implement NOW before USACE fencing is installed

1. Town - Clear/move sand to make one access point for people and equipment next to the pier. Close the other one in the middle of the dune by filling in with sand. Leave the large flat area in front for gathering/picnic tables on the boardwalk side.
2. Town - Move piles of excess sand at the south end to fill shallow hole by Madison and any remaining to the north end but don't move sedge grass to other parts of the beach!!!!
3. Town - Spray/kill the sedge grass before it can spread and before it goes dormant – use Round up with dye. See photos of sedge on the next page (Ann Hayward Walker can identify); don't spray other plants. Joe Fehrer has the dye and can assist Public Works Superintendent, John Lockwood.
4. Town - Move volleyball courts seaward / away from the base of the dunes (100-200 yards SW)
5. USACE - Reallocate sand fencing so as to not block beach access walkways. Instead use the fence to define dune “wings” next to the walkway access points along the entire beach to prevent sand from blowing into the walkways. Town planner, Larry DiRe, to indicate on Sheet 6 of 14, dated 04 Feb 2016. Larry DiRe and Joe Fehrer to meet with Project Engineer as appropriate to clarify and/or indicate the location. Town to pile sand in the wings if needed before the grass is planted.
6. Suggest to USACE - install new sand fences seaward at least 20' seaward from the existing dune line, rather than at the toe of the existing dune as indicated on Sheet 10 of 14 dated 04 Feb 2016.
7. Town - Purchase now /order ABG to be planted later – need to order in advance so grass can be grown! (about \$70 for 1000 scrapes/plants; Norfolk source: Peter McClintock, Emerald Forest in Norfolk for ABG and other plants <http://www.emeraldforestnursery.com/>). Larry DiRe and John Lockwood to calculate number of plants needed (north end, widen .
8. Town – Identify volunteers to plant ABG in Jan.-Feb. Possibilities – schools, New Roots, others
9. Town - Close access at Neptune statue (fill in) and define single access for pedestrians and/or equipment at the foot of Washington Ave. near where the stones protect the outfall
10. Town – stop grooming/any mechanical activity in the upper beach near dunes ASAP

Implement after USACE installs fences and plants but before winter

1. Town - Install multiple rows of sand fencing at the south end (east-west) and north end to mitigate sand blowing during the winter in layout to be discussed with Board
2. Town – stay on top of keeping boardwalk, street/curbs, and all sidewalks clear of sand for pedestrian safety, e.g., Bay Ave. sidewalk in front of 1 Madison Ave. Deposit sand back on the north end of the beach. Ask Public Works Superintendent for a plan (Perhaps use Dan Dabinet's little bobcat to run up and down sidewalks with sand)

Implement during the winter (Jan. Feb)

1. Town – Plant ABG where thick grass growth is needed to create lower /wider dunes in the broad parts of the beach where people don't sit (photos available)
2. Town – stay on top of keeping boardwalk, street/curbs, and all sidewalks on Bay Ave. clear of sand for pedestrian safety, e.g., Bay Ave. sidewalk in front of 1 Madison Ave. Deposit sand back

on the north end of the beach. Ask Public Works Superintendent for a plan for sidewalks and winter fencing (Perhaps use Dan Dabinet's little bobcat to run up and down sidewalks with sand).

Implement in spring (Mar. – May)

1. Town - Fertilize ABG with 10-10-10. Need to check how often.
2. Town - For any newly forming dunes at the north end on boardwalk side, leave at least 5' buffer between toe of dune and the boardwalk
3. Town - Refine/replant street side of dunes (in 5' minimum path next to boardwalk). Visit Norfolk 27th St. demonstration garden for ideas. Town planner, board to develop a vegetation plan for the length of the boardwalk. Plant considerations:
 - a. Panicum amarum 'Dewey Blue' Switchgrass or beach grass is good on the street/back side of the dune (doesn't like salt and wind as much as ABG)
 - b. Other native vegetation, e.g., goldenrod
 - c. Remove Virginia creeper to simplify maintenance, plant other suitable plants

Other good practice recommendations - TBD

1. Town and board - Develop guidance about using mechanical equipment on the beach for equipment operators and train
2. Town and board - Develop signs/other things to educate public on dune benefits and values – why they should stay off

Photos of Japanese sedge – 8/30/16

