The Challenge of Constructing and Designing Living Shoreline Projects in the Northeast

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Topics for Discussion

- Challenges in permitting Living Shoreline Projects in New England
- Tensions that exist between
  - Towns/Villages,
  - Engineers, &
  - Regulatory community
- The balance that must be obtained to
  - Improve coastal resiliency
  - Protect property
  - Protect the coastal resources
  - Protect the public interest
NOAA/NOS/CO-OPS
Verified Hourly Heights at 8510560, Montauk NY
From 2011/08/25 00:00 LST to 2011/08/31 23:59 LST
NOAA/NOS/CO-OPS
Winds at 8465705, New Haven CT
From 2011/08/25 00:00 LST to 2011/08/31 23:59 LST

- Speed in knots


• Winds — Gusts

NOAA/NOS/Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
Permitting Difficulties

• The village does not have a comprehensive plan or bylaws to provide guidance for protecting coastal banks

• The New York Department of Environmental Conservation readily issues permits for revetments and bulkheads

• There has been little or no consideration of downdrift effects of structures
Homeowners Position

• They do not want to spend money on “experimental” approaches
• They think that the revetment will solve all of their problems
• They do not really want to hear about downdrift effects of their proposed structures
Village Position

• Encouraging the homeowners to use a living shoreline approach:
  • None of the house are in eminent danger (>100 ft away)
  • Maintain public access
  • Maintain the beach as long as possible
  • Maintain view-scapes from the water
  • Once one structure goes in it will cascade and the entire shoreline will be hardened
  • There is no good way to terminate a structure in the center of the project area
The Village's On Going Concerns

• The potential to have 1.3 miles of shoreline revetted.
• If the structures are permitted there will be a loss of the high tide beach.
• If permitted, this project may set a precedent that may prevent future living shoreline projects from being proposed within the Village.
And The Beat Goes On

Questions