

Beach Plan May Be Back

Quogue weighs nourishment plan

BY VALERIE GORDON

The Quogue Village Board will hold a public hearing this month to discuss the possible resurgence of a proposal to create a coastal erosion taxing district in Quogue, which would fund a decade-old plan to nourish a 2.7-mile stretch of ocean beach along Dune Road.

The proposal to create the district dates back to 2004, when a group of Dune Road homeowners in Quogue began pushing for the restoration of the area's beaches. In order to do the work, the village secured a Tidal Wetlands Protection of Waters and Water Quality Certification permit from the State Department of Environmental Conservation in 2016. However, the project was shot down less than a year later, in May 2017, when village officials decided the job was too expensive.

Mayor Peter Sartorius said last week that his intention behind the meeting, scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on August 18 at Quogue Village Hall, is to hear specifically what Dune Road homeowners have to say. "I'm mostly interested in what they think about it," he said.

The coastal erosion district would mimic that of the Bridgehampton and Sagaponack coastal erosion districts, which collect on average \$1.3 million per year in real property taxes. The Town Board acts as the commission for the districts.

In order to move forward with a potential nourishment project, the municipality would need to secure a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, allowing the village to dredge an estimated 1 million cubic yards of sand from the ocean floor and redistribute those spoils along the village's entire stretch of oceanfront.

Several years ago, the project was estimated to cost between \$12 million and \$15 million and would have widened the beach by between 50 and 127 feet.

"We're very unlikely to do that particular project," Mr. Sartorius said. "That was for the whole beach in Quogue."

To move forward with getting a permit, the village must submit copies of the vibra-coring analysis—a technique for collecting core samples of underwater sediments and wetland soils—and subsequent grain size analysis, done several years ago by First Coastal, a Westhampton Beachbased environmental consulting firm.

Aram Terchunian, owner of First Coastal, said on Tuesday that the initial vibra-coring took a half dozen samples from about two miles offshore of the village beach. Those samples essentially answered the question: "Are we able to find sand that matched the beach?"

"We found fabulous sand," Mr. Terchunian said this week. Lupid