

Paul Foley

From: Belleruth Naparstek [BNaparstek@healthjourneys.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 10:43 AM
To: Paul Foley
Subject: Re: North Bluff Sea Wall Project DRI #659

TO: Paul Foley, DRI Coordinator, M.V. Commission
FR: Belleruth Naparstek, North Bluff Resident & Homeowner
RE: Proposed Sea Wall Project

This is a request that the M.V. Commission carefully study and consider the full impacts and unintended consequences of the sea wall proposal, DRI #659.

I have been told by several neighbors and fellow homeowners that there is considerable pressure from the O.B. Board of Selectmen and town administrator to quickly review and approve this plan, lest funding be lost.

I hope you will take your judicious time to be fully informed about what exactly you would be signing off on.

In their rush to obtain "free" government money, our town leaders may have lost sight of the fact that the cost of maintaining and operating a piece of infrastructure like this will be the town's to bear in the future. Steel and sea water are not compatible, and while the idea of getting a state grant to build this thing might have appeal, we must ask who would pay for its maintenance and repair once built. All across the country, municipalities are bankrupting themselves with projects that sound just like this one.

If the town doesn't have an accurate sense of what the costs will be to maintain, operate and keep all of this new infrastructure in a state of good repair, and if the town doesn't know exactly where that money will come from, it seems to me it would be irresponsible to move forward with this.

Additionally, there are equally important and devastating considerations: (1) the loss of our charming, public, free-access beach, which, now that the stairs have been repaired, has been well used by the public while they wait for their ferries - on a hot day there are scores of people in that short stretch of beach; (2) the industrial-strength overbuilding and urbanizing of a natural waterfront that will cut people off from the water; and (3) the full impacts of changes in walking patterns and public use.

I suspect that some concerned citizen has already pointed out to you what happened under similar circumstances in post-Hurricane Sandy New Jersey: http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/10/jerseyfication_rocks.html/.

There are also the (sadly) usual, widespread concerns around the way hearings were set up to avoid public awareness or comment; the way the process was misrepresented to the public; the possible conflicts of interest involved here; and the whole ethos of blindly going for the immediate gain of state funds, implications be damned.

I hope you will give this matter your usual thoughtful and fair consideration, unhindered by pressure from town leadership.

Respectfully yours,

Belleruth Naparstek
6 Saco Ave

