

Update on the Parking Lot Failure/Dune Crevice at Cahoon Hollow

## Wellfleet Non-resident Taxpayers' Association

*Promoting community involvement and communication*

Susan Reverby's report: Update on the Parking Lot Failure/Dune Crevice at Cahoon Hollow

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, during torrential rains of seven to eight inches in a few hours, a crevice nearly twenty feet deep opened up in the Cahoon Hollow Beach parking lot in front of the Beachcomber. It swallowed up a Beachcomber employee's car, buried the lifeguard tower in four and half feet of sand, and led to the closing of the lot and beach. By August 26<sup>th</sup>, the town has been able to make it possible to at least walk down to the beach on a transverse path that skirts the crevice, but the lot is still closed. Shuttles were set up between the lot at White Crest and Cahoon Hollow.



*Suzanne Thomas, Beach Administrator*

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) held an emergency meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss what to do next. They heard from Beach Administrator Suzanne Thomas, Bob Perry from Cape Cod Engineering, and representatives of the Beachcomber and the concerned public. The problem is caused both by run-off from Ocean View Drive, down Cahoon Hollow Beach Road because of the grade and then onto the dunes and by wave action on the ocean side as well. It was not a landslide, Perry explained, but rather what he called a corrosive failure that has to do with the water coming onto the dune itself. The representative from the Beachcomber also made

clear what an economic engine it was for the town and many charitable organizations, suggesting why finding a solution was critical.

The BOS, after an hour-long discussion, made several decisions. Since the Beachcomber closes on Labor Day, allowing parking at White Crest and the opening of the new walkway solves the problem of getting to the beach for the rest of the summer season. Since there is also more erosion during the winter storms, the solutions will be put off till the spring when there is less traffic. The discussion of what needs/might be done included: putting catch basins with leach fields (none exist now) on Ocean View Drive and Cahoon Hollow Road, discussing possible swaps with the National Seashore to put another parking lot on the other side of Ocean View Drive near the entrance to Cahoon Hollow Road, examining the Department of Public Works' budget to determine to how to pay for the catch basins on the town roads and the trucking in of tons of expensive sand to fill and then tamp down the crevice, creating new berms and scarps to keep the sand in place. The Conservation Commission may also have to play a role in any changes. So stay tuned as there will be more discussions about this at the BOS meetings during the coming year.

Please visit our website for our latest [newsletter](#). Thank you for your continued [support and donations!](#)

Wellfleet NonResident Taxpayer's Assoc. (WNRTA), PO Box 1323, Wellfleet, MA 02667

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [wnrta@comcast.net](mailto:wnrta@comcast.net) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

Try it free today