



The Town of Fenwick Island

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The Beach is Back!

Dune Crossings Completed, Sand is Building

On Fenwick Island Beaches

December 31, 2009

Six weeks after the Veteran's Day Nor'easter of 2009, Fenwick Island beaches are accessible and "on the mend". Crews from the State of Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) have re-established safe dune crossings from Atlantic through King Streets. And, while stormy weather has occurred, sustained winds that cause erosion have not been endured.

Measurements of beach width by the Town of Fenwick Island Public Works staff began on December 30. Weather permitting, weekly readings at four locations in the Town will continue through the Easter holiday. Current measurements range from sixty-four to seventy-five feet.

"The beach hasn't gone far," Town Manager Win Abbott remarked. "You can see how shallow that water is – out over more than a hundred yards." Natural wind and wave action typically rebuilds storm damaged beaches over the Winter and Spring months.

Anthony Pratt and Maria Sadler, representing DNREC's Shoreline and Waterway Management Division, will be in attendance at the next Council meeting on January 22 at 3:30 p.m.

In a December 25th Coastal Point article, Mr. Pratt noted that funding for replenishment was not likely before the Summer of 2010, but new fences and replanting of grasses on the front side of dunes may be expected in the Spring.

An Army Corps of Engineers survey team was in the Town of Fenwick Island on Thursday, December 17th. Their beach profile survey was part of an effort to complete a report necessary to secure Congressional funding.

The following day, Delaware's senior Senator Thomas Carper met with Mr. Pratt and representatives of the Bethany-Fenwick area beach communities. "The dunes are a great investment," Senator Carper said in the Coastal Point article. "We will definitely take a look at our possibilities and options on the federal level."

In the meantime, the Town of Fenwick Island is preparing for another great season at the beach!