

## 2020 HERCC Groin replacement continuation vote comments &amp; past research

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To Lili [REDACTED]

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In response to a request that I comment on the replacement of the west groin (in between the two Stefanowski properties) I offer these remarks to help you make an informed decision. Following my remarks is my impact analysis report from June 2018. FYI, this email is being sent individually to each HERCC member so there is no need to forward this email along. While I welcome your own comments back, I ask that we hold off on creating a community wide email discussion until we meet on Saturday.

**Explanation of purpose:**

It is generally acknowledged (reference the SeaGrant attachment) that groins are submerged structures intended to retain sand on the side in the path of the predominant currents (updrift side) at the expense of the side away from the predominant currents (downdrift side). In our case, we presume these currents run predominantly south west to north east. This presumption is supported by an examination of old aerial photographs (see 1980 photo attached). Since the beach is located 60 feet away from the west groin, the replacement of this (west) structure will probably have little or no actual impact on the HERCC beach. The impact/benefit of replacing this structure will be sand accumulation in front of the properties to the west of the structure (updrift side, Stefanowski/Amaio) at the "expense" of depletion of sand in front of the Stefanowski property nearest the beach (downdrift side).

**2019 & 2020 observations:**

Since the removal of the old west groin, the mound of sand that had accumulated to the west (updrift side) of the decrepit structure is gone (as anticipated). We also repaired and improved the eastern groin which (in my opinion) contributed to my observation (in March of both 2019 and 2020) of an increase in the accumulation of natural sand and small stones on the eastern side of the beachfront. This is the updrift side of the eastern groin.

**Voting Recommendation:**

In my opinion only the four property owners along the Soundview Ave shoreline should vote for this proposal. The rest of the membership should vote against pursuing this effort further as a HERCC funded effort.

**Reconstruction recommendation:**

The Stefanowskis and their neighbors may have an interest in pursuing this improvement further even at their own expense. Reconstruction does however presents a negative environmental impact as the structure ages and decays over time. As compensation perhaps the association could be paid back the cost of the permit and engineering design already expended. Should the association decides to abandon this project, doing so sooner rather than later is advised to allow more time for the third parties to assume ownership of the open permit which only has three years remaining.

**History of Ownership:**

There appears to be some sentiment in the current membership who feel we have an obligation to maintain this structure ad infinitum. This may be due to a misconception regarding the history of ownership. While the original permits were obtained in the name of the HERCC association by past presidents Birdsey (1965 east) and Charles Wood (1969 west), there exists no clear record of funding by the general membership. We do see (attached) a plea from president Birdsey asking each member to make a voluntary contribution of \$100 to help fund the construction of the east groin.

**Long term recommendations:**

Studies differ but some indicate that along the eastern shoreline we are losing on average 1 meter of coastal erosion every 10 years. This is consistent with remarks made by our own longtime residents (Roy Haller?). The Soundview Avenue property owners along the shoreline are directly exposed and affected by coastal erosion. Those owners should consult with coastal engineering experts to explore the best alternatives available for protecting the existing rapprochements and concrete retaining wall. Of common interest to all parties is the maintenance and preservation of the large rocks and boulders located on the seaward side of the eastern groin. The re-positioning of submerged boulders in the swim area could provide such a benefit.

Guy Simonian