Herring River Restoration Project

“Return of the Tide”

Low-Lying Roads
0% Design
Public Meeting
February 4, 2015

www.friendsofherringriver.org
Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions
• Purpose of the meeting
• Overview of the Herring River Restoration Project and Key Features of the Plan
• Low Lying Roads – What needs to be changed and why
• Discussion and public input
• Summary and Next Steps
Purpose of the Meeting

• To present information on the project
• To describe why Pole Dike, Old County and Bound Brook Roads need to be investigated and likely raised in specified areas and culverts replaced
• To hear public concerns, needs and questions for consideration during the design phase
• To prepare for the start of engineering and design of roadwork and culvert replacement
Why are we doing this project?

- To restore self-sustaining tidally influenced natural habitats
- To achieve ecological and social benefits of a healthy and productive tidal marsh
- To stop the degradation of the marsh. With the restricted tidal flow we have today, the marsh will not stay the same
- To replace the deteriorating Chequessett Neck Road tide gates with an improved tide control structure
Ecological Benefits

• Restore nutrients that are needed for the productivity of the marsh, Wellfleet Harbor and Bay and coastal waters
• Improve water quality through tidal flushing
• Restore finfish and shellfish habitat and eel and herring runs
• Deposit sediment in the estuary to compensate for sea-level rise
• Replace existing degraded habitats with healthy tidally dependent vegetation
Social Benefits

• Reduce pollution (nitrogen, coliform bacteria)
• Improve water quality
• Restore harvestable finfish & shellfish areas lost when the dike was constructed 100 years ago
• Provide public access
• Enhance opportunities for recreation, boating, birding, fin and shellfishing
• Reestablish natural control of nuisance mosquitoes
Tidal Restoration

The removal of existing restrictions in the river and its tributaries to allow controlled incremental return of natural tidal flow to and from the estuary.
Major Projects

- CNR Dike to be replaced
- Pole Dike Tide Control Structure
- Mill Creek Dike
- Roadwork
- High Toss Road
General Schedule

• 2015 – Final EIS & Record of Decision
• 2015 – Mitigation planning with owners of low lying property
• 2015 / 2016 – Continue engineering & prepare permit ready designs
• 2016 / 2017 – Obtain local, state and federal permits
• 2016 / 2017 – Secure project funding
• 2018 / 2020 – Construction
Project Purpose

• Elevate Roadways
  – Raise the elevation of low lying roads
  – Accessibility during large coastal storm events
  – Blend with existing grades/features (driveways)

• Replace Existing Culverts
  – Increase culvert capacity
  – Incorporate safety elements
  – Control gate
Design Elements

- Culvert/Gate Design
  - Safety
- Road Alignment
- Traffic Management
  - Construction phasing
  - Detour plans
- Drainage/Utilities
- Impact Minimization
  - Wetlands
  - Access/driveways
Upcoming Field Work

- Field Survey
- Wetlands Edge Verification
- Geotechnical Investigation
  - 4 to 5 days of drilling
Project Schedule

• Field Work: February 2015
• Preliminary Design Plans: April 2015
• Design Public Meeting: April 2015
• Final Report: June 2015
• Permit Plans: July 2015
Discussion/Public Input

• Design Elements
  – Safety
  – Drainage
• Points of Interest
• Road Usage
• Access to Private Property
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