

Brewster Coastal Resource Management Plan – Phase 1



*Presentation to
Brewster Select Board
July 22, 2019*

What's at stake – natural system

- Brewster's 7 mile shoreline is part of a dynamic regional coastal system
- Erosion from storm surges/sea level rise has intensified in recent years
- Significant erosion occurring at some town-owned landings and access points
- Salt marshes and tidal flats threatened if unable to keep pace with sea level rise

What's at stake – human uses

- Heavy demand for access at beaches and landings during the peak summer season
- Heavy demand for access for a wide variety of water dependent uses including aquaculture, commercial and recreational shellfishing, boating
- Vulnerable infrastructure
- Co-existence with near-shore neighborhoods

Step-wise approach

- Coastal Beach Access Survey - 2015
- Coastal Adaptation Strategy - 2016
- Vision Plan - 2018
- Coastal Resource Management Plan
 - Community workshops explore management issues (2018)
 - Phase 1 plan (2019)

Scope of Phase 1 Plan

- Assess natural and human use conditions
- Identify management challenges
- Recommend management actions
 - Issues for further study
 - Policy and regulation
 - Special projects (Beach shuttle pilot project)
 - Infrastructure/improvements
- Provide framework for implementation & adaptive management

Phase 1 Plan Goals

1. Increase the resiliency of public landings and beaches
2. Preserve the ecosystem services provided by healthy coastal wetland resources
3. Provide access for water dependent activities
4. Preserve peak-season access to public beaches and landings
5. Protect vulnerable infrastructure, visual access, and sense of place threatened by changing conditions

Implementation

- Expand Coastal Committee membership
- Identify liaisons from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Vision Committee, Bike Safety Committee, and Open Space Committee, in addition to Select Board
- Meet quarterly with the liaisons to review progress
- Provide annual progress report to the Select Board
- CAS: Consider by-law to form Coastal Resource Management Board