

PLANNING

Dewatering policy in works

By PETER B. BRACE
INDEPENDENT WRITER

Flooding, contamination are issues

led by the Department of Public Works, several town departments are helping to write a dewatering policy that would apply to projects in the downtown area near the harbor.

The policy, being worked out by DPW Superintendent Jeff Willett with contributions from the Marine & Coastal Resources Department, Conservation Commission and Building Department, will require developers to file a dewatering plan with the Building Department before building permits are issued. The town departments and boards would have to sign off on the dewatering plans before work could begin on the sites.

The new policy stems from Point Breeze developer Bob Matthews pumping water from his Easton Street property into the town's harbor outflow system and overwhelming the system several times last fall during heavy rains, causing major street flooding.

Taking notice of the round-the-

clock dewatering of the site, the Shellfish & Harbor Advisory Board and Marine Superintendent Dave Fronzuto — wary of the potential harm to marine life in the harbor — investigated how the town could more closely monitor and control what flows into the harbor.

“One of the things that we’re concerned about is if you have Mrs. Jones with a wet basement with a sump pump and the sump pump gets discharged into the sewer drain through the washing machine hose...you don’t want it to go into the sanitary sewer,” said Fronzuto at the Feb. 19 SHAB meeting. “You want to be very careful in this review.”

After discovering that the Point Breeze had been pumping unfiltered water into the stormwater collection system for five months, including during an astronomical high tide last Sept. 28, the DPW contacted Matthews and worked with him to develop and file a

dewatering plan that filters the water before it flows into the harbor. Under this plan, water is removed from the site at a rate of 45 gallons per minute and pumped into a tank that filters out contaminants. The filtered water then flows by gravity through a three-inch pipe into one of the town's catch basins on Easton Street. In the gravity line a shutoff valve prevents flow into the catch basin or back into the tank. Should heavy rains or high tide force the DPW to shut off the Point Breeze's connection to the catch basin, the Point Breeze will be able to handle its own water.

Matthews' team of engineers presented the plan for keeping the Point Breeze dry at the Feb. 25 Planning Board meeting. During construction, steel sheeting will be driven down 19 feet into the ground around the perimeter of the property.

Collection wells placed around the property will pump water through the

“You want to be very careful in this review.”

— Dave Fronzuto,
Marine superintendent

town-mandated filtration system then out through aboveground pipes and into the harbor via outflow pipes at Children's Beach. For permanent dewatering, when the town upgrades its downtown stormwater collection system this fall, Matthews will run his own pipes to the harbor when the town opens the streets for its project.

Dewatering plans for all downtown projects must include a monitoring program for high tides and rain events so dewatering equipment can be shut down by project developers. Projects requiring a Conservation Commission order of conditions must also have the DPW's approval, said DPW Administrator Diane Holdgate, who expects to have the dewatering forms finalized this week. ■

Nantucket Memorial Airport Terminal News



WEEKLY UPDATE:

Terminal demolition begins and foundation work continues

Concrete was poured this week for two walls of the east end addition. Inside the terminal, construction crews built a temporary wall in the old security screening area in preparation for demolition.

Next week, two more east end addition walls will be poured and the foundation should be completed. Installation of the basement column footings will be placed for the slab part of the building.

TRAVELER IMPACT:

A temporary door will lead travelers from the current arrivals baggage area to the secure ticketing offices in the three temporary trailers between the terminal and the runway.

Airport operations will receive a fourth temporary trailer this summer for the offices of Continental, U.S. Airways and Cape Air. They are also planning to remove the two existing offices in the Annex building that currently house non-secure flight operations of Cape Air and Island Air to create additional space.

AIRLINE NEWS:

Service information

U.S. Airways' New York service is suspended through March 31.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Nantucket Memorial Airport terminal work includes additions and renovations totaling around 18,000 square feet, the most notable of which is a new wing off the east end of the existing main terminal facing the hangar area. When finished, all passengers to Boston and New York will pass through this new wing and baggage will be screened there through the Transportation Safety Administration's new baggage screening equipment. Other additions to the building will face the parking lot off the main terminal and will free up office and ticket counter space by removing maintenance storage below the air traffic control tower and widening that part of the terminal northward so all the ticket counters can be located in the same area. The parking configuration will stay the same, as will drop-off and pick-up. The project cost of \$26 million is being borne by the Federal Aviation Administration: \$9 million, airport fees: \$5 million and Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission: \$12 million.

Builder: Skanska USA of Boston, Mass. Construction Timeline: October 2007-spring 2009. Details & questions: 325-5300. Web site: www.nantucket-airport.com.



Patty Roggeveen



Allen Reinhard



Whitey Willauer



Brian Chadwick



Mike Kopko



ON SELECTMEN

AT ITS MEETING OF FEB. 27, AND CONVENING AS THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

- Questioned more spending by Sheriff Richard Bretschneider, including \$400 for detailing his new vehicle and nearly \$2,000 for 25 pairs of safety glasses for the fire department. County Commission chair Brian Chadwick said he had spoken to someone at the fire department who knew nothing of the glasses. Michael Kopko commented that every time a spending request was questioned by the County Commissioners, it was ultimately approved by the County Government Review Board and didn't see the point in “poking (the sheriff) in the eye” over fairly small expenses.

CONVENING AS THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

- Heard a departmental overview of the Health Department.
- Held a short discussion on when and how to issue endorsements for 2008 warrant articles. The board said it may hold a separate workshop for the 125 article warrant, rather than dragging out the regular Wednesday night meetings.

AT ITS MEETING TONIGHT, THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN WILL:

- Hear a request for the naming of a street in Madaket off New Lane called “Ackermuck Way.”
- Hear a request for the reappointment of David Goodman to the Board of Registrars of Voters.
- Hear a request for a waiver from the street opening regulations by the Galley Restaurant.
- Hear a request for the acceptance of a \$1,000 gift to Our Island Home in memory of Margaret “Peg” Terry.
- Hold a discussion regarding cemetery designations.