

## **From the Beach Committee** **~Kate Penn, Beach Chair**

The HSIA Board has approved installation of a stone revetment over the deteriorated bulkhead on the east end of the beach (left, as you face the water). Shoreline Design has been contracted to install the revetment, using large armor stone. The plan is currently in the permit review stage; we expect construction will begin late this Spring. The Board reviewed bids for both stone revetments and replacement bulkheads; a spreadsheet detailing the bid comparisons is included in this issue of *the Sea Breeze*. Shoreline Design was the lowest bidder who offered the size, type, and quality of installation we sought for this location. The work does not include the bulkhead returns at the swim area. The Beach Committee is studying the various options for shoreline protection to find what will best meet our needs for a swim beach.

Beach Committee members have been busy working on a number of activities throughout the beach and park area. The Beach Committee has also set some priorities for improvements at the park and beach, pending board approval. As we progress with the planning, we will make reports to the Board, in *the Sea Breeze*, and at General Meetings.

Noel Gasparin, Chair for the Beautification Committee, is getting bids for deep aeration of the lawn, to be performed this spring. This will make the soil more permeable and will improve the grass roots. The combination of healthier grass and permeable soil will help reduce the problems we are having with standing water and flooding, especially by the large pavilion and volleyball court.

A number of families have asked if we can install a merry-go-round at the playground. Lee Ann Havard is exploring the feasibility of installing one where the former tire swing was located. Several of the tube slides at the large playground are showing signs of wear; one has cracks. Phil Jones was able to repair the slide so that it is safe, but we are working to have the playground supplier provide replacement parts.

Last year, volunteers installed a border at the volley ball court. This spring, we plan to complete the improvements. The Committee also agreed to leave the volleyball net up for the summer.

The drainage trench on the east end of the park has become overgrown with phragmites and bamboo. This trench carries storm water runoff from East Bay View Drive to the Bay. However, the ground has become compacted and the plants are no longer effective for managing the water that travels from the street. We are proposing a series of natural systems to control and filter the runoff. This will reduce the problems with standing water, provide attractive landscaping, and

contribute to improving the water quality along our shoreline. Kevin Green is exploring grant opportunities for design and installation of these improvements.

We are also exploring improvements to the small marshland at the far-east end of the beach, behind the bulkhead (left, when facing the water). The marsh consists primarily of phragmites, a non-native grass that grows 8-12 feet high. Amy Shanahan is investigating permit requirements and options for removing the phragmites and planting native spartina, which grow to about 3 feet. The lower grasses will enhance the view on that end of the park.

Lastly, Chris Elkington is looking into improvements to the parking lot. Plans include defining the perimeters and placing new gravel. We are also bidding pricing for a new, low fence to replace the pilings and cable surrounding the parking lot. The new fence will create a safer barrier between the playgrounds and parking lot, yet will be low enough not to obscure the view.

Thanks to all our volunteers for the hard work they contribute to make our wonderful beach a better place for us all. Please join us for our Spring Work Project in May. Watch for details in the next issue of *the Sea Breeze!*