

Keyport Environmental Commission Minutes for March 22, 2021 – Conducted Telephonically

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:03pm by Chairman **Ken DeGroat**.

Sunshine Law was Read

Roll Call

The following participants present:

- Ken DeGroat (Chairman)
- Mike Palmisano (Vice Chairman)
- Dennis Fotopoulos (Council liaison)
- DJ Pacheco (Member)
- Heather Brady (Member)
- Roy Jiminez (Member)
- Joe Sheridan (Secretary)
- Jim Aumack (Member)
- Michael Lane (Public)

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting; Motion to Accept D.J. Pacheco; M. Palmisano 2nd; No comments/edits/revisions; K. DeGroat Abstained because he was not present at the 2/22/2021 Meeting; Unanimously Approved.

Brown's Point Marina Presentation Re-Visted: K. DeGroat asked if there were any follow-up questions/concerns with the Presentation made by Mr. Clay Perlman and Mr. John Kerber, P.E., representing Brown's Point Marina, presented at the February 22nd, 2021, Environmental Commission Meeting, and received the following responses:

8:04pm K. DeGroat opened the meeting to the Public.

M. Lane:

- Remediation of Brown's Point will probably not complete until the end of 2021; no subdivision may happen until then.
- There is no delineation of fencing (height, type, etc.) to minimize human interaction with the contaminated area.

M. Palmisano:

- Voiced concern over toxicity of contaminated soil to be spread out over property and then capped.
- If there is a report on the toxicity of the soil, Mike would like the KEC to review.
- Can this contaminated soil be removed from the site?

D. Fotopoulos:

- Would also like clarification on why people are being asked to stay away from the wetlands...what is the main concern of the contaminated soil?

K. DeGroat:

- Accepted **ACTION ITEM** to write letter to Brown's Point Marina to provide answers to the concerns identified above.

M. Lane:

- Easement given to keep people out of the wetlands.
- Contaminated soil to be moved from the hill to be spread under the planned structure locations and capped.
- Offered the Matt Morrow might be able to assist.

8:10pm: K. DeGroat closed the meeting to the Public.

Keyport Unified Planning Board (KUPB) Update: No updated status on KUPB applications.

Ongoing Projects:

Keyport Re-Purposed Tree Program:

J. Sheridan:

- Offered up the attached quarterly timeline and photos of the program; made a recent observation that there needs to be additional sand deposited on top of the twelve evergreen trees that are bound together to help the boughs of the trees to entrain blowing sand.

D. Fotopoulos:

- Did research on placement strategies of cut evergreen trees to maximize sand entrainment and possibly prevent sand from accumulating on Cedar Street beach ramps. Website as follows with information printed and attached:
<https://beachduneguide.uconn.edu/is-the-beach-is-eroding/using-christmas-trees-for-erosion-control/>

Complete Streets Program:

D. Fotopoulos:

- Told of recent special meeting at Borough Hall open to the Public soliciting input. The project is ongoing-ideas may be used on county roads initially.

K. DeGroat:

- Requested D. Fotopoulos to keep the KEC abreast of any relevant input from the Public.

Clean Ocean Action (COA) Beach Sweeps:

J. Aumack:

- Reminded everyone the April COA Beach Sweep has been cancelled in Keyport.

Keyport Boat Ramp:

D. Fotopoulos:

- Reported that the boat ramp that was covered with mud and debris had had half the ramp cleaned as a stop gap measure to allow boat traffic until the ramp could be properly cleaned.

K. DeGroat:

- Reported that he observed a boater going over the boat ramp to launch a boat when the entire ramp was covered with debris and was concerned that the car's catalytic convertor may ignite some of the debris which would cause a fire hazard, and said the cleaner boat ramp would solve this concern.

Veteran's Park Beach Access Ramp:

D. Fotopoulos:

- Described the current situation where the wooden ramps leading from Veteran's Park down to the beach is filled with sand. **ACTION on D. Fotopoulos** to ask DPW to assist in cleaning the sand off these ramps.
- Also said there was a possible chance of beach grass disturbance while clearing out this sand built up on the ramps.

R. Jiminez:

- Asked if these Veteran's Park beach ramps were moveable, and the answer was no.

K. DeGroat:

- **ACTION on the KEC** to consider long term solutions to minimize the future build-up of sand on the ramps.

Public Portion opened at 8:53pm:

M. Lane:

- Suggested snow fencing to minimize sand build up on the ramps.
- Reported that Beach Park is too dangerous to walk due to logs/debris- similar type of debris found at the Aeromarine Site. Photos attached.
- Stated there is also a safety issue with large trees washing up along the beaches and possibly causing damage to outfall pipes and seawalls.

Additionally, **Mike Lane** requested that the KEC be cognizant of the issues listed below (M. Lane was kind enough to provide the following summaries of his concerns). Mr. Lane took the **ACTION** to follow up with additional e-mails to KEC members regarding his concerns.

Aeromarine Site Deterioration - Large size debris on the beaches at Beach Park BD Cedar St – Vet Park beaches, coming from the Aeromarine site. Actions to deal with the site deterioration is needed. Councilwoman, McNamara has requested documentation for Green Team. See attached photos.

Browns Point Marina - Remediation of Site Contamination - Mid Atlantic Engineering plans for contamination remediation... *EOY timeline and 2nd remediation application for MV. Fences to keep humans out of contaminated area. Not delineated location and, height and type,*

CAFRA Application for Hudson Pointe at Keyport Noticed on 12/2/20 with 60 days for input to NJDEP. The CAFRA application contains an Environmental Impact Statement and a Storm water Management Report. A quick scan of Environmental Report disclosed failure to address possible impact on abutting

Henry Hudson Trail and major drainage ditch paralleling the trail with culvers under Manchester, Fulton, and the trail to 3rd. Street. This ditch is certainly a Floodway for the area south of the HHT between Green Grove and Fulton. Previous Engineers reports have designated the ditch as a wetland area.

Cedar St Outfall – Rip rap status still an open item. Area still collecting beach debris.

NPP Flood Gate – Out of service Claims filled.

TAP PSIP - “This project will be completed in concert with the design recommendations of the Complete Streets Plan. Base maps for the project and a **preliminary design walk through** have been completed. A public participation meeting to present project plans is anticipated to be held in **1Q2021** according to Boro Adm. Complete Street design guidelines not finalized

KUPB Approved Projects.

333 First Street - Buried black top removed from under fill. Debris piled on site. Material for stormwater pipes on site

Beach Park Outfall Pipe – Need intensity rain storm to reinforce the perception that the current design with a duck-bill is too great a restriction on the outfall pipe capacity. Frequent ponding on Beers Street *According to Boro Eng. next step is to scope the pipe for blockages*

Mystic at Keyport – 44 Beers St NC, final grading plan, required architectural changes and a **notice of flood risk for buyers to meet resolution condition.**

Public Portion - Closed 8:59pm

J. Aumack:

- Stated that the debris at 331 W. Front Street is typical during the construction phase and expects that it would be removed in short order.

J. Sheridan:

- Asked if the KEC Minutes could be forwarded onto to the Keyport Borough Council for their review. There were no objections from K. DeGroat or D. Fotopoulos.

Meeting Adjourned 9:01pm: Motion to Adjourn by R. Jiminez; J. Aumack 2nd; Unanimous Approval.

Next meeting will be on **Monday, April 26th, 2021, at 8:00pm.**

Minutes submitted by Joe Sheridan.

CONNECTICUT SEA GRANT

Connecticut Beaches and Dunes: A Hazard Guide for Coastal Property Owners

[Protecting Dunes](#)[Constructing Dunes](#)[More on Constructing Dunes](#)[Planting Considerations](#)[Using Christmas Trees to Trap Sand](#)

Using Christmas Trees to Trap Sand

Consider site conditions when using Christmas trees (i.e. Evergreens): Discarded Christmas trees are sometimes used to trap sand. You will find arguments for and against using discarded Christmas trees as erosion control in dunes. The main argument against using them is that a storm can easily wash them away, even trees that are secured with stakes, causing a cleanup challenge. Location is a key concern when considering this approach for dune restoration. Favorable locations will have:

- sufficient available sand for trapping;
- open space between the vegetated dune edge and the highest tides;
- sufficient space between the Christmas trees so the dune is not “carpeted” prohibiting growth of American beach grass;
- dune scarps where the beach grass would have trouble growing until sand builds up to fill in the scarp.



Beach in Waterford using Christmas trees to trap sand. Photo: Jennifer O'Donnell.

Christmas trees should be fastened together, staked down, or otherwise secured. Like dune fencing, major storms can easily move these trees, scrubbing away sand and dune plants.



Use of Christmas trees on dune at Old Black Point Beach. Photo: David Kozak



KEYPORT RE-PURPOSED EVERGREEN TREE PROGRAM

By the Keyport Environmental Commission

January 27, 2020

At the January 27th, 2020, Keyport Environmental Commission (KEC) Meeting, the Keyport Re-Purposed Evergreen Tree Pilot Program was discussed. The initial phase consisted of bringing four (4) cut evergreen trees to the Cedar Street Dune on Sunday, February 16th, at 9:00am, along with a couple KEC Volunteers, some shovels and other digging devices, and some hemp or natural rope, to the Cedar Street Park Dune depression. The evergreen trees were dug into the sand, half-way, tied together, and then covered with additional sand. The intent of the program was to grow the dune by sand entraining into the boughs of the evergreen tree, and filling the depression. Photos were taken before, after, and will be taken periodically at a determined periodicity. Additional cut evergreen trees may be added annually if the program shows promise. A sand dune that is larger, more robust, covered with beach grass will help mitigate flooding as well as provide shelter for wildlife which supports Keyport's Living Shoreline Strategy.

The original re-purposed evergreen tree idea came from information that was shared back in 2017...the youtube video is what they did in Bradley Beach.



<https://youtu.be/pfeBDkOr4SQ>

February 16, 2020



depression at

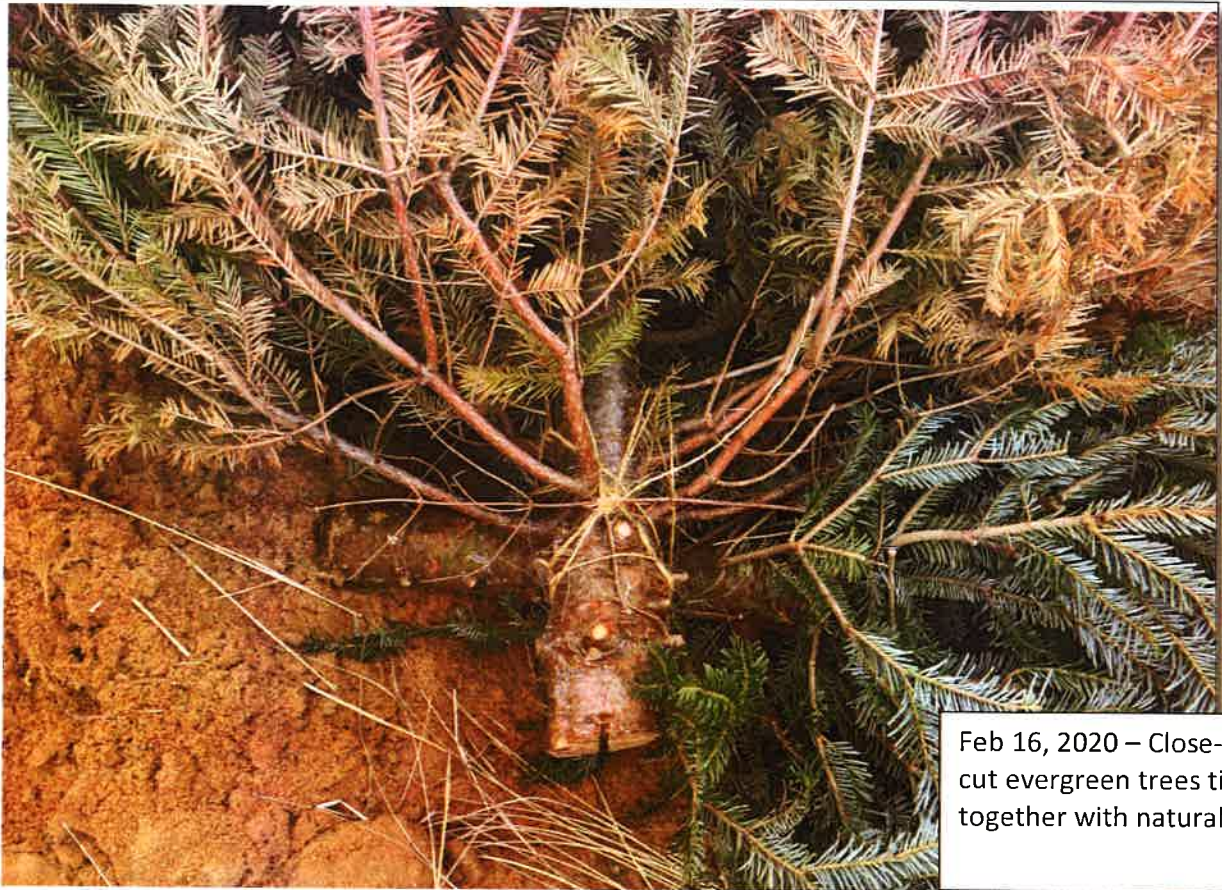
Feb 16, 2020 – the Keyport Cedar Street Park Dune depression.



Feb 16, 2020 – KEC members digging beds at the Keyport Cedar Street Park Dune depression.



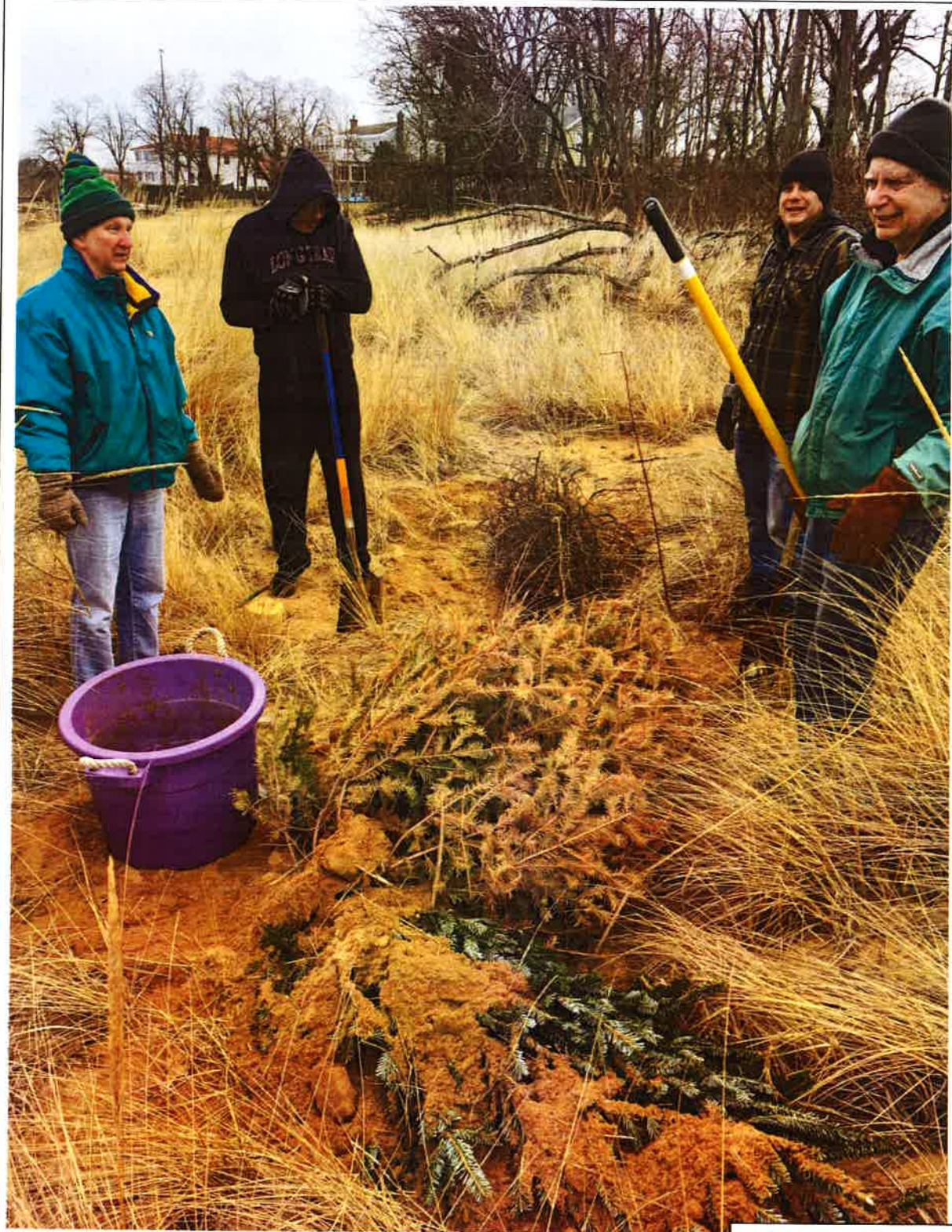
Feb 16, 2020 – KEC members placing cut evergreen trees at the Keyport Cedar Street Park Dune depression.



Feb 16, 2020 – Close-up of cut evergreen trees tied together with natural twine.



Feb 16, 2020 – KEC members finishing up the tying together of the cut evergreen trees.



Feb 16, 2020 – As-Left photo of the partially buried evergreen trees tied together within the Cedar Street Park Dune depression.



Apr 19, 2020 – Two-Month follow-Up photo of the partially buried evergreen trees tied together within the Cedar Street Park Dune depression.



Apr 19, 2020 – Two-Month follow-Up photo of the substantially buried evergreen trees tied together within the Cedar Street Park Dune



Apr 19, 2020 – Another Two-Month follow-Up photo of the substantially buried evergreen trees tied together within the Cedar Street Park Dune depression.





January 10, 2021 – Phase II
– A close-Up of tying
together of the twelve (12)
additional cut evergreen
trees were tied together
and covered with sand at
the Cedar Street Park Dune
depression.



March 20, 2021 – Phase II 2 Month Follow-Up photo of the twelve (12) additional cut evergreen trees that were tied together and covered with sand at the Cedar Street Park Dune depression. A lack of covering sand was observed.



March 20, 2021 – Phase II 2 Month Follow-Up close-up photo of the evergreen trees. The string holding them together is still intact, but there is very little sand being entrained amongst the boughs of the evergreen trees.



March 20, 2021 – Another Phase II 2 Month Follow-Up close-up photo of the evergreen trees. The string holding them together is still intact, but there is very little sand being entrained amongst the boughs of the evergreen trees. Additional sand is needed to cover the cut evergreen trees and make project more efficient at trapping blowing sand.

Joe Sheridan

From: Michael lane <mslane@att.net>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Joe Sheridan; Michael Palmisano; Kenneth DeGroat; Victoria Pacheco; Mayor Kennedy; Matt Tevis; Don Pacheco; Dennis Fotopoulos
Cc: Jay Delaney
Subject: Fw: Debris on Beach 3/3/21

From: Kenneth Degroat
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 4:30 PM
To: mslane@att.net ; KRDDC@verizon.net
Cc: michael.palmisano@att.net
Subject: Re: Debris on Beach 3/3/21

Mike-

Please feel free to bring this, along with the Boardwalk Power project cable, to the attention of the KEC at tonight's meeting.

We reached the same conclusion re the source of the debris during our earlier walk at this site.

Is this the DC cable we previously discussed or a separate, DC or AC cable?

Ken

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael lane <mslane@att.net>
To: Kenneth DeGroat <KRDDC@verizon.net>
Cc: Michael Palmisano <michael.palmisano@att.net>
Sent: Sat, Mar 20, 2021 12:20 pm
Subject: Debris on Beach 3/3/21

Ken DeGroat, Chairman
Keyport Environmental Commission (KEC)

Re: input for the 3/22/21 KEC meeting Beach Cleanup program,

Attached are photos taken on 3/3/21. During the February Nor'easter a large tree trunk was observed floating from east to west past the KYC pier and my pier. Fortunately, the bulkheads between Olsen's and Fahey's pushed the tree trunk far enough north that it did not get entangled in either pier. But it was close enough to land on Reedy's beachfront at 42 First Street. It is now poised to become entangled in the new Beach Park outfall pipe cradle. These observations and photos reinforce my perception that the Aeromarine site is a source of debris that needs to be cleaned up.

Below are the pictures taken this week .



Large tree trunk on beach behind 42 First, just east



Beach debris on east side of Olsen bulkhead

Beach Debris
Veteran's Park
3/3/21



Beach debris
Ben Terry Park
3/3/21



Beach
debris
behind
Cedar
Street
Park
3/3/21



Michael Lane
732264 5438