

UPDATE May 3, 2014

We wanted to update you on the current status of the erosion project in 'Sconset, as well as pass on two letters to the editor that we thought might be of interest.

Last week about one third our annual commitment of sacrificial sand was delivered from island sand pits and moved over the top of the bluff to the top of the geotube project. One of the unique features of this project is the commitment to place the amount of sand that would normally erode from the bluff if it were unprotected, on top of the geotubes so that there is sand that can wash away in an amount that mimics natural erosion. The sand delivery was completed on Wednesday so everything could be cleaned up in advance of Daffodil Weekend.

As you are aware there had been a fairly large nor'easter in late March that, as expected and designed, washed away some of the sand and exposed a section of the geotubes. With this delivery the geotubes are once again covered and there is enough extra sand on top to re-cover future exposures from storms through the spring and summer. We don't expect to deliver sand again until the fall.

There has been some concern expressed about the amount of truck traffic from delivering sand and the possible disruption to 'Sconset. Things have gone smoothly this week with the sand being delivered in just two full days and two half days. We actually have the ability to deliver at more than twice this speed if we use two conveyors instead of one. While nobody likes dump trucks, most people feel that this impact, restricted to the off-season, is well worth the ability to keep Baxter Road open and show that an effective erosion system can really work to preserve the 'Sconset Bluff community.

We look forward to having many conversations this summer about the successful work done since December and our desire to expand the project soon so that it protects the entire area from the Sankaty Lighthouse property to the place that erosion has advanced so far, about 63 Baxter. **One opportunity to experience the historic neighborhood of Baxter Road is planned for May 11, 2-4pm as part of National Preservation Month. The public is invited to tour three homes on Northern Baxter Road including the home in which John Steinbeck wrote East of Eden.** Stop by if you are around. Just look for the balloons at 77 Baxter Road.