



TOWN OF HULL

**253 Atlantic Avenue
Hull, Massachusetts 02045**

**781-925-2000
Fax: 781-925-0224**

January 24, 2006

Dear abutter to the Nantasket Beach Dune,

Our dune along Nantasket Beach serves as a primary line of defense against increasingly destructive coastal storms. An intact dune protects life and property by preventing or mitigating storm damage and flooding. Currently there are numerous unpermitted openings that damage the integrity of the dune, increase the potential for storm damage, and contribute to flooding in low-lying areas. These unpermitted dune openings violate the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

This letter is to inform you of upcoming action to be taken by the Town of Hull to protect residents and comply with the wetlands law by restoring the dune where unpermitted openings exist. Beginning this winter, the Town will remove foreign objects from the dune and will fill the unpermitted openings with sand. The dunes will then be stabilized with sea grass plantings in the spring. You will need to remove all personal property from the dune by February 28, 2006. Anything remaining after February 28, 2006 will be considered abandoned, and may be removed and disposed of by the Town.

The Nantasket Beach dune restoration project will bring numerous benefits to residents who live in the vicinity of Nantasket Beach and to the Town as a whole. In addition to better protecting life and property, closing the unpermitted openings will:

- 1) Reduce Town and property owner cost associated with storm and flooding damage and clean-up.
- 2) Improve the Town's chances to reduce FEMA flood insurance rates through enrollment in the voluntary Community Rating System, which reduces flood insurance rates in response to flood protection activities undertaken.
- 3) Bring the Town into compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act, and avoid the possibility of an Enforcement Order accompanied by significant fines issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

While no plan is a guarantee or a specific assurance of safety or assistance, this work will improve the current situation. However, homeowners should still take necessary precautions to reduce flood damage.

The Town of Hull remains committed to providing public access to the beach via dune crossings located at street endings. Working with the Conservation Commission, the Town is in the process of assessing and improving these crossings to provide safe access to the beach and improved protection from storms.

We welcome your attendance at a public forum where Town officials will discuss this project. The forum is on Wednesday, February 8 at 7:30 pm at the Senior Center, 197 Samoset Ave. Additional information is included with this letter. If you have further questions please contact Chris McCabe, Town Manager, at 781-925-2000 or Anne Herbst, Conservation Administrator, at 781-925-8102.

Sincerely,

Chris Olivieri
For the Board of Selectmen

Sheila Connor
For the Conservation Commission