

Saving Plum Island Beach

What Needs to be Done:

1. **Fix the jetties**--to be done by the Army Corps who last fixed the jetties in the 1970's,
2. **Dredge the mouth of the river**--to both clean the river channel for boating and to at the same time get the precious sand to replenish the beach. This step would also include picking up the sand from the current sand bars, and then
3. **Deposit that sand all along the beach**. It is estimated that the amount of sand to be dredged would cover the entire beach from the beach grass to the water's edge, from the northern tip of the Island entirely to the southern tip with 6-10 feet of sand. Just to re-state for clarity, the entire beach would be raised 6-10 feet, from ocean to beach grass and from north to south.

How We will Get it Done:

To accomplish this, **it is estimated that we will need approximately 3-5 million dollars**. As we considered how to accomplish this, this is what we thought: This is a federal obligation to protect the jetties. They were built by the Army Corps and it is their commitment to sustain their work, and repair it if necessary. The Army Corps is federal in nature, and they are responsible for much of the effort here. We need to raise the funds from Congress to make this happen. It is also beyond our local funding capabilities. This kind of Coastal Management is done up and down the East Coast, and the federal government routinely assumes the cost.

Our local elected officials have approached our representatives in Congress (House and Senate), and have gotten no effective response from any of their offices. It is our theory of action that **we need to work on Congress more effectively**, and to do that we need to hire a consultant/lobbyist who specializes in beach and coastal management issues—Howard Marlowe of Marlowe and Company. His company, Marlowe and Company, can be found on the web. Their track record of raising funds for beach and jetty work is very impressive. Howard will be at the meeting of our group at PITA Hall on January 9th. Please come and hear him.

Marlowe and Company are willing to do this job for us for \$40,000 for the year and few months involved. Citizens have committed \$4,000, and we are asking the Town of Newbury for \$18,000 for the year and the City of Newburyport for \$18,000. These are small amounts in relation to the tax value from the homes on the Beach, which contribute significantly to the tax base of the Town and the City.