Borough of Fenwick
Harbor Management Commission
Special Meeting – August 23, 2022

The Special Meeting of the Borough of Fenwick Harbor Management Commission was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 4 Nibang Avenue, Borough of Fenwick and via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Charles Renshaw, Sam Scatterday, Jonathan Gengras, Bill Webster, William Christensen, Harbormaster, ex officio.
MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:	Jamie Gay, Jim Wade (Alternate), Chip Gengras (Alternate), Peter Duncan (Alternate).
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None.
OTHERS PRESENT:	Marilyn Ozols, Land Use Administrator, Geoff Steadman, consultant.

1. **Call to Order**.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was established (Renshaw, Gay, J. Gengras, Scatterday, Webster).

2. **Election of Officers**.

S. Scatterday suggested that the Commission retain the same slate of officers since there had been very few meetings. Members concurred.

S. Scatterday moved to nominate the current slate of officers (C. Renshaw as Chairman, S. Scatterday as Vice Chairman, and J. Gengras as Secretary) of the Harbor Management Commission. J. Gengras seconded the motion it was approved unanimously.
For: Renshaw, Gay, J. Gengras, Scatterday, Webster.
Against: None.
Abstained: None.

3. **Resident Comment**.

None.

4. **Harbor Management Plan / Extension of Shoreline Planning Unit. Discussion and Decision Relative to Proceeding.**

G. Steadman, consultant, reminded the Commission that the Harbor Management Plan was completed in 2005 and updated in 2010 with the purpose of making specific recommendations for a particular section of the shoreline, creating the Fenwick Proper Shore. In this area, water access is not allowed through a fixed structure, consistent with the overarching goal of the plan to protect the character of the shoreline. He noted that he had provided a presentation (copy attached) suggesting seven planning units and that the next step would be to develop specific recommendations pertaining to each unit. He pointed out each proposed area on an aerial photo and suggested adding Crab Creek as a separate unit rather than as part of another unit. He proposed adding a new Chapter 5 to the Plan devoted to the specific recommendations for each of the planning units; the existing Chapter 5 would then become Chapter 6. He stated that he has already mentioned modifying the Plan to Marcy Balint at DEEP as DEEP will have to approve any amendments. The Connecticut Port Authority now also has to approve amendments.

Members asked about including the Crab Creek wetland. G. Steadman stated that protecting the natural environment, fish, and wildlife is in their jurisdiction to the extent that the wetland is tidal.

Members concurred with establishing eight units and deciding on the specific recommendations for each. G. Steadman stated that he can come up with recommendations, especially for protecting the environment, but he would like their input on other specifics, including potential plans for certain areas. Members also mentioned the breakwater, Fenwick pier, dredging, the yacht club, Sequassen Avenue, and the swimming areas.

G. Steadman stated that the Connecticut Port Authority administers grants for projects identified in harbor management plans and the Commission should take this into consideration as they identify projects for certain areas. He added that there are both planning/feasibility grants for which no local match is required and construction grants which require a 20% local match. The last request for proposals was July 1 and a number of grants were awarded.

S. Scatterday inquired if repairs to the breakwater or dredging might be eligible. G. Steadman indicated that these might be possible and he can include them in the plan.

Members declined to review each separate unit at this time but did elaborate on some of the suggested projects:

- Fenwick Pier – Improvements have been made and additional improvements are planned. Extension of the breakwater might reduce the need for frequent maintenance.
- Breakwater - A report exists identifying options.
- Fenwick Yacht Club – The Yacht Club would like to add one more float, but this is costly. They have also explored angling the floats, but this is difficult since they cannot extend further into the river. Additionally, the area is silting in and they would like to maintain a minimum 3 foot draft, which will require dredging.
- Swim Areas – Originally the swim area off Sequassen Avenue was about 6 feet deep. The sand has filled in and there is now minimal swim depth. B. Webster would like to move the markers seaward so that the depth can be 6 feet again. S. Scatterday inquired if, alternatively, the depth could be obtained by moving the sand up onto the beach. B. Christensen will contact Yolanda Cooley in permitting at DEEP for information on modifying the existing permit.
- Crab Creek restoration / Hepburn living shoreline – The restoration project was about 20 years ago. The creek was relocated as part of the recent living shoreline project. G. Steadman stated Crab Creek recommendations should dovetail with LPLT goals.
- Sequassen Avenue – There are draft plans for a deferred project.
- Derelict Structure / Erosion at Folly Point – The Commission will be discussing the structure; erosion is a continuing issue.
- Grove Area – Land Trust policies should be reinforced.

G. Steadman inquired about any issues with the causeway, the inner or outer lighthouses. None were identified.

C. Renshaw read from the October, 2021 meeting minutes: "Members agreed that G. Steadman should develop draft restrictions and goals for each Planning Unit for their review. There should be rules and regulations for all of the coastline, not just one section like there is now, but the regulations should not prevent the reasonable expansion of the Yacht Club." He asked G. Steadman if they had provided enough information at this meeting for him to do this for all of the eight sections. G. Steadman stated that they would be doing planning guidelines rather than regulations, but they had given him enough information to draft the planning goals.

C. Renshaw also read from the minutes relative to the planning unit division at Crab Creek: "The division should not be at the Creek because the whole Crab Creek / Folly Point area is moving. Additionally, the North Shore area should be more focused on the Yacht Club, where future expansion should be considered. It was suggested that the division be moved toward the 4th hole tee. Members concurred and located this point on the aerial photo. It was also suggested that final lines be coordinated with property lines." G. Steadman stated that he had not made that change. Members reviewed with him where the line should be so that he could make the change. The mouth of Crab Creek will be in the shoreline planning unit; Crab Creek wetland will be a separate planning unit.

Members agreed that they should put timeframes on everything moving forward. S. Scatterday stated that it would be good to have things complete prior to July 1 next year in order to take advantage of a future grant round from the Connecticut Port Authority.

G. Steadman stated that he could have the draft policies ready in 60 days. A meeting will be scheduled for then.

Members briefly discussed the Greenwich court case (Susan Cohen v. State of Connecticut DEEP, et al), which is currently under appeal, noting that the decision will have an impact on the authority of harbor management plans relative to DEEP permits.

5. **Pier Repair Update**.

M. Ozols reported that the engineer who oversaw the first repair to the end of the pier was non-responsive regarding repairing the middle section and getting the concrete sealed. Therefore, Jeff and Daryl had met with Harbor Engineering who was the engineer for the Crab Creek Bridge repair about ten years ago. They have been communicating with Jeff and they will reconvene in September once the season is over. Harbor Engineering does not believe that the middle section of the pier is in as bad shape as the previous engineer thought.

6. **Sequassen Avenue Swim Buoys**.

This was discussed under item 4.

7. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting** (October 25, 2021).

J. Gengras moved to accept the minutes of the October 25, 2021 meeting as presented. S. Scatterday seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Renshaw, Gay, J. Gengras, Scatterday, Webster.
Against: None.
Abstained: None.

8. **Harbor Master Report**.

W. Christensen reported that:

- There were no accidents or issues with the channel or safety at sea this season.
- There was good coordination with security and for the most part people are staying below the high water mark.
- No boats sank.
- There has been pretty good communication relative to mooring issues. The work is transitioning from Jim Mitchell to his son, Scott.
- The derelict dock is still there.
- There have been fewer birds.

9. **Other Business**.

Derelict Dock at 48 Sequassen Avenue. C. Renshaw distributed copies of his letter to Fran Adams, the property owner, along with F. Adams' response. F. Adams' letter addresses both the dock and the issues with erosion, which the Commission should also discuss at some point. C. Renshaw stated that the erosion has separated the dock from the land and is clear in aerial photographs. Members added that the erosion is exacerbated by boat traffic, particularly the Plum Island boat, but, although this boat owner has a contract until 2030, the problem is not limited to this boat since any boat can go up to the jetty.

C. Renshaw stated that he has not received an update from the owner as to whether he has decided to repair or remove the dock. Members stated that the site should at least be cleaned up and requested that the chair contact the owner with a 60 day deadline to indicate his intent with the timeline for carrying it out.

M. Ozols will provide copies of the letters to the members on Zoom and there will be further discussion at the next meeting.

10. **Adjournment**.

J. Gengras moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m. S. Scatterday seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. (Renshaw, Gay, J. Gengras, Scatterday, Webster)

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn M. Ozols
Acting Recording Secretary

Revised 8/22/2022

10.31.2018

Views of the Fenwick Harbor Management Area and Shoreline Planning Units

For Reference Use During Preparation of 2022 Update of the Fenwick Harbor Management Plan

Harbor Management Commission
Borough of Fenwick, Connecticut

August 19, 2022

All photos © G. Steadman except Google Earth and CT State Library photos

Introduction

In 2022, the Fenwick Harbor Management Commission is working to update the Fenwick Harbor Management Plan (the Plan), duly adopted by the Fenwick Board of Warden and Burgesses, approved by the State of Connecticut, and last updated in 2010. The Plan includes the Borough's goals, policies, and recommendations for guiding safe and beneficial use of the Fenwick Harbor Management Area—the Borough's municipal jurisdiction on South Cove, the Connecticut River, and Long Island Sound—and for protecting and enhancing Fenwick's exceptional natural coastal resources.

This presentation includes images of the Borough's shoreline, including specific shoreline planning units for which the Commission now is reviewing existing conditions and discussing harbor management objectives.

As the Commission proceeds with its planning efforts, it will provide opportunities for public comment and looks forward to hearing from our community. We hope you enjoy this presentation, beginning with some 1934 views from Connecticut's first aerial survey.

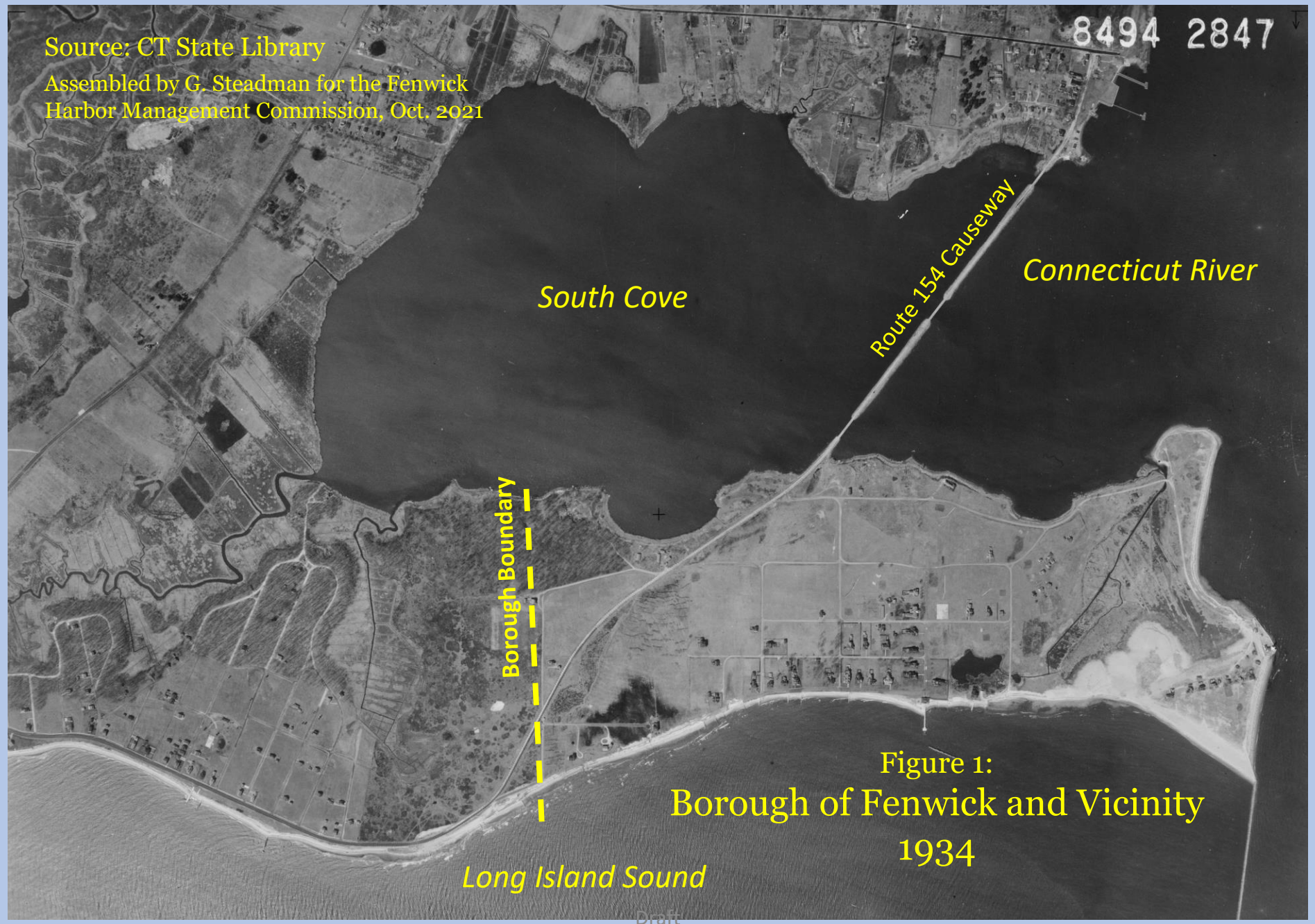

Figure 1:
Borough of Fenwick and Vicinity
1934

Draft

Figure 2:
Borough of Fenwick
1934

Assembled by G. Steadman for the Fenwick Harbor Management Commission, Oct. 2021

Draft

Borough of Fenwick
Harbor Management Plan
2022 Plan Update
Figure 3:
Shoreline Planning Units
South Cove
Route 154 Causeway
Folly Point
Connecticut River
North Shore
Folly
Point
Shore
Fenwick
Yacht Club Site
Cove Shore
Nibang Ave.
Lynde Pt.
Crab Creek
BOROUGH OF FENWICK
Fenwick Ave.
Lynde Pt.
Lighthouse
Grove
Conservation
Area
Light -
House
Shore
Hepburn
Lagoon
Pettipaug Ave.
Fenwick Pier
Fenwick East Shore
"Fenwick
West"
Wetland
Old Fenwick Rd.
Fenwick Proper Shore
Federal
West Jetty
Fenwick West
Shore
Long Island Sound
Saybrook
Breakwater
Light
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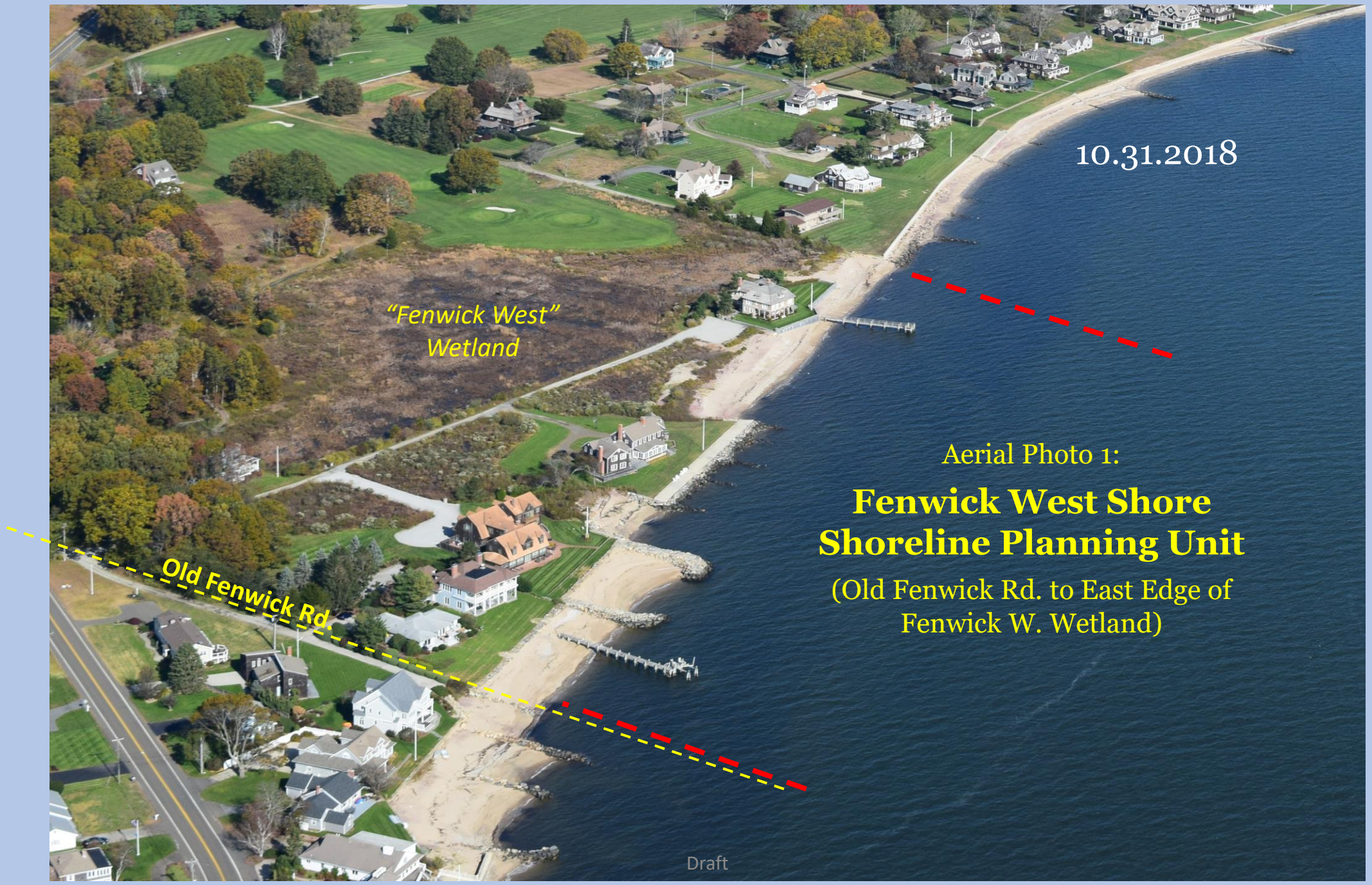
Google Earth
9/2019
2000 ft

Draft

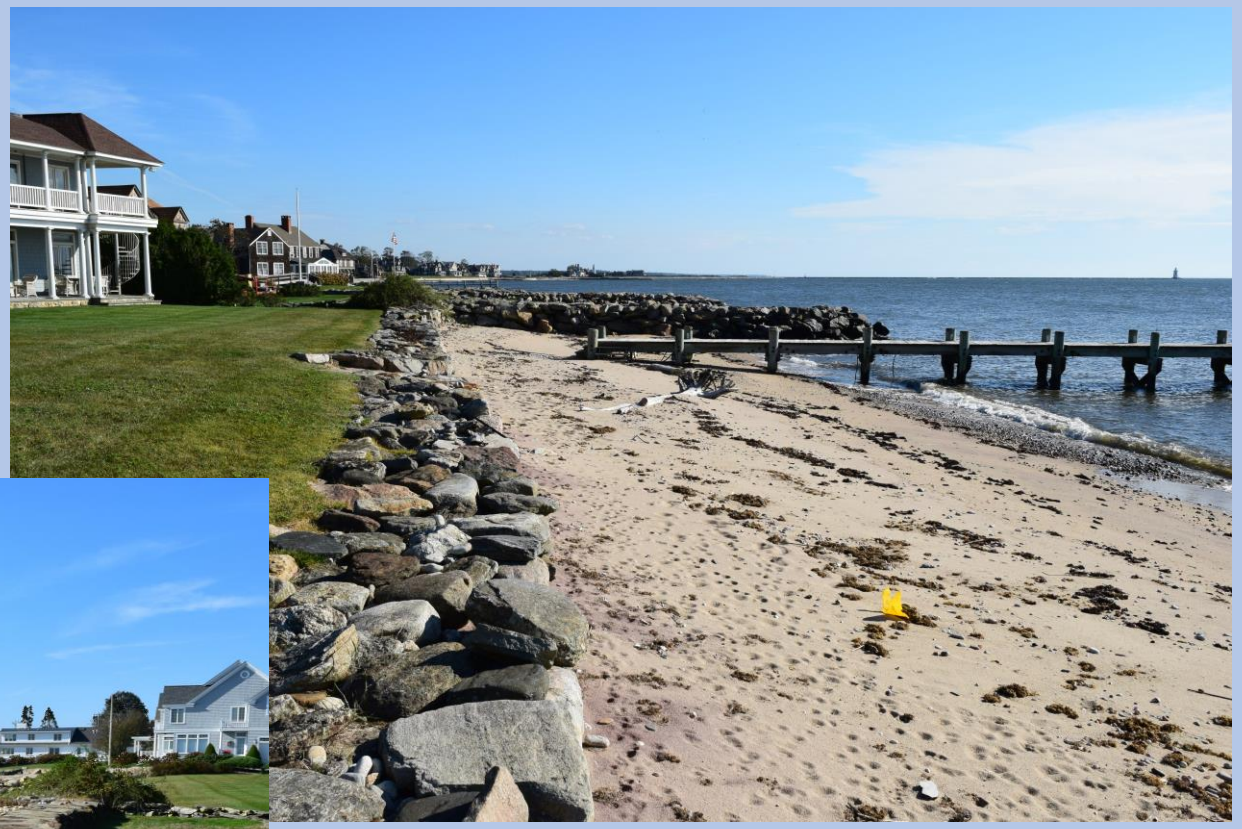


Aerial Photo 1:

Fenwick West Shore Shoreline Planning Unit

(Old Fenwick Rd. to East Edge of Fenwick W. Wetland)

10.22.2021 Photos



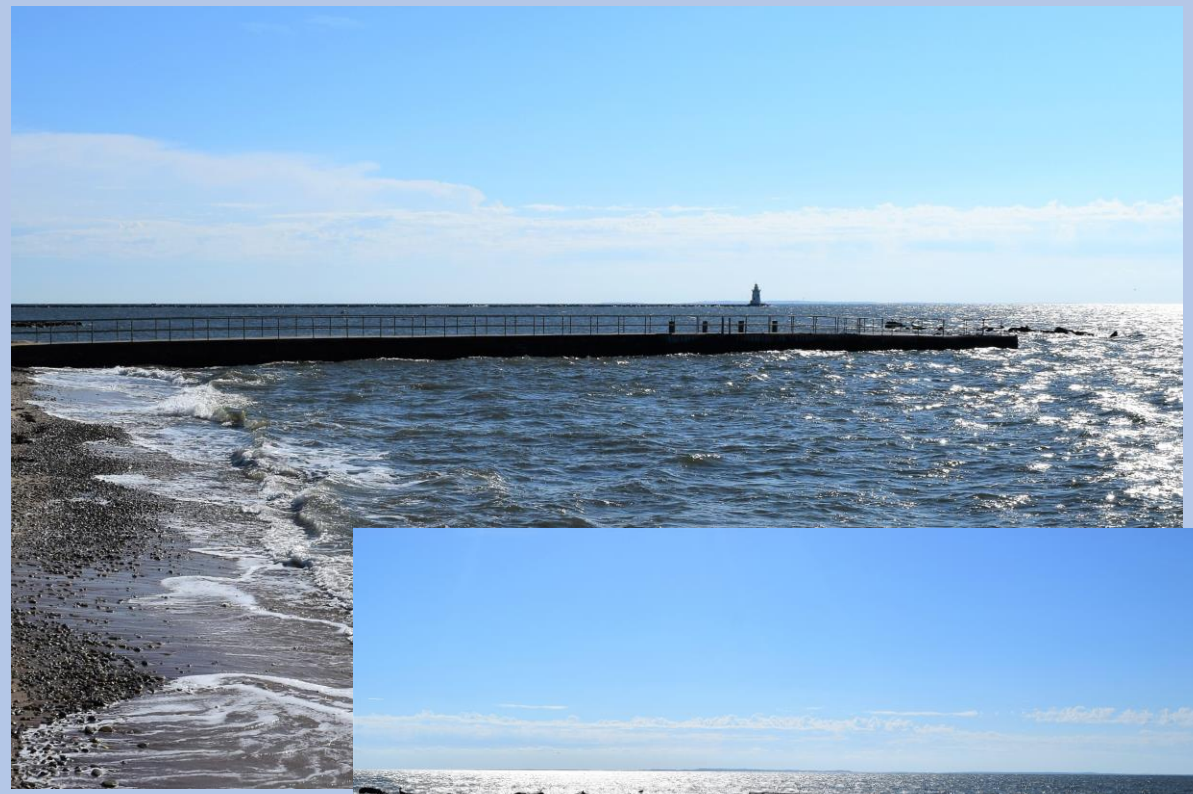
Fenwick West Shore Shoreline

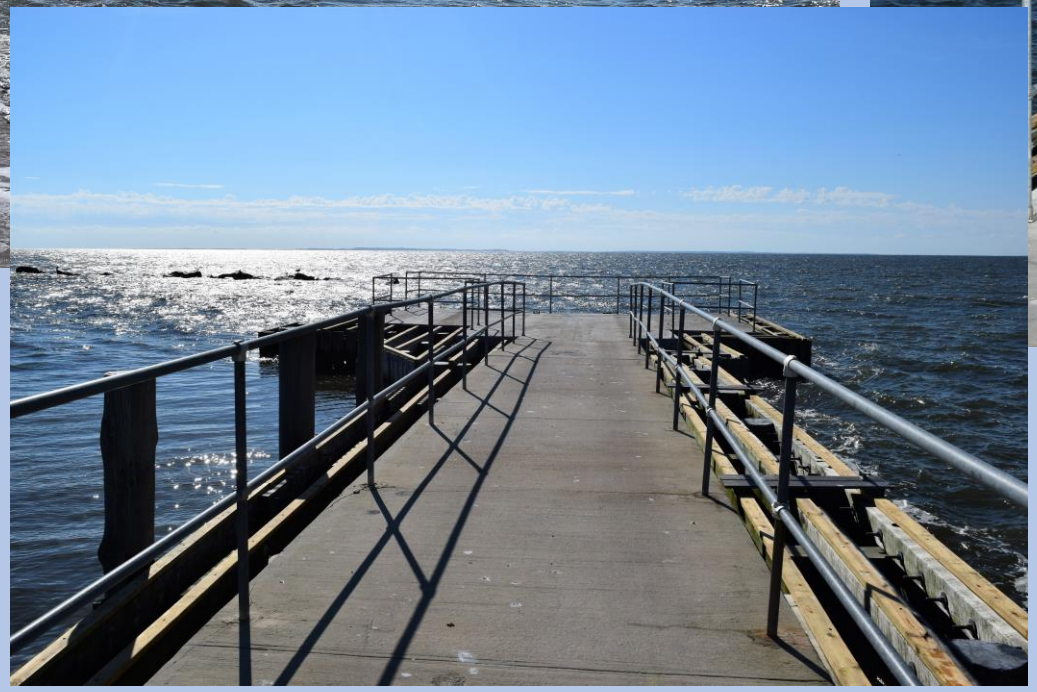
Draft

10.31.2018
Hepburn Lagoon
Fenwick Pier
Aerial Photo 2:
Fenwick Proper Shore
Shoreline Planning Unit
(Fenwick W. Wetland to and
including Fenwick Pier)
"Fenwick West"
Wetland
Long Island Sound

Fenwick Proper Shore Shoreline

10.22.2021 Photos





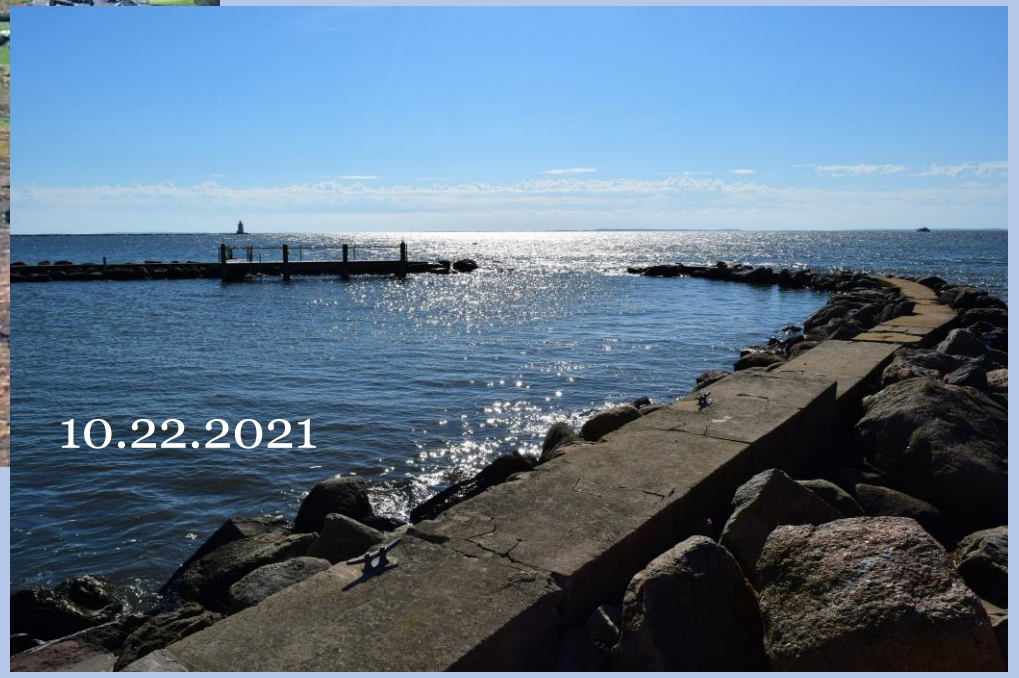
Fenwick Pier

Aerial Photo 3:

Fenwick East Shore Shoreline Planning Unit

(Fenwick Pier to and including West Jetty)

Fenwick Pier and Hepburn Lagoon Area

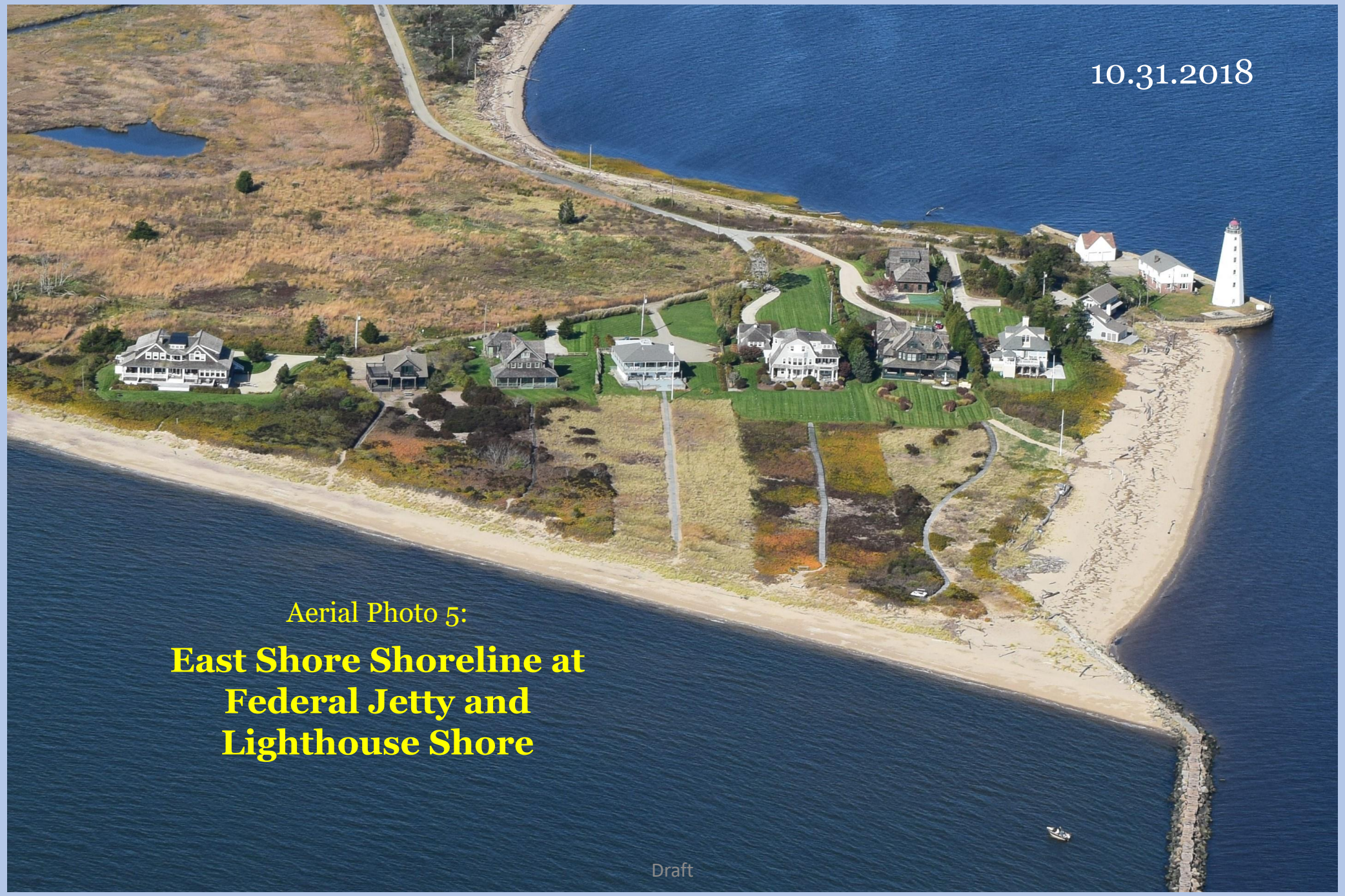


10.22.2021 Photos

East Shore Shoreline Including “Living Shoreline” Project Area Fronting Crab Creek Wetland

10.22.2021 Photos

East Shore Shoreline,
Federal West Jetty and
Saybrook Breakwater Light



Aerial Photo 5:

East Shore Shoreline at Federal Jetty and Lighthouse Shore

Aerial Photo 6:

Lighthouse Shore Shoreline Planning Unit

(West Jetty to and including Lighthouse)

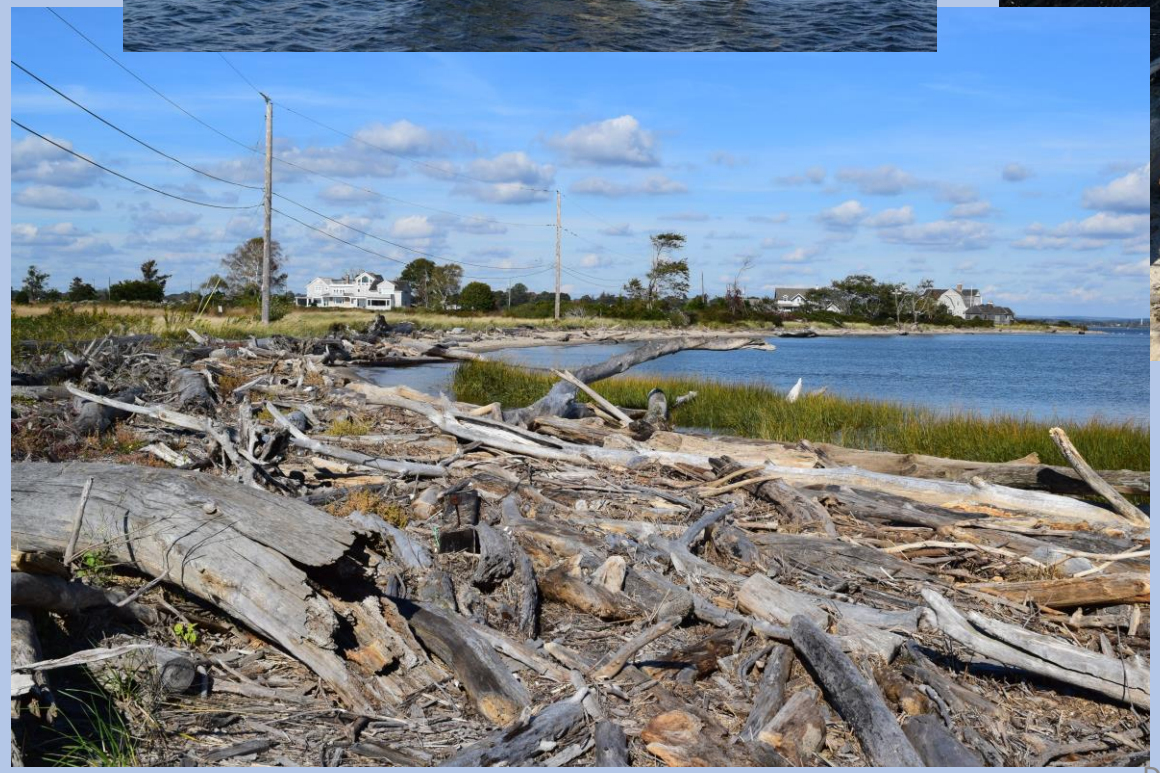
10.22.2021 Photos

Lighthouse Shore Shoreline and Lynde Pt. Lighthouse on the Connecticut River

Aerial Photo 7:

Folly Pt. Shore
Shoreline Planning Unit

(Lighthouse to Mouth of Crab Ck.)



Folly Point Shore Shoreline

Aerial Photo 8:

North Shore
Shoreline Planning Unit

(Mouth of Crab Ck. to Rt. 154 Causeway, including Crab Creek and Crab Creek Wetland)

10.22.2021 Photos

Crab Creek and Crab Creek Wetland

North Shore Shoreline

Aerial Photo 9:

North Shore Shoreline at Causeway

10.31.2018

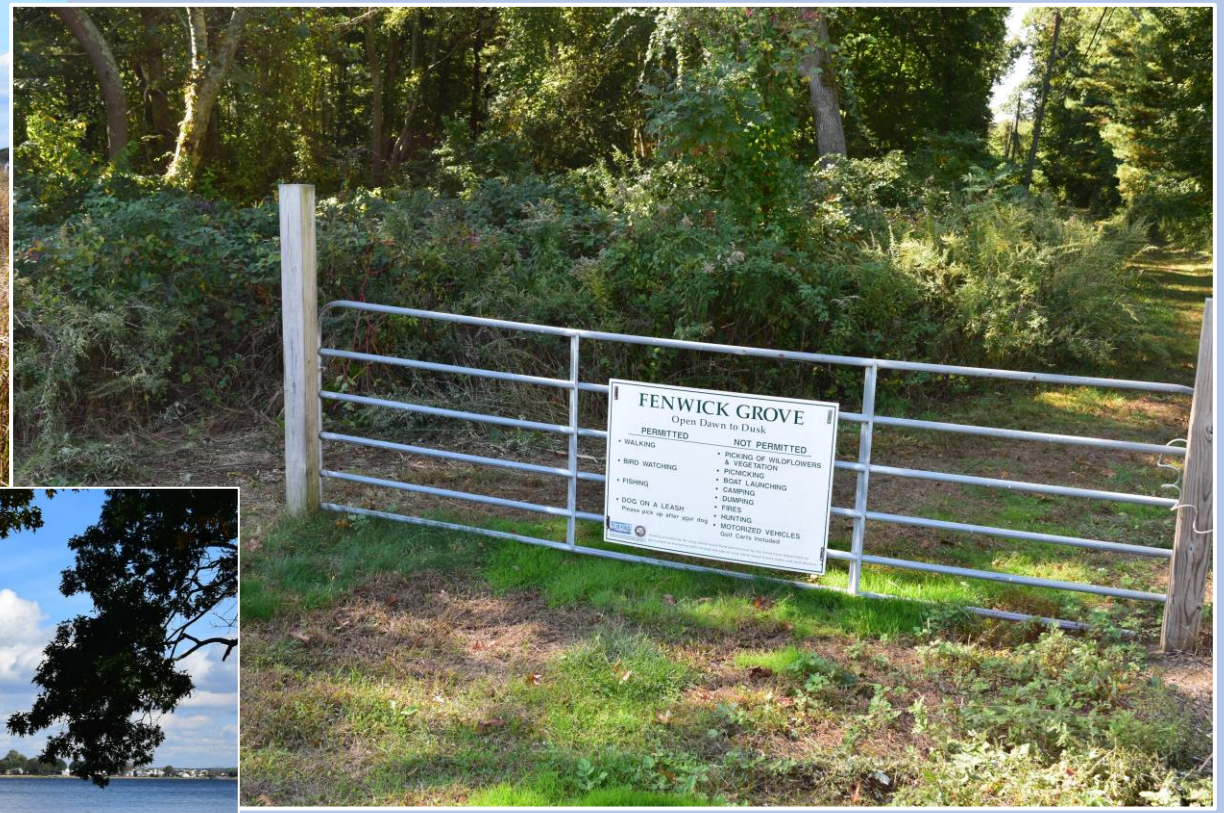
Draft

10.22.2021 Photos

Fenwick Yacht Club

10.31.2018
Route 154
Causeway
Aerial Photo 10:
Cove Shore
Shoreline Planning Unit
(Rt. 154 Causeway to and including
Grove Conservation Area)
Grove Conservation Area
South Cove

10.22.2021 Photos



Cove Shore Shoreline and Grove Conservation Area on South Cove

To be continued…

We present these slides as part of our continuing efforts to not only inform the public, but also to encourage everyone who enjoys Fenwick's water and waterfront areas to do their best to be good environmental stewards and to act in a manner that will help sustain harbor resources for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Fenwick Harbor Management Commission