

Paines Creek fix eyes culvert, parking problems

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BREWSTER — Paines Creek is certainly the apple of Brewster's eye this year.

The parking lot is closed, due to erosion and coastal flooding but the town is focused on addressing the troubles there despite tough economic conditions.

In addition to the \$1.4 million culvert replacement under Route 6A (by which point Paines Creek is now Stony Brook) the town will apply for more grant money (\$550,000) for a second set of projects for storm water reduction.

Most of these would circle near Paines Creek. The grants would pay 100 percent of the engineering costs and three-quarters of the construction cost.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to get a lot of work done at small cost," said Natural Resources Director Chris Miller. "It's all shellfish bed-related."

In addition to improvements at Paines Creek, work could be done at Saints and Ellis landings and perhaps lesser improvements at Breakwater, Linnell and Crosby landings. Russ Kleekamp of Stearns and Wheler said the town would put up around \$175,000. The grant application went to Donald Liptak at the Natural Resource Conservation Service and funding is from the America Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Work at Paines Creek would include replacing the culvert under Paines Creek Road that leads to Freemans Pond with a 3-by-4-foot box culvert and improving storm water management at the landing and at Betty's Curve on Route 6A. Engineering cost estimates are for \$142,388, permitting would cost \$33,338 and construction would run to \$650,000 with Brewster paying \$162,500.

At Saints Landing the town would like to handle storm runoff better. Engineering would cost \$47,985, permitting \$10,479 and construction \$75,000 with the town paying \$18,750. There wouldn't be any construction association with Ellis landing, just \$30,056 of engineering to reduce coastal erosion.

All work must be completed by Dec. 2011.

"It came up quickly and we had to react," said Town Administrator Charles Sumner. "There is still a little shortfall between the (town meeting) warrant and what we might need."

The selectmen voted 4-0 (Dyanne Cooney recusing herself) to support applying for the grants.

On May town meeting warrant, as part of Article 8, the town will request \$50,000 for an engineering study to deal with problems at the Paines Creek Beach parking lot, which is crumbling into the creek due to the onslaught of storms. The culvert replacement is a partial fix as it was part of a plan suggested by the Woods Hole Group last September. They also either a stone revetment along the creek or coir logs to stabilize the channel.

The selectmen struck two items asking for \$15,000 apiece for engineering studies at Breakwater Beach and Ellis Landing from the warrant. They decided it was better to focus on one problem at a time. A shortage of funds has prevented the town from doing more than adding sand around the Paines Creek parking lot.

"Paines Creek is so used so regularly for sunsets and lunch," noted Peter Johnson, vice president of the Brewster Conservation Trust. "My sense is everybody wants to do something but many don't know what to do. I think that's the value of the engineering."