

## **2019 – 2021 BEACH NURISHMENT PROJECTS FAQ'S**

### **1. When can I extend my beach crossover across the new dune?**

CAMA has determined that crossovers may not be extended over newly constructed dune and berm areas, until they have “stable and natural vegetation” as determined by Division of Coastal Management (DCM). This could take up to 2 years.

### **2. When will the new dune be vegetated?**

Coastal Transplants planted over 900,000 sea oats on the new dune system in July and August 2020. Additional sea oats were planted in the valley between the established dune and the primary dune in August of 2021. An additional 90,000 plants including bitter panicum, seashore elder, purslane, croatan and patens were added in the summer of 2022 to create native plant diversity. Beach plantings need two full growing seasons to become established.

### **3. What alternatives are there to a traditional wooden crossover to access the beach?**

Oceanfront owners and their designee have the right to access the beach, by crossing the dune with no structural crossover or designated pathway.

Also, CAMA has given special consideration to our situation and will allow small post and rope pathways to be used to help navigate the steeper sections of the new dune, based on the following guidelines: posts cannot be greater than 4X4, no deeper than 5 feet, spaced no closer than 7 feet, only rope railings can be used and it must be at least 3 feet above the ground to avoid sea turtle interactions. \*POSTS AND

ROPE MAY NOT BE INSTALLED UNTIL AFTER PLANTING HAS BEEN DONE ON THE NEW DUNE\*

### **4. Am I required to extend my beach crossover?**

No. When the time comes that CAMA allows crossovers to be extended, oceanfront owners will have the choice of whether to extend their crossover or not.

### **5. Can I install sand fence on the new dune?**

Unfortunately, because there is no “stable and natural vegetation” on the new dune, CAMA regulations do not allow for sand fence on the new dune to build up sand or to funnel pedestrian traffic over the dune in a designated area. Sand fence can be installed on the existing dune in the valley, between the two dunes, so long as it meet's CAMA's exemption guidelines (orientated 45 degrees, sections no longer than 10 feet in length, minimum 7 feet apart. Also, sand fence may not extend more than 10 feet waterward of the toe of the dune).

## **6. What activity is permissible on the new dune?**

The Town asks residents and visitors alike to respect and protect the entire dune system here in Topsail Beach. Please limit activity on the new dune to what is necessary to access the beach. We encourage you to use the new 75 feet of dry sand beach area for your physical activities (walking, running, exercising) as well as your beach equipment (towels, chairs, tents etc.). Restrictions on the new dune may increase once it is vegetated.

## **7. Was the project completed and when is the next nourishment project planned?**

The beach nourishment project had two components; dredging and sand placement on the beach. Both components were completed in April of 2021. Beach plantings began in 2021 and were completed in 2022.

Future dredging and sand placement projects will be determined based on one of three factors. The expected maintenance time factor is typically 5 years or less. A second factor could be a significant loss of beach sand due to a major storm or erosion event. A third factor could be major shoaling in the inlet or interior waterways. Beach, inlet and interior waterway monitoring will be conducted periodically to determine if dredging or beach nourishment is required more often than the expected 5 year maintenance period.

## **8. Why is the profile of the beach different on the south end?**

The profile of the beach was designed with a valley in between the existing dune and the new dune. The valley is a design item intended to strengthen the dune system. Once planted, the vegetation will grow up through the wind-blown transport of sand, resulting in a "root mat core" to the dune system. Unfortunately, the southern section between Sea Vista and Crocker Avenue was completely destroyed from Hurricane Florence and had to be restored. In rebuilding from both sides, there was not space for the dozers to be able to create the preferred 4' deep valley and thus the valley there is only 2' deep in this area.