

Brookhaven, Rep. Bishop Announce Army Corps to Help Protect Mt. Sinai Harbor

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MT. SINAI, NY- Brookhaven Town Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Jane Bonner were joined by Congressman Tim Bishop and Colonel John R. Boulé II, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District to announce the kickoff of a study to repair the jetty protecting Mt. Sinai Harbor.

"This is the first step in the long road to protect Mt. Sinai Harbor," Congressman Bishop said. "I am pleased that within just months of the initial meeting in my District Office with Councilwoman Bonner that we have a signed agreement. By involving the Army Corps we also remove a good amount of the burden off the direct shoulders of Brookhaven taxpayers."

At Tuesday's Town Board meeting, the Town agreed to a cost-sharing agreement with the Army Corps for an engineering survey of the jetty. The project is moving forward under the "Planning Assistance for States" program, where the Army Corps assists in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources.

The total cost the project is \$282,000, which by federal law will be split 50-50 between the Town of Brookhaven and the Federal government, though \$41,000 of the Town's contribution will come in the form of in-kind services.

"By partnering with the Army Corps of Engineers on this project, we will be able to benefit from their expertise in finding the best course of action for the rehabilitation of these jetties, and determine the most cost effective way to implement this solution," said Supervisor Mark Lesko. "I want to thank Congressman Bishop for working together with the Town on the Mt. Sinai Harbor jetty rehabilitation project, for the safety and benefit of our residents, commercial fishermen and emergency service vessels that use this channel."

"Mt. Sinai Harbor has been an historically important waterway for Brookhaven since our colonial days, when Benjamin Tallmadge landed here with his men to launch their heroic actions during the Revolutionary war. For the past year and a half I have worked together with Congressman Bishop to repair these failing jetties, which have deteriorated to the point of being submerged during high tide," said Councilwoman Jane Bonner. "Today, we're seeing the fruits of that hard work we have done together with the signing of this agreement, which will lead to safer waters and protection of our beaches, channel and harbor from the effects of erosion."

"These jetties have posed a high tide navigation hazard for years, with their stones submerged at high tide, endangering the families of our community who use this harbor for recreation," said Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld. "This agreement is an important first step in finding the reasons behind why these jetties are failing, and the best and most affordable solution for repairing them."

According to officials with the Army Corps of Engineers, the overall study duration will be 14 months to a final report.