

Cosey Beach Park East Haven, CT

Issues

The property located at 147 Cosey Beach Avenue, East Haven was part of a sale to the Town in May, 2003. Located on this site is a commercial two story building, approximately 8490 square feet, with a full basement and crawl space. The property, on 2.07 acres of land, was the site of 2 fires, one in 1994 the work of arsonists and again in August 2006. The dilapidated property now currently serves as an eye sore. Due to the salt air environment the stainless steel staircases and doors are corroding. There is water in basement, ponding in depressed areas of roof, overall a hazardous building, located on 200 feet of road along pristine beach front property. Currently completely boarded, there is no access to the building by the public, including vandals. In addition, due to its unsafe structural core, our town workers are unable to perform any work on this property. The unsightly blighted areas which surround the building are mixed with cracked asphalt and brownfields.

Overall Benefit and Project Description

We have the great opportunity to change and improve the East Haven coastal area drawing revenue and prestige. East Haven wants to capitalize on this unique gift of coastal property. This project enhances the quality of life, helps create a sense of place and defines the character of our community. The historical and cultural history of the Cosey Beach Area is fluent in all of the planning. Momauguin at Cosey Beach, East Haven in the late 1800's was a popular summertime place for meeting, strolling, dancing and having fun!

The Town's intentions for that site include a complete demolition of the building, scheduled for February of this year, 2008. Creating an environmentally pleasing atmosphere where green space is plenty and handicapped accessible nature walks offer an earthly paradise without discrimination. Picnic groves, open areas and handicapped beach parking are among the town's wants and needs! Creative cosmetic improvements which include historical preservation and implementation of historic signs, lighting and a picnic pavilion which was once *the* gathering place. Also, ties to our Native American culture and heritage will be celebrated with a monument. Plans also have been drafted for a "Splash Pad" for children, providing a safe haven for fun and games located just across from the town's only public beach remaining.

Request for Funding

The Town of East Haven is requesting funding for the Cosey Beach Project. Currently the Town has funding in the amount of about \$300,000.00 designated for this project. This amount enables the town to acquire funding from additional sources, even if a match is required. The approximate cost of the completion of this project is estimated to be \$825,000.00. Completion of this project would put East Haven on the map of Historic New England Coastal Towns!