

Last month we held a seminar here on the Future of the South End which focused on the forces that may be determining the near future - insurance, inspections, reserves, zoning and redevelopment. But any consideration of the Future of the South End would be incomplete if it did not factor in the long-term impact of water.

Palm Beach is an island. The other day Gardner Hempel showed Donald and I a photo of the South End from the air. I was struck at how vulnerable a sliver of land it is surrounded by an enormous amount of water. So, interaction with water is an inescapable fact of life.

Like every community in Florida, Palm Beach has a comprehensive plan. As an island, a vital element of the PB Comprehensive plan

is Coastal Management. A primary stated objective of the Plan is to protect and restore our beaches and dunes.

In furtherance of that objective, the Town has entered into a Beach Management Agreement with Palm Beach County and the State of Florida. And it has established a Shore Protection Board to advise the Town Council.

Erick Reichert and I are both members of the Shore Protection Board. He's an engineer. I'm a public policy wonk. It's well known that Engineers and policy wonks often don't see eye to eye. But I don't think that's the case here.

Several times a year we receive reports on the status of our beaches, accompanied by

photos, charts, graphs, and a whole lot of data. It seems clear to me that over the past 25 years, an enormous quantity of sand has been added to and remains in the system. So despite the fact that our sand reserve stockpile at Phipps Park and all of the sand deposited on Reach 8 in 2021 are gone (that's what hurricanes do), and recent northeasters have invaded dunes at the Dorchester, Enclave and Oasis, I am optimistic that the Town's policy of protecting and preserving our beaches is working the way it is intended to, and that the Future of our Beaches is sound.

Ah, but Erick is an engineer. He has been on the SPB longer than me. He expresses his frustration with a tortuous system more

readily than I. So, let's get Erick's perspective and then I'll be right back to you.

OK, well, that sounds very much like conversations I have had with many South Enders since I joined the Shore Protection Board, especially Reach 8.

It seems to me that the challenge facing our panel today is to justify my optimism by addressing Erick's frustration.

As you entered here today, each of you received a list of the questions we on the SPB hear most often. Hopefully, at the end of this seminar each of you here and watching on Zoom will feel able to go forth and spread the word to fellow residents that the prognosis for the Future of our Beaches is good.

Now I am going to turn these proceedings over to Melissa Ceriale, the Chair of the Shore Protection Board, to introduce our panel and share a few words about the Shore Protection Board.

Patricia Strayer is the Town Engineer

Tom Pierro is the Principal Engineer at Coastal Protection Engineering. It is his firm that produces a lot of those reports and data.