



TOWN OF PLYMOUTH WINS \$111,000 GRANT TO EVALUATE LONG-TERM OPTIONS FOR THE ELLISVILLE INLET

The Town of Plymouth is to receive a \$111,000 grant to fund a technical study of alternatives for the sustainable, long-term maintenance of the Ellisville inlet. The Town's Department of Marine and Environmental Affairs, a longtime supporter of the Friends' project, submitted its successful grant application under the Commonwealth's Coastal Community Resilience Grant Program in June. Under the grant, the project "will assess structural and non-structural stabilization alternatives to allow for a more sustainable tidal inlet system at Ellisville Harbor and maximize the health of the salt marsh." Friends' president Jack Scambos and director Eric Cody approached the Town regarding this grant opportunity last September and provided inputs to the application.

The Friends consider this grant award a strategic milestone in efforts to permanently maintain tidal flows to the marsh for the purpose of restoring marsh vegetation, fisheries and wildlife. According to president Jack Scambos, "The Friends welcome the Commonwealth's show of support with this grant award. Official recognition of the need to identify and fund a



Photo courtesy of Mike Brennan

long-term solution to the problem of periodic blockage of the Ellisville inlet is a positive development. We look forward to a productive collaboration with the Town, its consultant and the Commonwealth."

The scope of the study is as follows, according to the grant application:

The project will perform an in-depth, alternatives analysis of potential structural and non-structural measures that can be utilized to maximize both the health of the salt marsh resources and provide a more consistent supply of sediments to down-drift beaches. The project intends to build on the substantial historical data set available for the Ellisville Harbor system, including the results of ongoing monitoring [by the Friends]. In addition, the assessment will consist of appropriate coastal processes modeling tools to determine effects of various inlet stabilization techniques. Ongoing threats to the marsh system, as well as to the built-environment south of the marsh, are concerns for the Town as both long-term coastal erosion and relative sea-level rise in the coming decades will continue to exacerbate storm damage.

The study will be conducted by John Ramsey of Applied Coastal Research and Engineering, based in Mashpee. The Friends will provide monitoring data, volunteer resources and expert input to the project. We will provide further updates once the project gets underway in the next few months.