



November 6, 2018  
Mayor Judy Davies-Dunhour  
Borough of Stone Harbor  
9508 Second Avenue  
Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

Subject: Beach 12 Month Action Items

Dear Judy,

I would like to start by thanking you for speaking at our SHPOA meetings in June and September each year. In listening to the comments of attendees of these events, there is unanimous appreciation and positive feedback for your presentations and your openness to sharing topical information. Secondly, please know that your support and cooperation as our point of contact with the Borough is very much appreciated.

Following up on our September 8<sup>th</sup> event, I thought it would be prudent at this time to submit, for the coming year, a list of recommendations and actions that will be needed for the preservation of our valuable beaches. Many of these issues have been discussed with the Borough as part of the SHPOA sustainability program for our island. Our view has been and always will be that *“what happens to our beaches determines what happens to Stone Harbor”*. It is our belief that without healthy beaches, Stone Harbor no longer will be so desired a vacation destination and that all other Borough issues become trivial and unimportant. As we prepare for the start of a new year in two months, we need to focus on those high priority actions identified in this letter.

- **Beach Maintenance Reserve Fund:** At the September meeting, you announced the Borough has established a “beach reserve fund with a small initial contribution”. This is a wise decision and something that has been supported by SHPOA for the last 3 years. Given that beach nourishment/maintenance is an annual expense (not just every 3 years), **SHPOA believes that it is vital that the Borough set aside between \$500,000 to \$750,000 every year for the maintenance and nourishment of our beaches.** The beaches are critical protectors of the Borough from ocean flooding and our members’ number one priority for the people who live and play here.
- **Hereford Inlet Lobbying:** It is critical that we are able to pull sand from the Hereford Inlet for beach nourishment. It is our sand, from our beaches. The Borough needs to lobby federal legislative and administration officials to reopen this source of sand. This issue, as you are aware, is not unique to Stone Harbor. We are grateful that Stone Harbor is joining with Avalon and North Wildwood to correct this misuse of a federal regulation. SHPOA has a resource in Washington D.C. that will assist if the Borough wants our help.



- **Annual Beach Sand Maintenance:** In order to maintain consistency across all our beaches, we need to harvest and transfer sand from beaches that are gaining sand and help beaches that are losing it. Avalon does this as a routine operation. This is a sensible way to repair troubled beaches such as those between 105<sup>th</sup> and 112<sup>th</sup> streets. We have the equipment to do this. Let's work to determine a means of harvesting sand and relocating it from South Pointe in an environmentally responsible way.
- **Continued monitoring of the Beach Profile by Center for Coastal Research (CRC):** The Borough has and is continuing to monitor the beach profile in conjunction with the CRC. Use of this data to plan the timing of the nourishment program is critical. We encourage the sharing of these reports on the Borough website and with the SHPOA Beach and Bay Committee as soon as they become available.

Assuming we will need to replenish 700,000 cubic yards of sand again (based on 2017's numbers), the Borough needs to estimate the cost of the total project and further estimate what percentage of the total costs will be borne by the Borough. Accordingly, the Borough needs to have a plan on how it is going to meet its financial obligation in 2020 that does not rely on issuing bonds.

Our members and the Beach and Bay Committee are committed to helping the Borough with these important matters. Please do not hesitate to involve us when assistance is needed. Thank you for your attention to these issues. We will be reviewing our program at our June and September 2019 member meetings.

Best Regards,

Bob Charamella  
President, Stone Harbor Property Owners Association

Cc: Jill Gougher