

FAQs East Beach Stabilization

- GEI Consultants has been assisting the Village with planning, design, permitting and agency coordination to combat the chronic coastal erosion problems at East Beach
- The Village was not authorized to take any direct activities on the bluff face or beyond the crest of the bluff to the Coastal Erosion Hazard Area line prior to the issuance of required federal and state permits and approvals. As a result, the Village was prevented from taking any pre-emptive actions to secure the bluff
- US Army Corps of Engineers approval wasn't obtained until October 21, 2021
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) approval wasn't obtained until April 22, 2021
- NYS Department of State (NYSDOS) approval wasn't obtained until [?]
- The Village has taken extensive measures to reduce erosion at East Beach, and at considerable expense. This coupled with an extremely long and complex regulatory review process and delays due to the COVID pandemic, has resulted in the hazardous bluff conditions that exist today
- In May 2017, a focused bluff stabilization effort for the East Beach bluff began during an initial pre-application field meeting with NYSDEC. GEI prepared a series of draft concept plans and shared them with NYSDEC as a formal pre-application meeting in February 2018. NYSDEC rejected the initial design, which called for a robust stone riprap toe and steel bulkhead protection up to elevation 19 based on GEI's analysis and anticipated sea level rise. Despite GEI's analysis, NYSDEC proposed limiting the width and stone size of the toe riprap and reducing the height of the bulkhead to a maximum of elevation 14. GEI went ahead and prepared revised drawings, but also submitted a letter request to NYSDEC in March 2018 to reconsider the imposed scaled down design because it would not provide the necessary stability to protect the clubhouse at the top of the bluff
- Throughout the permit application review for East Beach bluff, coastal erosion continued to remove sand from the beach on both sides of the existing revetment, resulting in failure on the eastern flank of the revetment
- Upon NYSDOS's review of the permit application and request for coastal consistency determination, the Village received an extensive request for additional information that could not be answered until NYSDEC agreed to the final plan. Another permit design meeting was held with NYSDEC in July 2019 whereby NYSDEC held to their requirement for the 14-foot maximum bulkhead elevation and requested a reduction in the length of structural toe protection to extend just below the clubhouse, thereby limiting bluff stabilization below the western tennis courts to shallow terraces with vegetative protection. GEI

continued to modify the design drawings to meet NYSDEC's reduced level of bluff protection.

➤ Vinyl vs. Steel

- Vinyl not strong enough - strongest vinyl is only 25% the strength of steel
- They manufacturer fiber reinforced plastic sheets but they cost the same as steel and require additional tie backs