

October 16, 2013

Mr. Ernest Steinauer, Chairman
Nantucket Conservation Commission
2 Bathing Beach Road
Nantucket, MA 02554

Re: Baxter Road Conservation

Dear Chairman Steinauer and Members of the Conservation Commission:

Thank you for all of your effort in working towards a solution for protecting Baxter Road from further erosion this winter season. We are hopeful that you and your fellow commissioners will unanimously approve the installation of a geotube at the toe of the bluff in the most threatened areas of Baxter Road in tonight's meeting. This new design represents an environmentally accepted "soft solution" that has been used in many coastal communities throughout New England and Mid Atlantic states.

With the strong support of the Town's Board of Selectman, we ask that you and your fellow commission members work expeditiously and constructively with the Town staff to implement this Town co-sponsored project in the weeks ahead.

As you are well aware, Nantucket's sewer beds are less than 250 feet from the ocean's edge, and the airport fence is less than 150 feet based on rough estimates. Knowing that erosion is unlikely to stop and that the Island which we live on is shrinking, the problem for protecting Town assets will only increase over time.

New Jersey, Florida, Maryland and California spend hundreds of millions annually to protect their coastal communities. There is no "one size fits all" solution; different applications have been used in various coastal environments. Nantucket's coastal problems are not unique, and neither should be our responses. *Geotubes have been proven effective throughout the east coast of the US, including post Super Storm Sandy (see attached).*

Our project has the benefit of using private dollars to protect a Town of Nantucket asset from erosion on a remote beach. *Failure to approve this project will likely result in the collapse of Baxter Road*, which will be at a significant cost to Nantucketers, and will only increase over time. A collapsed road will also serve as a costly precedent for the Town, and the Commission will have missed an opportunity to try an environmentally sound alternative.

Mr. Chairman, it is up to you to show leadership on this issue and approve a project that can help solve future coastal problems for the Town, and its assets.

Respectfully submitted,

Northern Baxter Road Homeowners

David & Dorothy Bailey	Elizabeth Claudy	John DeAngelis	Martha Lyn Dippell
Steve & Erin Freeman	Sam & Ann Furrow	Daniel Korengold	Bill & Marilee Matteson
Margaret McQuade	Ryan & Molly Patrick	James & Deborah Walker	Alexander & Laurie Webb III
Helmut Weymar	Loretta Yoder		

Geotube technology protects New Jersey shoreline from Hurricane Sandy

At the end of October, 2012, Hurricane Sandy hit the Caribbean area and subsequently the eastern coast of the United States with devastating force. Sandy claimed dozens of lives and caused damage amounting to \$30 billion. TenCate Geotube® containers had been placed in the dunes in parts of the coast of New Jersey, which restricted the erosion of the shoreline there.

To help with dune restoration, dune dikes with TenCate Geotube containers were constructed along the New Jersey shoreline, starting in the 1990s. In 2010, a total of 1.47 km of these containers had been installed. This afforded places such as Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Beach Haven and Atlantic City optimal protection against hurricane forces. No needless precaution, as it turned out recently. The tubular containers in the row of dunes managed to withstand the pounding waves that buffeted the coast as Sandy struck. The tubes lived up to expectations, even though part of the dune was washed away.

In September, 2008, 5m-high waves generated by Hurricane Ike, one of the predecessors of Sandy and Isaac, which also hit in 2012, ravaged the coast of Galveston, Texas. The damage remained reasonably restricted thanks to the row of Geotube containers along the shoreline.



Ocean City's beach after Hurricane Sandy.

Hurricane Irene hit the East coast in August 2011; containers installed at Beach Haven and Ocean City held up and protected properties.

TenCate's long history with marine construction and shoreline protection applications started with the development of nylon bags just after the major flood disaster that hit the south-west of the Netherlands in 1953. This catastrophic event killed 1,850

people, destroyed 4,500 houses and left 100,000 people homeless. Where other companies in the region decided the future still lay in cotton and other traditional fibers, TenCate accepted the challenge posed by the Dutch authorities and developed a technical textile for use in marine structures.

*For more information, E-mail:
j.mckay@tencate.com*



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