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East Lyme's Overlook Park Progress Report #31

R.S. De Santo, East Lyme Public Trust Foundation, Inc.

Pile driving started in Niantic on September 25, 2014, as part of the reconstruction of a redesigned western half of Overlook Park (a.k.a. Niantic Bay Boardwalk). On October 30, 2014, 96 pairs of steel sheet piles, each about 52 inches wide, had been driven 25 feet ± deep into the shoreline to create the first 385 feet of a seawall shown in the accompanying photograph. It was taken on November 4, 2014, as an Amtrak train passed on its way to New York and points beyond. This steel sheet pile seawall will ultimately extend 2,700 feet west from the end of the Amtrak reconstructed eastern half of the "Boardwalk," which will end at Hole in the Wall underpass, 1.1 miles west of Cini Park, the eastern end of the Boardwalk.

The smaller excavator (#1) is working stone riprap along the water-side of the seawall in order to armor, and thus protect, the seawall from future potential coastal storm wave damage. The larger of the two excavators (#2) is fitted with a vibratory hammer pile driver that sinks the paired sheet piles (Note the two twined sheet piles lying on the ground adjacent to the pile driver). The elevation of the ground to the right of the seawall is higher than the ground surface on the ocean side of the seawall and, is the foundation on which a six inch marine concrete walkway, ten feet wide, will be poured to form the walking surface of the new Niantic Bay "Boardwalk." This phase of progress rests on pile driving. That is, when one pair of sheet piles is driven, the pile driver (i.e. excavator) is rotated to pick up another pair from those awaiting incorporation into the seawall. It takes approximately 664 twin piles (i.e. 1,328 single piles) to construct the seawall.

The status of reconstruction of the Niantic Bay Boardwalk can be seen in "real time" by viewing it through the webcam at: <http://publictrustfoundation.org/webcam.htm> and, the first summary report of this ongoing East Lyme reconstruction project is documented in the internet publication, NEWS & UPDATES, Reconstructed Overlook Progress Vol. 3 No. 1 – Tuesday, October 28, 2014, on the internet at: <http://publictrustfoundation.org/docs/Vol-3-No1-ELPTF-Bull.pdf>