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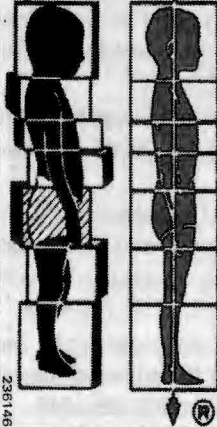
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East Lyme's Overlook Park Progress Report

by **Robert S. De Santo, PhD.,**

East Lyme Public Trust Foundation, Inc.

The 2,750± foot long western half of the Niantic Bay Overlook Park (a.k.a. The Boardwalk), is awaiting delivery of approximately 20 steel sheet piles in order to complete its bulkhead construction. The steel bulkhead confines sand and stone fill to support and protect the 11 foot wide walkway resting on that fill, which elevates it above the 100 year flood level. At that elevation, the walkway will be protected from erosion and storm damage.

In the case of this steel bulkhead that consists of more than 635 paired sheet piles, the cumulative shortfall in overall length of the 2,720 foot bulkhead consists of several feet. While awaiting delivery of the needed sheet piles, the bulk head realignment is being adjusted using two excavators in combination, as illustrated in the accompanying photograph taken on May 14, 2015, near the start of the western half of the walkway. The realignment is relatively slight and requires that a portion of the walkway fill be removed adjacent to the involved sheet piles so that they can be pushed into alignment and held there by one of the excavators while the second excavator replaces the stones and fill to fix the realigned sheet piles and, more on to the next realignment. There are approximately 30 such alignments needed in order to most cost effectively fit a concrete "wall cap" on the sheet piles.

Then follows one of the most important remaining phases in the reconstruction of the western half of the park — the construction of forms to pour concrete and envelope the top six inches of each sheet pile in a 2 1/4 inch thick wall cap that will tie the sheet piles together and significantly strengthen the structure as well as serve to attach a pedestrian thermoplastic safety railing system that is specified along the western half of Overlook Park. It is fabricated of tubular elements and is grey, which approximates the grey color of the equivalent fence along the eastern half of Overlook Park.

As of the middle of May, 2015, and in consideration of the several remaining phases of work required to complete reconstruction of the western half of Overlook Park, it appears to this observer, that delays in its apparent work schedule will result in Overlook Park being opened to the public no earlier than 'very late September, 2015. This is not an official estimate of project completion, but only an estimate based on 30 years of experience with engineering and project management practices on similar construction and public works.