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East Lyme's Overlook Park Progress Report #40

by Robert S. De Santo, PhD., East Lyme Public Trust Foundation

This month's photograph was taken on August 13, 2015, at 10:40 am. A thirty-five foot slab of concrete had just been poured. It is the 14th of 92 sections of the sidewalk that will ultimately constitute the 2,780 foot western half of the reconstructed "Boardwalk." Looking back toward the Project Start, 453 feet of new concrete walkway has been poured since July 14th. That is equivalent to 16% of the western half of the walkway that will ultimately terminate at Hole-in-the-Wall underpass.

As the sidewalk sections are placed, 6' fence posts are being anchored into footers every 10 feet along the sidewalk. Nine gage, 2" mesh chain link, black vinyl coated cyclone fencing (i.e. fabric) will be attached to the fence posts. The posts will be connected at their tops by a continuous top rail and the fencing fabric will be fastened to the posts and top rail. The top and bottom edges of the fence fabric will have twisted and barbed finish selvage (i.e. selvage: the edge of fence finished so as to prevent unraveling).

The south margin of the sidewalk abuts the Wall Cap, as described in the Post Road Review of July 2015 (pg. 28). Therefore, this combination of walkway and Wall Cap makes the 11' full width of the concrete 8' 6" walkway and 2' 6" Wall Cap. In conjunction with pouring a sidewalk section, the Wall Cap is also poured comprised of separate and interconnected cells. They precede the sidewalk sections and must harden because the sidewalk sections rest on a narrow step (i.e. a haunch: a bracket built into the Wall Cap), which supports the south margin of the sidewalk sections at they are poured to harden in contact with the Wall Cap haunch. The reconstruction of the western half of the Boardwalk requires 184 individual Wall Cap cells of which 62 were poured by Friday, August 14, 2015. These 62 cells are equivalent to 34% of the total Wall Cap cells needed to finish this aspect of the project. Safety railing 3'6" high grey, AVCON thermoplastic pipe will be mounted to the top of the Wall Cap beginning in the near future.

Construction continues to be closely documented. At this stage of construction, there are approximately 41 work items being tracked weekly and daily. Based on experience, the predicted project completion date remains December 15, 2015. This date now includes construction of a rededication monument and placement of eight educational signs along the western half of the Boardwalk by the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation, Incorporated.