



East Lyme's Overlook Park Progress Report #43

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This month's photograph of the Niantic Bay "Boardwalk" was taken at 2:52 pm on November 16, 2015; 43 months after work began on reconstruction of the eastern half of Overlook Park.

The Dominion Nuclear Power Plant on Millstone Point in Waterford is seen in the distance from a point opposite Skipper's Restaurant on Main Street in Niantic.

The scheduled completion date for the 1.1 mile long concrete sidewalk remains at December 15th. It is expected by those who should know best that all project essentials will be in place on or about November 30th. That means the project may be completed before you read these words!

Of the major pieces of this project that are not yet finished, there are three of note. The first two are; 1) installation of the guard rails that will protect walkers from falling off the sidewalk on to the riprap along the shoreline and 2) a chain link fence to protect walkers against their trespassing on the Amtrak right of way where there is always a very real danger of being struck by surprisingly quiet trains moving along this section of track at approximately 50 MPH.

The third yet to be completed aspect of the Boardwalk is 3) the sidewalk. The photograph here shows the eastern Boardwalk from its connection to the Amtrak constructed western half of the Boardwalk in the distance. The final section of concrete sidewalk that awaited construction on November 17th consisted of fifteen 35 foot sections scheduled to be built within days of November 17th. At that time, 84% of the sidewalk had been finished, so the end is in sight.

Once the sidewalk reaches the Hole in the Wall underpass, a new six foot high stone block Overlook Park monument will be constructed by Stratton Construction Company of Waterford, the same company that built the original boardwalk monument at the Hole in the Wall. That was the only structure that withstood the ocean's rage that destroyed the original western half of Overlook Park.

Three bronze plaques will be installed on the monument—the two original dedication plaques from 2005 and a new 2015 rededication plaque. Building the monument will signal the final piece of the long awaited completion of Niantic Bay Overlook Park "Boardwalk" and its new ten plus acre beach. As a consequence of Amtrak's required construction of the stone groin at the eastern end of the park at the mouth of the Niantic River adjacent to the railroad bridge the Boardwalk Beach was created.

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