

## COASTAL STORM MEETING - May 16, 2022

Today, May 16, 2022, Mayor Timothy Saxton and Town Council members met with U.S. Senator Tom Carper, Representative Ron Gray, DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin, Betsey Colbourn, from the office of Congresswoman Lisa Blunt-Rochester, Kate Rohrer, from the office of U.S. Senator Chris Coons, and Jesse Hayden, DNREC Shoreline and Waterway Management Administrator, as well as other officials and representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and DNREC, to review and assess South Bethany's beach damages resulting from the nor'easter last weekend.

While this meeting was taking place, DNREC's post-storm work was already occurring in South Bethany, the community worst hit by the storm. At each juncture, DNREC will clean up debris such as destroyed dune fencing and will re-grade numerous access crossings. According to Hayden, "The dunes did their job protecting our communities from being inundated, but by absorbing the impact of the storm they suffered damage that affects people's ability to access the beach. Our immediate goal is restoring as much safe beach access in as many communities as possible so that beachgoers can enjoy a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend. Our partners are a big part of that." "The first pass made by our team today will focus on cleanup and restoring access," Hayden said. "When that work is done, we will begin repairing the damaged dune fence."

So far, seven of the fifteen sand access walks have already been opened. Over the next days and weeks the ocean will start and continue to push sand back onto our beach. Hopefully, this will widen our beach over time.

We ask that residents continue to refrain from using any walkways that have been closed off and use caution when walking near the dunes.

These are the first steps being taken to restore our beach and beach crossovers. However, there is still a lot of work ahead for the Town. We will continue to provide you with updates as we work with DNREC and make additional decisions and progress.

Mayor and Town Council

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