



# **Evolution of the public process in Brewster: the Breakwater Beach Experience**

**Chris Miller, Director of Natural Resources**

# Breakwater Beach



Town of Brewster  
Conservation Department

Breakwater Landing

0 50 100 200  
Feet  
1 inch = 100 feet





March 2010



February 2013



- Repetitive losses
- Erosion rates of up to 2 feet/year (15' in Sandy and related storms)
- Little or no buffer remaining between infrastructure and the beach
- Low lying site situated in a coastal dune
- Loss of parking spaces while increasing demand for access
- Rising sea level predictions
- More severe storms, increasing frequency
- Higher rainfall amounts – no stormwater infrastructure
- Design was to retreat, rebuild sacrificial dune.

# Lesson Learned

- Brewster's beaches are viewed as a vital part of the Town's character by residents and visitors alike
- Many of our initial public meetings and discussion about the project were not enough to fully engage the public
- Timelines were seen as too short
- Change is difficult
- Many people do not see the damage and repairs after storms
- Compromise will not satisfy all and can divide a community
- The Town needs to develop a comprehensive assessment of its beaches and coastal resources through an inclusive public engagement process.

## **2015 approach:**

- a comprehensive approach led by a facilitator - assessment, planning, design
- integrating coastal science and technical information
- wide public participation through a stakeholder group
- preparing a strategy that will be the foundation for future Town actions
- CZM grant funded, RFR ENV 16 CZM 01  
“Developing a Coastal Adaptation Strategy for Brewster”



