

I wish to thank the Task Force members for their continued efforts to protect our shoreline road:

Bill Pryor, Rufus Allyn, Rob Christian, Christie Williams, Julia Parry, Cate Moffett, Kit Hartford, Lou Allyn, Hong Xu, and Rod Cook.

I have four points I would like to cover:

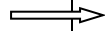
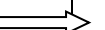

1. Since July of 2020, 7 feet of lawn has eroded bringing Chippechaug Trail roadway to less than 30 feet from the water's edge. Our only defense of the shoreline are 36 of the 40 original switch grasses planted on site by MIFD volunteers.
2. Over the last three years, the MIFD voters have supported efforts to protect the coastline beside Chippechaug Trail to ensure future use of the roadway. Voters approved \$30,000 for a feasibility study, \$35,000 for design plans & \$50,000 for permitting and final design plans totaling \$115,000. The good news is that of the \$115,000 the voters have approved, only \$26,000 had to be spent thanks to grants awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with funds from NOAA and the Department of Interior MIFD, which saved MIFD taxpayers \$89,000.
3. Today, I am asking you to support the next and final step in buffering our roadway by approving setting aside funds in the MIFD roads reserve, equal to 50% of probable construction costs estimated at \$425,300 (see chart below). At this writing, the task force submitted a preproposal grant application to the National Coastal Resilience Fund, for constructing a living shoreline of barrier rocks and plantings subject to DEEP permitting and MIFD board approval. We will learn by June 1st if we are invited to submit a full proposal, due July 2nd. Awards will be announced late November to mid-December with funds available by February 2025. Stonington's Director of Finance is willing to continue to manage grants for the MIFD road protection project. Subject to grant funds and MICO and MIFD board approval, a construction firm would be hired a year from now with an anticipated installation timeframe of Fall 2025 to Spring 2026.
4. On a lighter note, in July, the task force collaborated with the Mystic Williams Oceanography Program in support of anchoring a second experimental floating mat in Chippechaug Cove for the Boston based Emerald Tutu team. Unfortunately, even the new "cinnamon roll" design could not withstand the SE storms the cove experienced over the fall and winter. Thanks to Mary Sommers, a "Dipper", who found the mat's remains washed up on shore. TBD if another mat design will be forthcoming.

To conclude this report, Chippechaug Trail is at increasing risk, now less than 30 feet from the shore due to continued storm-based erosion. An engineer designed nature-based solution is permissible and fitting for this beautiful stretch of seashore with vistas out to Long Island Sound. Therefore, I propose a motion asking the 2024 MIFD voters to approve spending up to \$195,000 of the Roads Reserve to fund construction costs to protect our sole roadway Chippechaug Trail, subject to the MIFD Board's approval.

I hope we have your continued support to implement this project as we enter the next phase.

Thank you.

Kristin N Foster

Timeline	Project Phases	Costs	MIFD Taxpayers	Grants	MIFD Taxpayers Paid
May 2021	Feasibility Study	\$26,000	\$30,000 Approved	0	\$26,000
May and June 2022	Concept Design Plans	\$34,966	\$35,000 Approved	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant Award	0
May and October 2023	Permitting & Final Designs	\$75,000	\$50,000 Approved	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation increase amendment granted	0
Pending:  May 25, 2024 to May 23, 2025	Construction	\$425,300	\$64,000 (15% match) plus 75% of In-Kind labor to plant = to \$18,000	National Coastal Resilience Fund 2024 Preproposal Application	TBD
	Option 1 				
	Option 2 	\$425,300	\$195,000 (50% match) less 75% of In-Kind labor to plant = to \$18,000	Future grant applications where 50% match is required.	TBD
May 2025	Option 3 	\$425,300	TBD		TBD