

LBT couple rallies beach-project opposition

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— An attorney will meet with oceanfront property owners from Long Beach Township this weekend to discuss options for getting the state and federal government to modify the Long Beach Island beach-replenishment project — and possibly to abandon the plan all together.

In a letter to oceanfront owners in the township, June and Mike Logan, who contacted attorney Kenneth Porro and set up the meeting, urged owners not to sign easements required by the federal and state government for the project. They said Porro would meet with oceanfront islanders Sunday afternoon to “discuss our options for stopping the LBI Beach Replenishment Project as planned.”

The project as it is currently envisioned would “ruin our views, breezes, access, ocean slopes and the character of LBI with the addition of PORTABLE TOILETS ... and the addition of a possible future boardwalk, et cetera,” the Logans, Brant Beach property owners, wrote in the letter.

The letter references a DEP Web site that does say restroom facilities would likely be portable. However, the same Web site also says that “This project and easement does not allow for the installation of a Boardwalk, which is not part of the project.”

Township Mayor DiAnne Gove also strongly denied that there would be a boardwalk in the township.

“I’m not having a boardwalk. This is my town, and I am not having a boardwalk, and I can tell you Commissioner (Ralph) Bayard and Commissioner (Robert) Palmer are not going to have it either.”

The DEP Web site about the LBI project is at

Although many residents and public officials see the project as critical to protecting the island from serious storm damage, the easement requirements and the Department of Environmental Protection's requirements of public access points to the beach every quarter mile and construction of parking lots with public restrooms have angered many oceanfront owners.

On Tuesday, June Logan said she wasn't opposed to beach protection, which she said was necessary, but said she also thought the current project was too expansive. The project is planned to extend from a point in the Loveladies' section of the township all the way south to the entrance to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge's Holgate Unit.

“We're all for fixing the beaches, repairing, replenishment, wherever it's needed, but we don't feel we need it where we are,” June Logan said. She added that she was concerned by the fact that the required easements would never expire, and said that if the local governments use their power of eminent domain to obtain the access she wants to be compensated.

“We just think that the way they're going about this is uncalled for,” she said.

Gove said she was concerned that oceanfront owners were losing sight of the need for the project. But Gove has also contacted the state expressing concern over the requirement for public access points and restrooms.

“We do need to have some kind of program. We can't lose focus on that. Neither can the DEP,” Gove said.

Beach Haven Mayor Deborah Whitcraft, who received a copy of the Logans' letter from an oceanfront owner in her town and who forwarded it to The Press of Atlantic City, also said she was worried by the planned meeting.

“Any time you involve lawyers in anything, it becomes complicated. ... I'm certainly not optimistic on this project,” Whitcraft said.