

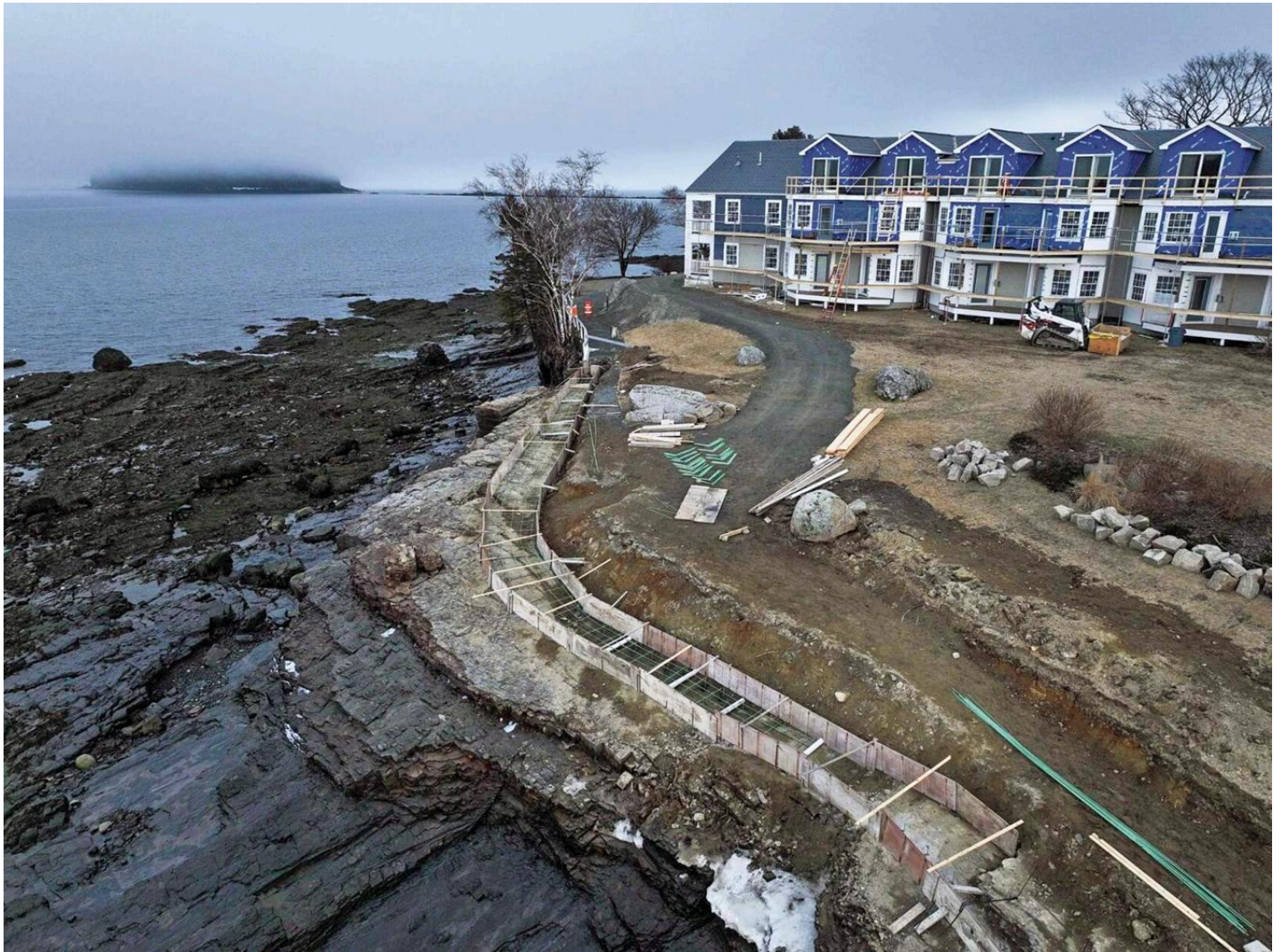
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FEATURED

Shore Path rebuild begins

By Faith DeAmbrose

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A portion of the Shore Path that wraps around the Bar Harbor Inn is the first to be rebuilt. The Inn has pledged \$300,000 to the overall project.

ELLSWORTH AMERICAN PHOTO BY KIP WING

BAR HARBOR — As coastal communities continue to clean up from back-to-back storms that devastated the area in January, the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association is moving forward with repairs to the nearly half-mile stretch of walkway known as the Shore Path.

The damage to the path, which traverses private property, hugging Frenchman Bay and extending from the town wharf to Wayman Lane, needs an estimated \$900,000 in repairs that include rebuilding portions of the seawall and resurfacing the entire length.

It is unclear how long the path will remain closed, said Dick Cough, president of the Village Improvement Association, which maintains the path on behalf of the property owners who have allowed the walking trail to pass by their properties since 1881.

The overall timeline will depend on contractor availability and permitting, said Cough, but added that they are moving ahead as fast as possible. “Unfortunately, a lot of the coastline was damaged, so there is competition for the few area companies that can do the work,” said Cough.

Earlier this month, the VIA retained Steve Salsbury of Herrick and Salsbury to apply for the necessary permits to do the shoreland project and hired Harold McQuinn to complete the work.



The Shore Path traverses private land along Frenchman Bay.

ISLANDER PHOTO BY KIP WING

Over the years, the VIA has rebuilt portions of the seawall replacing large coping stones and masonry rocks with concrete. The areas that have been previously rebuilt withstood the storm, but the older portions need to be rebuilt to those same standards.

Work has begun at the Bar Harbor Inn where between 400 to 500 feet of seawall need to be replaced. From there, said Cough, the work will continue toward Wayman Lane. Once all the seawall is rebuilt, it will then be resurfaced.

Cough said that the VIA has pledged \$300,000 toward repairs and the Bar Harbor Inn has pledged the same amount. In addition, the Bar Harbor Inn will have a special road built so McQuinn can access the path. “There are many access points that are simply too small to accommodate truck traffic,” said Cough, noting that heavy equipment will be required during construction.

Members of the business community, and individuals, have also stepped up with donations totaling around \$70,000, bringing the VIA closer to its overall goal.

The VIA is also planning a significant project at another of its properties — Glen Mary Park. “We are still planning to move that project ahead in a timely manner,” said Cough, but noted that the organization needed to turn its immediate attention there due to potential liabilities.

Those interested in helping the VIA fund the repairs to the Shore Path can make a tax-deductible donation to the organization. Donations can be sent via mail to P.O. Box 52 in Bar Harbor or can be made online at <http://tinyurl.com/57xu79u2>.

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