



State of Rhode Island  
Coastal Resources Management Council  
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3  
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

(401) 783-3370  
Fax (401) 783-2069

### MAINTENANCE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

Project Location <b>24 Fort Road, Westerly, RI 02891</b> No. Street City/Town		File No. (CRMC USE ONLY): <b>2024-04-008</b>
Owner's Name: <b>The Watch Hill Fire District</b>		Plat: 185 Lot(s): 31
Mailing Address <b>222 Watch Hill Road</b> City/Town <b>Watch Hill</b> State <b>RI</b> Zip Code <b>02891</b>		<b>Owner's Contact:</b> Phone Number: 401-388-0799 Email Address: Daniel@TheWatchHillConservancy.org
Contractor RI Reg. #: <b>Charlestown Fence LLC</b> Address:		
Name of Waterway: <b>Block Island Sound</b>		Estimated Project Cost: \$3,548 Fee (chart based on EPC): \$50
Description of facility to be maintained (type of facility and present conditions) Napatree Point Conservation Area. A nature reserve open to the public, managed by the Watch Hill Conservancy		
Describe accurately the maintenance work proposed. (Use additional sheets of paper if necessary and attach this form.) We will reinstall 240 feet of split rail fencing to keep Napatree visitors from climbing the barrier foredune and entering a sensitive zone where dune plant restoration was completed. The split rail fencing was removed due to dune erosion impacts from storms in December 2023 and January 2024. This fence was originally installed in May 2019 and approved by CRMC in application 2019-05-007. (Cont.) See attached representative/signatory letter for project contact information.		
Describe equipment to be used, construction methods, access routes, etc. Fence posts and rails will be transported by a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) along a specific path shown on the attached map to the installation point. The fence will be installed and leveled using manual post-hole diggers according to the diagram provided. Workers will use the Napatree entrance for access to the site and will walk to and from the work area. The Napatree Point Conservation Manager will supervise the installation process.		

Have you or any previous owner filed an application for and/or received an assent for any activity on this property?  
(If so please provide the file and/or assent numbers): 2018-03-106, 2019-05-007

Is this site within a designated historic district?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Is this application being submitted in response to a coastal violation?

☐ YES

☒ NO

If YES, you must indicate NOV or C&D Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The applicant acknowledges by evidence of their signature that they have reviewed the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program, and have, where possible adhered to the policies and standards of the program. The applicant also acknowledges by evidence of their signature that to the best of their knowledge the information contained in the application is true and valid. The filing of false information can result in the Coastal Resources Management Council revoking state assent.

**Daniel T. Cole**

Owner Name (PRINT)

**Daniel T Cole**

Owner's Signature (SIGN)

Digitally signed by Daniel T Cole  
Date: 2024.03.20 10:25:12 -04'00'





# Town of Westerly, R. I.

---

**Town Assessor's Office 45 Broad St Westerly RI 02891**

Tel (401) 348-2541 Fax (401) 348-2616

COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
STEDMAN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
TOWER HILL ROAD  
WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RECORDS AT THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, TOWN OF WESTERLY, RI, INDICATE  
THAT THE FOLLOWING OWN PROPERTY IN SAID TOWN:

NAME: WATCH HILL FIRE DISTRICT

ADDRESS: 222 WATCH HILL RD  
WESTERLY, RI 02891

PROPERTY LOCATION: 151 BAY ST  
WESTERLY, RI 02891

PLAT/LOT: 185/31-1

LAND EVIDENCE RECORDS: BOOK 2013 PAGE 24988

DATE OF ISSUE: March 13, 2024

SINCERELY,

DAVID B. THOMPSON  
TOWN ASSESSOR

**RECEIVED**

**4/25/2024**

COASTAL RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

TO: **Coastal Resources Management Council**  
4808 Tower Hill Road Suite 3  
Wakefield, RI 02879  
Phone: (401) 783-3370



FROM: Building Official

DATE: 4/2/24

SUBJ: Application of: The Watch Hill Fre District

Location: Napatree Point Conservation Area.

Address: 24 Fort Road, Westerly, RI 02891 Plat No. 185 Lot No. 31

To Construct: We will reinstall 240 feet of split rail fencing to keep Napatree visitors from climbing the barrier foredune and entering a sensitive zone where dune plant restoration was completed. The split rail fencing was removed due to dune erosion impacts from storms in December 2023 and January 2024.

I hereby certify that I have reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ foundation plan(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ plan(s) for entire structure

\_\_\_\_\_ site plans

Titled: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Plan (last revision): \_\_\_\_\_

☒ and find that the issuance of a local building permit is not required as in accordance with Section \_\_\_\_\_ of the Rhode Island State Building Code.

\_\_\_\_\_ and find that the issuance of a local building permit is required. I hereby certify that this permit shall be issued once the applicant demonstrates that the proposed construction/activity fully conforms to the applicable requirements of the RISBC.

\_\_\_\_\_ and find that a Septic System Suitability Determination (SSD) must be obtained from the RI Dept. of Environmental Management.

☒ and find that a Septic System Suitability Determination (SSD) need not be obtained from the RI Dept. of Environmental Management.

\_\_\_\_\_ and find that said plans conform with all elements of the zoning ordinance, and that if said plans require zoning board approval, that the applicant has secured such approval and that the requisite appeal period has passed with no appeal filed or appeal is final. The Zoning Board approval shall expire on \_\_\_\_\_.

[Signature]  
Building Official's Signature

4/2/24  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_ and find that said plans conform with all elements of the zoning ordinance, and that if said plans require zoning board approval, that the applicant has secured such approval and that the requisite appeal period has passed with no appeal filed or appeal is final.

N/A  
Zoning Officer's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# **Napatree Point Conservation Area Split Rail Fencing Reinstallation and Leveling**

## **Describe accurately the maintenance work proposed. (Cont.)**

The fence will be reinstalled as close to the original installation path as possible. The installation is many feet above MHHW to protect it from wave action during moderate storms. The fencing will be installed by hand using post-hole diggers and shovels.

An additional 940 feet of split rail fence, that is currently installed, will be leveled to make sure that vertical supports are 3 feet in height above ground with the bottom split rail 1 foot off the ground.

We use split rail fencing as it does not impede the natural movement of sand.

Please see the attached letter for project lead information and approval.

## **Scope of Project/Site Plans**

We seek to reinstall 240 feet and level 940 feet of split rail western red cedar fencing in the Napatree Point Conservation Area in Westerly, RI. The fencing will be used to keep visitors out of a fragile habitat where plant restoration has occurred.

The fencing will be located on beach sand. The reinstalled fencing will connect to an existing section of the western red cedar split rail fence. Specifications for the reinstalled and leveled fencing are:

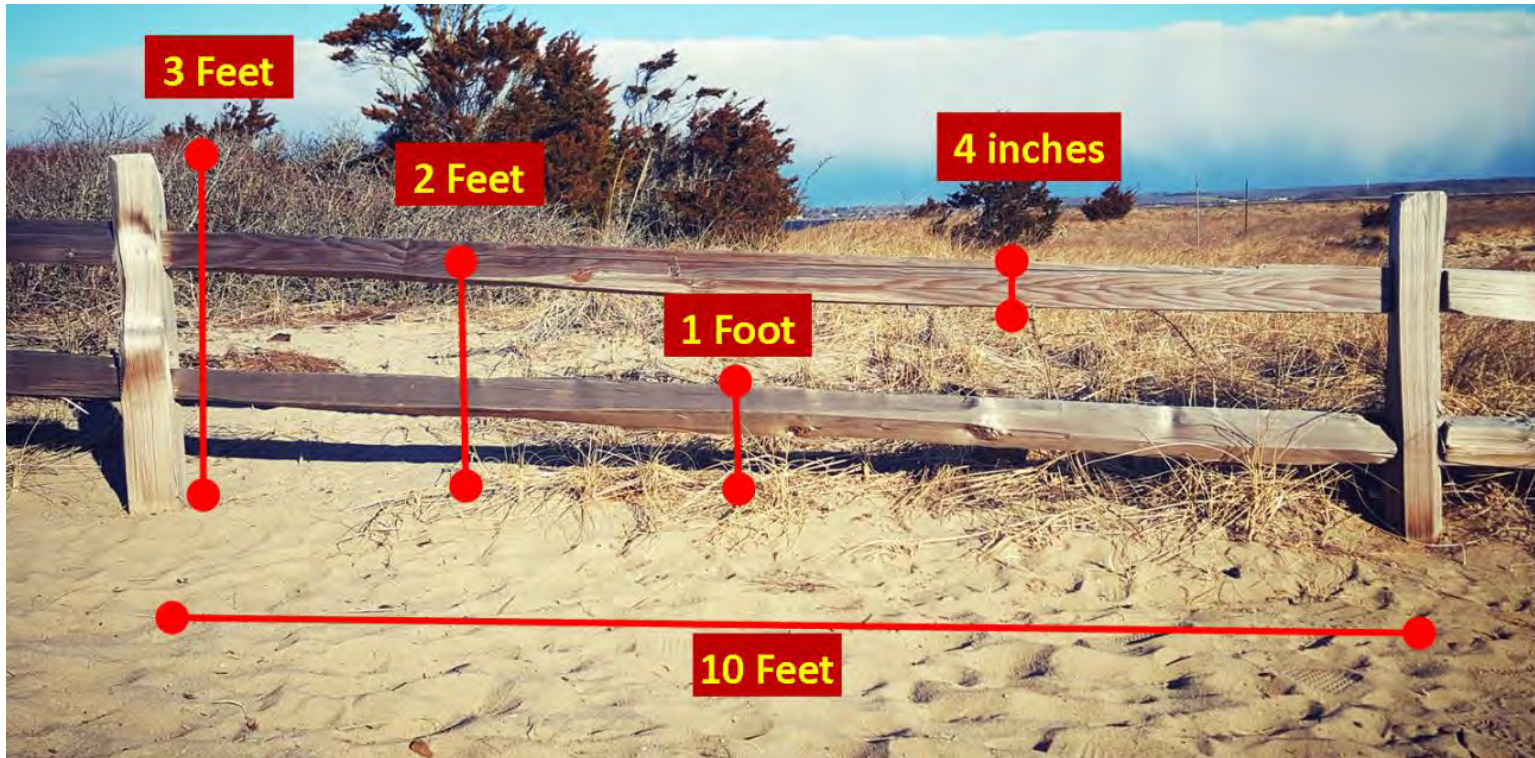
1. Fence sections will be in 10-foot lengths.
2. Vertical supports will be 3 feet high.
3. The top rail will be 2 feet high.
4. The lower rail will be 1 foot high.
5. Rough-hewn cedar rails should be approximately 4 inches in diameter.
6. Fence materials will be resistant to rot and insect infestation.
7. Chemical treatment of fence materials will not be done.

The Napatree Point Conservation Area will provide UTV transportation of materials to the installation site. There is no other motor vehicle access allowed in the Conservation Area.

Installation of the vertical uprights shall be done to ensure the fence system can withstand typical coastal winds and adverse weather conditions.







Split Rail Fence Installation Specifications



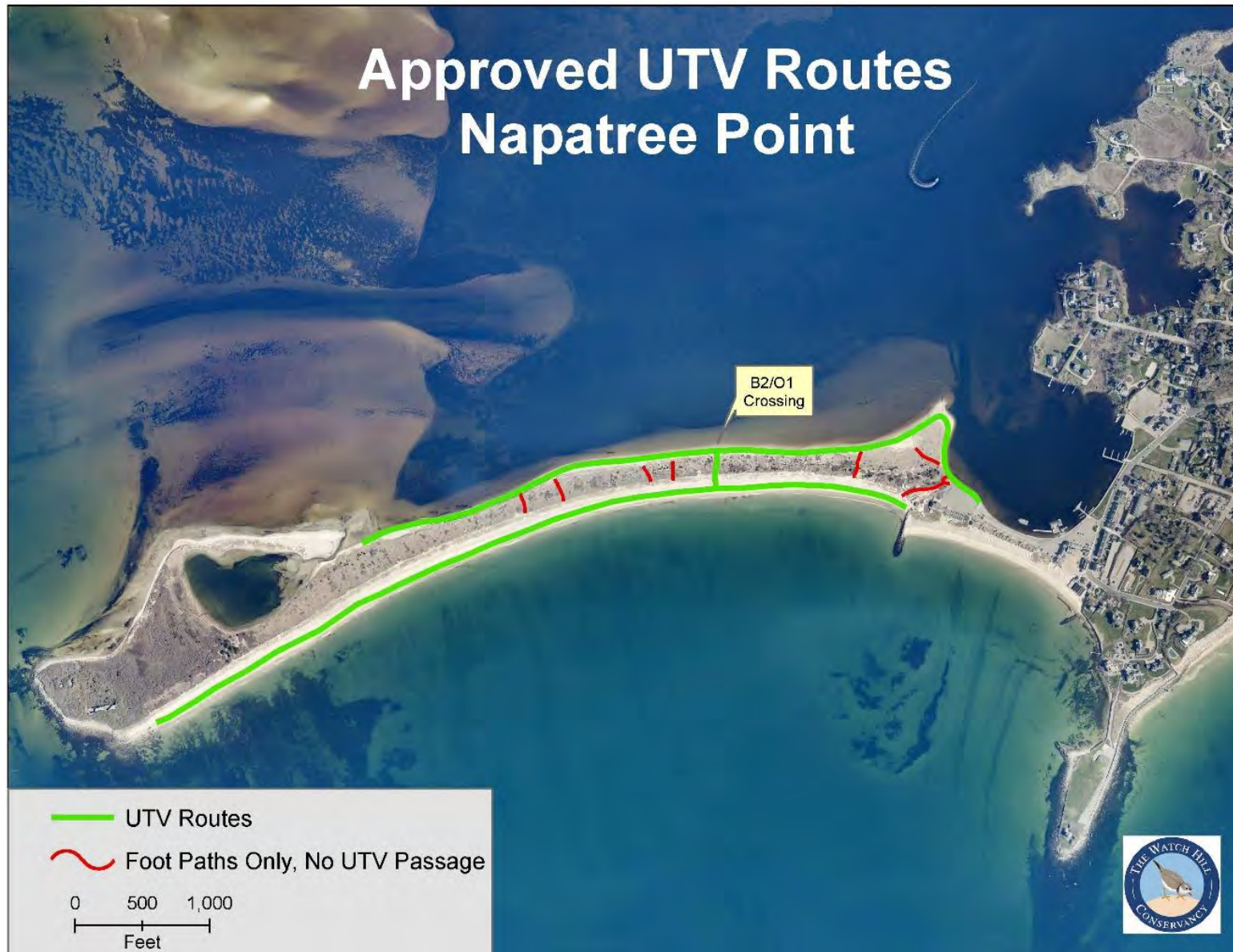




Project area and reinstallation/leveling locations.







UTV access point and approved routes



## Photographs of Existing Activity



Location of fence reinstatement area







Maritime Herbaceous Dune habitat around the section of the fence to be reinstalled and leveled.





Section of the fences to be leveled due to sand buildup from storms.





## Photograph of Coastal Feature and Project Area



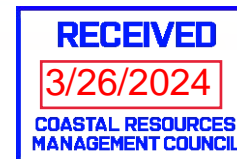
Napatree Point Conservation Area – Coastal Barrier Spit





## Location Map

# Napatree Point Conservation Area



## Previous CRMC Permits

Blank Page



# State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

## COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### MAINTENANCE ASSENT

CRMC Assent No.: M2018-03-106

Date: April 5, 2018

This certifies that Watch Hill Fire District

has permission to replace welcome and rule signs at Napatree Point Conservation Area

situated at 24 Fort Road

Plat No. 185

Lot No. 31-2

Said maintenance operations to be done in accordance with an application on file in the Offices of the Coastal Resources Management Council and subject further to all the provisions of the building ordinances of the :  
Westerly

and to all the applicable State, Local and Federal provisions. This assent shall expire three (3) years from the date of this assent.

*Lisa A. Turner*

Official Designee

Coastal Resources Management Council

**THIS CARD MUST BE DISPLAYED IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE ON THE PREMISES.  
FAILURE TO DISPLAY WILL RESULT IN LEGAL ACTION.**







State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**Coastal Resources Management Council**  
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3  
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

(401) 783-3370  
Fax (401) 783-2069

Certificate of Maintenance

May 3, 2019

Watch Hill Fire District  
222 Watch Hill Road  
Westerly, RI 02891

RE: CRMC Assent No. M2019-05-007: Install 800' +/- of split rail fencing to keep visitors from climbing on barrier dunes. Project Location: 24 Fort Road, Westerly; Plat 185, Lot 31-2

Dear Applicant:

The Coastal Resources Management Council has reviewed your project proposal and has determined that it conforms to RICRMP Section 1.3.1(N) and applicable standards. Construction authorized by this approval shall be limited to replacement, reconstruction, or rebuilding to approved, pre-existing conditions and dimensions of the above noted structure. This project must be completed within three (3) years of the date of this approval. If this project involves excess construction materials or debris, these materials shall be removed from the site and disposed of at a suitable legal upland location. No equipment access or storage of equipment, construction material or debris shall occur on coastal features. If the project involves earthwork, appropriate erosion controls shall be utilized. All applicable conditions of original CRMC Assents that pertain to this property shall be upheld unless otherwise modified by the CRMC. All applicable policies, prohibitions, and standards of the RICRMP shall be upheld.

A copy of this maintenance authorization to perform maintenance work shall be kept on site and available for inspection. The maintenance (blue) card must be posted on site during the duration of the project.

Sincerely,

*William J Mosunic*

William Mosunic, Administrative Officer  
Coastal Resources Management Council

/bms



## **CAUTION:**

Permits issued by the CRMC confer no property rights, and are valid only with the conditions and stipulations under which they are granted. Permits imply no guarantee of renewal, and may be subject to denial, revocation, or modification.

Applicant agrees that as a condition to the granting of this assent, members of the Coastal Resources Management Council or its staff shall have access to applicant's property to make on-site inspections to insure compliance with the assent.

**The limits of authorized work shall be only for that which was approved by the CRMC. Any activities or alterations in which deviate from this assent or what was detailed on the CRMC approved plans will require a separate application and review. Additionally, if the information provided to the CRMC for this review is inaccurate or did not reveal all necessary information or data, then this permit may be found to be null and void. Plans for any future alteration of the shoreline or construction or alteration within the 200' zone of CRMC jurisdiction or in coastal waters must be submitted for review to the CRMC prior to commencing such activity.**

**Permits, licenses or easements issued by the Council are valid only with the conditions and stipulation under which they are granted and imply no guarantee of renewal. The initial application or an application for renewal may be subject to denial or modification. If an application is granted, said permit, license and easement may be subject to revocation and/or modification for failure to comply with the conditions and stipulations under which the same was issued or for other good cause.**

**ATTENTION: ALL STRUCTURES AND FILLED AREAS IN THE TIDAL, COASTAL, OR NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO:**

1. The Superior Property Rights of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in the Submerged and Submersible Lands of the Coastal, Tidal, and Navigable Waters;
2. The Superior Navigation Servitude of the United States;
3. The Police Powers of the State of Rhode Island and the United States to regulate Structures in the Tidal, Coastal, or Navigable Waters.

**THE SUBMERGED AND SUBMERSIBLE LANDS OF THE TIDAL, COASTAL, AND NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE STATE ARE OWNED BY THE STATE AND HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PUBLIC. CONVEYANCE OF THESE LANDS IS ILLEGAL; TITLES PURPORTING TO TRANSFER SUCH LANDS ARE VOID. ASSENTS THAT INVOLVE THE FILLING OR USE OF THE STATES SUBMERGED LANDS ARE GRANTED WITH THE PROVISIO THAT IT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPOSITION OF A USAGE FEE TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.**





State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL



MAINTENANCE ASSENT

CRMC Assent No.: M2019-05-007

Date: May 3, 2019

This certifies that Watch Hill Fire District  
has permission to Install 800' +/- of split rail fencing to keep visitors from climbing on barrier dunes.

situated at 24 Fort Road  
Plat No. 185

Lot No. 31-2

Said maintenance operations to be done in accordance with an application on file in the Offices of the Coastal Resources Management Council and subject further to all the provisions of the building ordinances of the :

City/Town of

Westerly



## Copy of Previous Approved Plans and Specifications

Blank Page



The Watch Hill Conservancy  
Napatree Point Conservation Area  
RI Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Fund  
Proposal Modification

*Janice M. Sassi*  
*18 April 2019*

Upon careful field examination of the placement of the split rail fencing to protect our dune restoration site, we find it necessary to make a small adjustment in the track we wish to follow. Originally, we intended to install the fencing in the northern, lee side of the foredune crest. Our intention was to keep the fence well away from any wave exposure during storms. Upon careful examination, we found the spine of the dune crest to be extremely narrow. The steeply-sloped northern edge did not provide enough flat surface to get good purchase on placing the vertical fence posts.

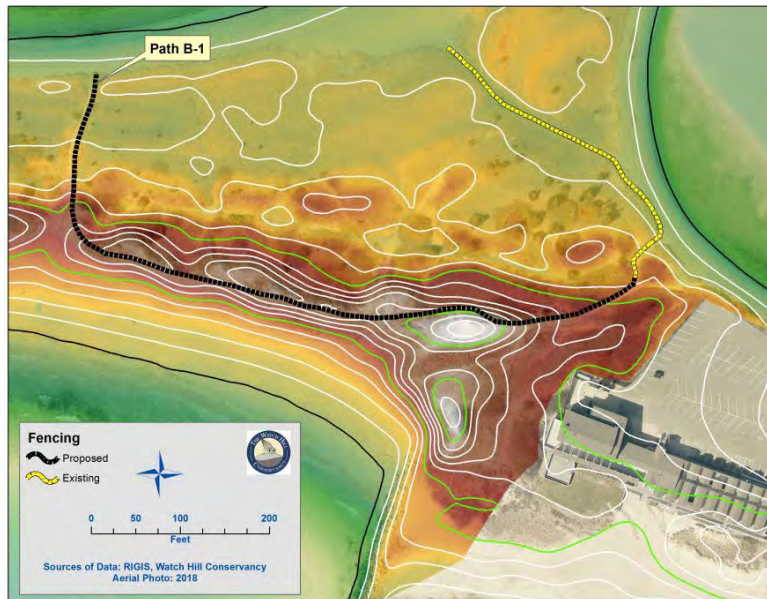
We developed a new route on the windward (southern) side of the foredune crest. Our new path is many feet above the MHHW and shows no sign of exposure to wave action. The surface is relative flat at the base of the dune and we will be able to nicely secure the vertical supports of the fencing. Also, it will be more conspicuous to visitors on the beach and send a signal that climbing the dune is not allowed. Dr. Bryan Oakley, a coastal geologist from Eastern Connecticut State University and Napatree Science Advisor has inspected the site and felt the fence path would be safe from wave action from moderate storms and nuisance tides.

Maps and photographs of the proposed new location follow.



*Proposed route of split rail fence on Napatree with aerial photo as reference*





*Proposed route of split rail fence on Napatree with lidar elevation and 2' contours as reference*



*Fence route (black line) on a photograph of the dune*



## Representative/Signatory Letter

Blank Page



# Watch Hill Fire District

Chartered 1901

---

State of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council  
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3  
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

March 15, 2024

Re: Maintenance Certification Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The Watch Hill Fire District is applying for a Maintenance Assent with respect to the reinstallation and releveled of split rail fencing removed or damaged by storms in December 2023 and January 2024. We hereby request that the project be overseen by Daniel Cole, the Napatree Point Conservation Area Manager for The Watch Hill Conservancy. Mr. Cole is hereby authorized to sign the application on our behalf. His contact information appears below, and can also be found on the first page of the application:

Daniel Cole  
Napatree Point Conservation Area Manager  
[daniel@thewatchhillconservancy.org](mailto:daniel@thewatchhillconservancy.org) 401-  
388-0799

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara Knowlton  
Deputy Moderator-Watch Hill Fire District

222 Watch Hill Road, Watch Hill, RI 02891  
401-348-6540  
[info@watchhillfiredistrict.org](mailto:info@watchhillfiredistrict.org)

