

# Boat ramp at Nubble Light fixed by FEMA

\$100K in repairs paid for by FEMA

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Maritime Construction and Engineering LLC, of Cape Neddick, this month completed the repair of the Nubble Light boat ramp.

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YORK — Maritime Construction and Engineering recently completed the renovation of the Nubble Light boat ramp at zero cost to taxpayers.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency paid the \$100,000 cost to repair the ramp damaged by the Patriots Day storm of 2007.

Insurance funds also picked up some of the financial burden, said Parks and Recreation Director Mike Sullivan.

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the island and is responsible for providing access to the Coast Guard. Even though Nubble Light has been automated for years, the Coast Guard still needs to get to the lighthouse, Sullivan said.

"Both Chief Doug Bracy and I dogged that for over a year to get FEMA funding," Sullivan said. "It's something that would have had to been done down the road."

Town employees maintain the island, paint the structures and do repairs such as replacing the roof of the house.

"The primary reason for replacing (the ramp) is for town employees and the Coast Guard," Sullivan said.

Parks and Recreation officials have also considered renting out the house on the island to bring in revenue.

There are no plans to rent it out in the immediate future, Sullivan said, but having the boat ramp repaired would be a requirement for any future consideration.

Maritime Construction and Engineering LLC of Cape Neddick did the job for a little under \$100,000, and began worked in less-than-ideal weather conditions this winter.

"Maritime Construction did an exemplary job," Sullivan said. "January is a horrific month for working on the ocean."

Maritime replaced the entire 140-foot ramp and did repairs under the boathouse located at the end of the ramp, said Shawn Toohey, owner of the company. The boathouse is used for materials storage.

The company brought everything out by boat and by barge.

"It's a little treacherous landing on the island," he said. "After a big storm, the swells linger. The way they come around both sides of the island ... they meet right there where the boat ramp is. We were out there in the middle of November (to the) beginning of February. It would have been a good project for the middle of the summer."

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