

Old Saybrook Coastal Resilience and Adaptation Study

IMPLEMENTATION

Recommended implementation steps include the following:

| RECOMMENDATION | STRATEGY | ACTION TYPE | RESPONSIBILITY | PRIORITY |
|---|----------|-------------|--|----------|
| Policies, Plans and Programs | | | | |
| Action 1: Designate the Board of Selectmen (BOS) as the Town Resiliency Program Lead. Task the BOS with annually requesting Town Departments/Staff to report on policies, plans and projects to ensure integration of coastal resiliency and climate change for the future. | A | N-S | First Selectman State Representatives | H |
| Action 2: Establish the BOS as the Flood and Erosion Control Board (FECB) for the Town of Old Saybrook per Section 25-85 Establishment of flood or erosion control system. The FECB may be the BOS in municipalities with a population not exceeding 50,000. FECB projects will require political support, funding and engineering. The BOS could create ad-hoc committees or use the Town Engineer to investigate these projects as they arise on a case by case basis similar to how the Town has made repairs to sea walls and other public improvement projects. | A | N-S | Board of Selectmen (BOS) | H |
| Action 3: FEMA Community Rating System (CRS). The Town has identified the programs, higher standards and resilience activities for inclusion as a part of a future CRS application for consideration by FEMA. The Town does not currently participate in the CRS program because of limited resources and support, and the costs required to maintain such a program. If in the future resources become available to support a CRS program, it is recommended the Town apply for a Level 9 status with FEMA. | A | N-S | BOS/FECB | H |
| Action 4: Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA). Many repetitive loss (RL) structures have been demolished and rebuilt or elevated to higher standards than minimum FEMA requirements. Based on this extensive and successful effort by the Town and residents, it is recommended to perform a formal RLAA to identify the impact to Town's NFIP insurance rate due to repetitive loss. The results from the RLAA will help further support Town and property owner resilience and mitigation activities, including acquiring, relocating and/or flood mitigation of repetitive loss properties. | A | N-S | LUD BOS/FECB PW | H |
| Action 5: Integrate findings of Old Saybrook Coastal Resilience and Adaptation Plan into the 2019 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. | A | N-S | Planning Commission (PC) BOS/FECB | H |

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| Policies, Plans and Programs | | | | |
| Action 6: Integrate findings and resilience strategies presented in the Old Saybrook Coastal Resilience Study into the Plan of Conservation and Development Update. | A | N-S | PC LUD Economic Development (ED) | H |
| Action 7: NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM. Until FEMA changes their mapping guidelines to address sea level rise, provide residents with Town-specific flood hazard maps reflecting sea level rise projections for 2050 and 2100, in line with the State of Connecticut. The analyses performed in this study and presented in Attachment 2 provide a start in developing these planning maps. | A | N-S | Land Use Department (LUD) | H |
| Action 8: NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM. Implement a survey and monitoring program to readily document pre- and post-storm conditions to make efficient and optimize opportunities for federal and State Public Assistance. | A | N-S | EM PW | H |
| Action 9: INGRESS AND EGRESS: Roads. Develop a roadway improvement plan to identify specific projects, project costs and funding mechanisms. It is recommended that the plan include a strategy of improving only the portions of key roads that are subject to chronic and high probability floods in the near-term about 4 to 10 miles of road, excluding the causeway). Hold formal meetings with ConnDOT regarding improvement and resilience of State roads and bridges located within the Town limits. | A | N-S, S | Public Works (PW) Planning Commission (PC) BOS | H |
| Action 10: PUBLIC SAFETY: Emergency Response. Develop alternative emergency response capabilities such as amphibious emergency vehicles for use during storms when roads are flooded. See example: https://www.dvidshub.net/news/252966/west-virginiastwift-water-rescue-team-attains-fema-level-2-status-prepares-future-disasters | A | N-S | Fire Department (FD) Police Department (PD) Emergency Management (EM) | H |
| Action 11: PUBLIC SAFETY: Evacuation Planning. Establish and communicate evacuation guidance and protocols. Attachment 4 provides roadway flood details for evacuation planning and predicted shelter requirements. | A | N-S | FD/PD/EM | H |

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| Policies, Plans and Programs | | | | |
| Action 12: PUBLIC SAFETY: Flood Protection. Provide flood protection for at-risk Essential and Lifeline Facilities. Attachment 4 and Attachment 7 provide flood risk details and recommendations for the Essential and Lifeline Facilities. | A | N-S, S | PC BOS/FECB | H |
| Action 13: PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. Protect homes, on an individual property basis, using methods available under the existing flood regulations and ordinances (such as elevating houses). | A | N-S, S | Building Department (BD) Planning Commission (PC) | H |
| Action 14: PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. Provide guidance to homeowners on floor elevations considering sea level rise. | A | N-S | LUD | H |
| Action 15: SHORELINE PROTECTION. Employ Living Shoreline solutions for select areas including low wave energy environments such as tidal marsh borders and river mouths. | A | N-S | LUD | M |
| Action 16: SHORELINE PROTECTION. Program to maintain Existing Groins | A | S | Beach Communities PW | H |
| Action 17: SHORELINE PROTECTION. Develop a Town-wide and regional beach nourishment plan. | A | NNB | Beach Communities; Town; Regional Committee to be formed | H |
| Action 18: LAND USE. Create a re-development plan for Saybrook Point that requires measures to achieve compliance with flood regulations as well as addresses sea level rise. | A | N-S | BOS/PC Coastal Resilience Management Team (CRMT) | H |
| Action 19: LAND USE. Focus on promoting new development in non-vulnerable areas of Town. | A | N-S | BOS/PC/CRMT | H |
| Action 20: Coordinate with USACE relative to proposed, future dredge projects and re-use of dredge materials for Town beach nourishment, salt marsh maintenance and restoration projects. | A | NNB | BOS/PC/CRMT | H |
| Action 21: STORMWATER. Analyze the existing stormwater infrastructure under precipitation only and combined coastal flood-precipitation events. This information is necessary to comprehensively characterize the Town's flood risk and to identify the need for additional catch basins, pump stations, additional tide gates, and green infrastructure. | A | N-S | BOS/PC/CRMT | H |

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| Policies, Plans and Programs | | | | |
| Action 22: LAND USE. Initiate an on-going discussion with residents regarding: 1) Long-term retreat from very high vulnerability areas, including the beaches; 2) Land acquisition for: a) future relocation; b) expansion of tidal marsh; c) conservation land, including beachfront property; 3) Process for developing perimeter flood protection berms, including easements or land acquisitions, and responsibility for maintenance and operation during flooding; 4) the possibility of using perimeter flood protection berms as public greenways. Attachment 7 presents a detailed discussion on land acquisition. | A | N-S | BOS/PC Coastal Resilience Management Team (CRMT) | H |
| Regulations and Permits | | | | |
| Action 23: Every 10-years, adopt future coastal flood risk overlay maps and sea level rise projections. | A | N-S | BOS CRMT | H |
| Action 24: PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. Evaluate the use of community-wide standards for elevating buildings to: 1) provide community aesthetic consistency; and 2) reduce the challenges of elevating roads (i.e., multiple, differing entry elevations.) Review and modify the Town's Floodplain Management Ordinance to incorporate coastal resilience and adaptation, including adoption of a Town Design Flood Elevation (DFE). | A | N-S | LUD Building Department (BD) | H |
| Action 25: Develop a permit, maintenance and operations plan for stormwater structures including tide gates and culverts for pre- and post-flood recovery operations, to promote post-flood drainage. Maintenance activities are covered under the Town's MS4 General Stormwater Permit. | A | N-S | PW | M |
| Action 26: SHORELINE PROTECTION. Evaluate the technical feasibility of constructing dunes and berms. | A | NNB | PW | H |
| Action 27: HISTORIC PROPERTIES. The Town should provide flood mitigation guidance to property owners that is consistent with Historic District Regulations. Attachment 7 recommends a flood mitigation approach for historic properties. | A | N-S, | Historic District Commission (HDC) | H |
| Action 28: Develop a permit, maintenance and operations plan for stormwater structures including tide gates and culverts for pre- and post-flood recovery operations, to promote post-flood drainage. Maintenance activities are covered under the Town's MS4 General Stormwater Permit | A | N-S | PW | M |

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| Project Funding | | | | |
| Action 29: Identify and Prioritize Physical Improvement Projects | P | S, NNB | Board of Selectmen; Board of Finance | H |
| Action 30: Grant Application Plan. Prepare detailed application plan for grant opportunities, including FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant, USACE, NOAA, HUD, CIRCA, DOT, DECD and EPA programs. Initiate grant applications. | A | N-S | TBD | H |
| Action 31: FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Post-Disaster Recovery Preparation Grants. Initiate grant application process for the three FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA). | A | N-S | LUD PC BOS | M |
| Action 32: Request the USACE to perform a feasibility study under Section 103 Hurricane and Storm Damage Protection, to support future USACE grants | A | NNB | LUD PC Beach Communities | M |
| Action 33: Evaluate Coastal Flood and Climate Change Effects on Municipal Bond Rating | A | N-S | BOS Finance Director | L-M |

Legend

- STRATEGY: Protection = P, Accommodate = A, Retreat = R
- ACTION TYPE: Structural = S, Non-Structural = N-S, Natural and Nature-Based = NNB
- RESPONSIBILITY: Board of Selectmen = BOS, Coastal Resilience Management Team (CRMT), Planning Commission (PC), Historic District Commission (HDT), Land Use Department = LUD, Public Works = PW, Flood and Erosion Control Board, and Economic Development (ED), Building Department (BD)
- PRIORITY: High=H, Moderate=M, Low=L

