



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
**Planning Commission**

*Kenneth W. A. Soudan, Chairman  
Kathleen A. Sugland, Vice Chairman  
Trevor D. Ladd, Secretary*

302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

**oldsaybrookct.gov**

*Robert D. Missel  
Paula S. Kay  
Douglas S. McCracken, Alternate  
Thomas R. Cox, Alternate  
Vacancy, Alternate*

REGULAR MEETING  
**Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 6:30 P.M.**  
Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman began the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

K. Soudan, T. Ladd, P. Kay, D. McCracken, T. Cox

**III. PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

Town Planner Christine Nelson welcomed the group and gave a short summary as to why the Town was taking steps to create a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. She then introduced Sam Bell, Senior Hazard Mitigation Specialist with GZA GeoEnvironmental. Mr. Bell greeted the group and shared his background in Climate Change and Hazard Planning, and spoke about his role as a consultant in climate change and natural hazard events, and how he works to mitigate the likelihood of surviving by characterizing hazards, with the goal being to create an actionable plan the Town can use.

Mr. Bell described the purpose of a plan is to improve public safety and reduce and/or eliminate future property damage. FEMA requires a plan for hazard mitigation following major disasters for advanced assistance and funding. Planning goals are to document success made per 2014 Plan Update and to update the Town's inventory of assets. Steps towards this plan include characterizing natural hazards and climate change effect, assessing current and future hazard vulnerability, revising and developing strategies, and lastly, adopting a plan. An important part of the planning process is to develop a strong public outreach program. There were GIS map illustrations of the Town setting, depicting the different types of land uses and areas of particular vulnerability, and a community profile, which was flagged for social vulnerability due to the population age, for protecting people and property. The coastal wetlands area is key to evaluating potential sea level rise. Public safety assets must be addressed to ensure essential facilities are operational for the Town to recover as soon as possible after an event. Examples of coastal flooding probabilities included impacted essential facilities, evacuation routes, shelters, and lifeline systems, as well as property damage. In a risk assessment, there may be economic losses and bond ratings and future ratings affected.

The 2019 Plan Update will have 19 hazards in 4 categories: 1. Severe Weather Hazards, 2. Climate Related Hazards 3. Geological Hazards, and 4. Secondary Hazards.

Following the presentation there was opportunity for a question and answer session.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Soudan thanked the audience for coming and said that the issue is not going away, that it is a reality that the Commission needs to get in front of. He encouraged dialogue and sharing the evening's information with friends and neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Paccione  
Recording Clerk