



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
Planning Commission**

302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

[oldsaybrookct.gov](http://oldsaybrookct.gov)

*Janis L. Esty, Chairman  
Michael K. Urban, Vice Chairman  
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*Daniel J. Walden  
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**Alternate Members**  
*Kathleen A. Sugland  
Douglas S. McCracken  
Vacancy*

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, June 20, 2017 at 3:00 P.M.**  
Vicki G. Duffy Pavilion at Saybrook Point Park  
155 College Street, Old Saybrook

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Town Planner Christine Nelson opened the meeting at 3:10pm and introduced the meeting presenters.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present from the Town of Old Saybrook: Christine Nelson, Town Planner; Chris Costa, Zoning Enforcement Officer; Don Lucas, Building Inspector; Stephen Mongillo, WPCA Program Manager; Meryl Moskowitz, Recording Clerk

Present from the Planning Commission: Janis Esty, Chairman; Michael Urban, Vice Chairman; Robert Missel

Workshop presenters: Sam Bell, Senior Hazard Mitigation Specialist, GZA; Nels Nelson, and Alex Felson, Stantec

Approximately 25 people were present in the audience.

**III. WORKSHOP**

**Coastal Resilience Study & Infrastructure Evaluation**

Sam Bell reviewed risks associated with Sea Level Rise, discussed the term "vulnerability" and the risks to essential facilities, lifelines and neighborhoods. He explained the importance of topography and briefly reviewed Old Saybrook's coastal setting, which consists of uplands areas bordered by low lying areas, with 10 miles of coastline. S. Bell referred to the FEMA flood map and reviewed hydrodynamic modeling and flood projections. The flooding of roadways is of particular concern. Projections were largely based on Army Corps of Engineering intermediate range data.

A. Felson stated the importance of planning and strategizing for dealing with these risks. He noted the topography as having natural north-south ridgelines. He defined the area of Main and Maple Streets as being a critical corridor connecting upland areas to the shoreline communities, while also functioning as an egress route and link to critical facilities, utilities and infrastructure. He explained the need for feedback from participants regarding

identification of assets, views on adaptation and challenges. A. Felson encouraged participants to think about how to invest and maintain that coastal connection, and ways for the town to be proactive.

Participants divided into four groups for smaller group discussions. They reviewed maps and identified key assets, shared insights, and discussed adaptation challenges. Table leaders reported the following comments and hypotheticals:

- a raised berm is an interesting concept, can provide safe passage
- identified need to protect critical infrastructure, whether that is via a raised road or berm
- identified goal of preserving the marshes
- consideration given to allow the water in
- consideration to allow homeowners to decide what to do with their property
- voluntary program to allow buyout of homes
- need for a raised egress, look at bridge as a possibility
- identified importance of tidal wetlands on either side of College St; possible berm on either side where possible; voluntary relocation.
- create a north-south berm that is a multi-use structure, allows for recreation and also for septic
- construct an elevated bridge on existing roadway
- elevate homes and septic systems

Comments and worksheets were collected by the meeting facilitators which will be used to inform further analysis. The next public workshop will be held August 1, 2017 at Vicki Duffy Pavilion, 155 College Street, Old Saybrook.

## V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Meryl Moskowitz  
Recording Clerk