



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Planning Commission**

302 Main Street
Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

oldsaybrookct.gov

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Vacancy*

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

Vicki G. Duffy Pavilion at Saybrook Point Park
155 College Street, Old Saybrook

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 3:10pm with introductions: Nels Nelson, of Stantec; Alex Felson of Yale University's Urban Ecology and Design Lab, and Sam Bell, Senior Hazard Mitigation Specialist, with GZA.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Present from the Planning Commission: Chairman Janis Esty, Vice Chairman Michael Urban, Douglas McCracken and Kathy Sugland

Approximately twenty one people were present in the audience.

III. WORKSHOP

Coastal Resilience Study & Infrastructure Evaluation

Nels Nelson recapped the conversations from the previous Coastal Resilience Study & Infrastructure Evaluation workshop held June 20, 2017, at which different possible solutions were discussed to address coastal resilience and the occurrence of more frequent flooding. One of the biggest risks to the area is the impact to roadways and transportation, as well as egress to highways and main public shelter.

Alex Felson reviewed some of the shared values identified at the previous workshop, such as the desire for safe egress routes, preservation of marshes, a voluntary buyout, and relocation.

The consultants outlined the goals for the resilience corridor as:

1. emergency response service during storm events
2. accommodate frequent flooding
3. support essential and lifeline facilities
4. work to preserve homes and effectively transition private property
5. function as a public amenity/multi functional
6. provide economic value/land development
7. preserving the character of Old Saybrook

Responding to questions from the audience, the presenters addressed the importance of maintaining a connection with the commercial section of town and encouraged attendees to think about resiliency also in terms of an economic corridor. They reiterated that maintaining the historic character is a key tenet of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

The presenters opened a discussion of “Adaptation” using examples of berming around Maple Street, a bridge at College Street, and raising roadways.

Audience members next participated in an electronic poll. Questions pertained to opinions about berms, financing, raised roads, levels of risk, and other topics, in an effort to gauge attendees opinions.

Attendees then broke into smaller groups for a map exercise looking at adaptation strategies. They were asked to discuss specific adaptation strategies that they agreed with and to mark and label those places on the map.

Comments and worksheets were collected by the meeting facilitators which will be used to inform further analysis.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 5:10pm.

The next public workshop will be held August 19, 2017 at the Chalker Beach Association, 9am – 1pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Meryl Moskowitz
Recording Clerk