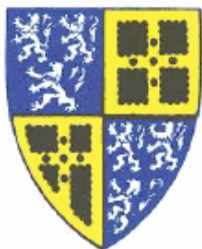


# Planning Commission Minutes 11/15/2017



## TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK Planning Commission

*Janis L. Esty, Chairman  
Michael K. Urban, Vice Chairman  
Kenneth W. A. Soudan, Secretary*

302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

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

*Daniel J. Walden  
Robert D. Missel  
**Alternate Members**  
Kathleen A. Sugland  
Douglas S. McCracken  
Vacancy*

### MINUTES

#### REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.  
Duffy Pavilion at Saybrook Pt. Park  
155 College Street Ext., Old Saybrook

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 6:05pm.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Janis Esty, Michael Urban, Kathleen Sugland

Members absent: Kenneth Soudan, Daniel Walden, Douglas McCracken

Staff: Christine Nelson, Town Planner; Chris Costa, Zoning Enforcement Officer,  
Gillian Carroll, Environmental Planner, Meryl Moskowitz, Recording Clerk

#### III. PRESENTATION

##### Coastal Resilience Study & Infrastructure Evaluation

First Selectman Carl Fortuna welcomed the public and thanked the consultants for their work. Town Planner Christine Nelson introduced consultants Dan Stapleton and Sam Bell of the firm GZA.

D. Stapleton explained that the firm has undertaken an 18-month study of Old Saybrook and would soon be releasing its final report on Coastal Resilience. The study looks at Old Saybrook's physical assets, the effects of changing conditions, and at strategies for addressing these effects.

S. Bell explained that the study builds upon the previous Sea Level Rise and Climate Adaptation Committee (SLRCAC) findings and its detailed assessments of risks. The consultants reviewed the term vulnerability and explained that vulnerability assessment is an ongoing process extending 10 to 50 years and beyond.

D. Stapleton reviewed Old Saybrook's coastal setting, geology and topography to explain the features in place that form coastal flooding in our communities. They also look at numerical modeling and topographic data, tide gauge data, and FEMA data to determine the probability of coastal flooding occurrences.

D. Stapleton reviewed NOAA sea level rise projections for the state and for Old

Saybrook, details of which will be in the final report. He emphasized that sea level rise is a huge factor for flood risk.

D. Stapleton explained that of their review of Town assets, transportation is one of the most important assets because of the impact of flooding to roadways and bridges and its effect on emergency response capabilities. He noted that essential structures and lifeline facilities are in good shape with low risk of flooding.

S Bell outlined several areas as options for addressing coastal flooding (more detail may be found in the final report). He emphasized creation of a coastal resilience team, one which stays together over a long period of time, and that prioritizes projects. The study also recommends incorporation of the results of the Coastal Resilience Study into updates to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

## V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Meryl Moskowitz  
Recording Clerk