

Coastal Resiliency Task Force

Purpose:

The Coastal Resiliency Task Force will work with town staff to prepare a Coastal Resiliency Plan in conjunction with the neighboring communities of Westbrook, Old Saybrook, and Fenwick. The Plan will assess the impacts of climate change, including storm surge, flooding, extreme weather events, and sea level rise, and will identify community needs across connected systems within the built and natural environment. Focus areas include social and cultural systems, historic assets, the local economy, infrastructure, facilities and the needs of the natural environment. The Plan will identify and prioritize projects which address risks and hazards to Town infrastructure and coastal properties (public and private) that will increase community resilience.

Charges and Responsibilities:

- Participate in the selection of a professional consultant for the Coastal Resiliency Plan.
- Select a member of the Coast Resiliency Task Force to represent Clinton in joint work meetings with partner communities and the consultant. The representative will act as a liaison between the Task Force and the regional working group to communicate priorities and recommendations throughout the development of the Plan.
- Review and summarize the key actions, studies and reports that the Town has taken or prepared in recent years to improve the Town's coastal resilience, in order to identify common findings, goals, opportunities for coordination, and recommendations.
- Recommend priorities for coastal resiliency projects, including review of costs, funding sources/grant opportunities, professional service requirements, next steps, action steps, additional resource needs – including the development of a team of advisors and partnership opportunities.
- Review the degree to which existing policies and regulations address or enable climate change mitigation/adaptation strategies and coastal resiliency accommodations; identify any “disconnects” between regulations and practice and recommend ways to achieve alignment; review proposed regulations for climate change mitigation/adaptation and coastal resiliency purposes.
- Assist with obtaining community feedback from all areas of the community, including seasonal residents and groups who may not regularly engage in conversation with the Town. Conduct public education and outreach to residents, homeowners, businesses, and other stakeholders about the Town's vulnerabilities to climate change and sea level rise.
- Review information on sea level rise projections with regard to impacts on the community.

- Review the activities of other coastal communities as related to coastal resiliency planning and projects.
- Provide regular updates to the Town Council and other Town Boards and Commissions.
- Maintain communication with similar committees in our neighboring municipalities, and with state, regional and federal agencies to coordinate planning and projects where practical, including the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) and the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), to assist in evaluating the projected impacts of climate change and sea level rise.
- Develop a Resiliency Plan for consideration and adoption.
- Upon adoption of the initial Resiliency Plan, propose and prioritize capital projects for inclusion in the Town's 5-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- Provide input into the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, and other planning documents as appropriate.
- Support public education and outreach to residents, homeowners, businesses, and other stakeholders about the Town's vulnerabilities to climate change and sea level rise.

Membership and Term:

The Task Force membership shall be appointed by the Town Council and be comprised of 7 regular members and 2 alternates.

One representative shall come from the following boards, commissions or committees: Town Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission, Harbor Management Commission, and Sustainability Committee. Additional appointees include a marina owner or others with ties to the coastal economy and a beach association representative.

Non-voting, ex-officio staff shall include: Town Planner, Public Works Director, Emergency Management Director, Building Official, and others as needed.

The Town Council has the authority to appoint additional members and/or alternate members as appropriate to facilitate the work of the Task Force.

Council Approved: February 1, 2023