

Sea Level Rise, Flooding and Adaptation Planning

Recommendations

By

South Bethany Planning Commission

December 9, 2016

Sea Level Rise and Flooding

- This is not issue that impacts us in 50 years.
- They are impacting us now.
- The September 29th high tide exceeded the 50 year SLR projection by 4 inches.
- We do not know all the impacts now.
- The Town needs to ensure our planning accurately reflects the Town's needs. (Are we adequately protecting our Town?)

What do we do now?

Develop a plan to address the current and future SLR and Flooding issues.

Background

- South Bethany started its resilience planning in 2011-12.
- Primary Emphasis: SLR over the next 50 years
- Some future efforts are now part of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan

What Phase 1 Did

- Phase 1 analyzed 2015-2065 impact of SLR.
- Established low and high SLR water levels for the next 50 years.
- Identified most significant town infrastructure that would be affected under high and low scenarios.
- Recommended follow-on Phase 2 study.
- Recommended immediate actions – backflow preventers, allow bulkheads to be raised and delay major street work until Phase 2 is completed.

Phase 1 Did Not Include

- The impact or frequency of storm surge or nuisance flooding for canals and beaches.
- Mitigation recommendations for storm surge and nuisance flooding.
- Mitigation plans, trigger points/timing, costs or priorities which could be related to other town needs and investments.
- Identify near term issues needing attention.
- Identify internal Town decisions for integrating SLR needs with other Town plans and funding.
- A Comprehensive Adaptation Plan to obtain for future grant funds.
- Specific recommendations for all Town needs in the 10 year Comprehensive Plan.

Phase 2 Study Is Needed Now

Phase 2 Study must:

- Provide information to assist with other Town plans/investments (e.g., street maintenance).
- Recommend near-term steps to mitigate the affects of storm surge and other impacts on property owners.

Phase 2 Study Is Needed Now (Continued)

- Be professionally prepared to qualify for grants and other funding.
- Provide information to achieve a longer term, regionally coordinated SLR and flooding strategy.
- Be timely and affordable.

Planning Commission Recommendations

- Implement backwater valve project using previously budgeted 2014, 2015 and 2016 funds and continue until all are installed.

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Planning Commission Recommendations

- Award revised Phase 2 Study “Adaptation Plan” contract asap.
 - If State or other grant funds are not available this year, approve the use of Town funds for the Phase 2 Adaptation Plan (\$35k).

Other Planning Commission Recommendations

- Delay any major street maintenance expenditures pending results of Phase 2 Study.
- Revisit Town codes for bulkheads.

Council Actions Requested now

- Pass resolutions to:
 - Continue the backwater valve project now; and
 - Fund Phase 2 study (if grant funds are not available by early in 2017).