

## December SLR Working Group Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 7, 2019

**Time:** 9:00am -11:00am

**Location:** Watch Hill Fire District

**Attendees:** Dick Sayre, Deborah Lamm, Ed Morrone, Jill Scola, Andrew Barber, Dennis Algieri, Bob Peacock, Darryl Forrester, Randy Abood, Phil Korestski, Georgia Jones, Jocelyn Lahey, Melissa Cote, Janice Sassi, Peter August

**By Phone:** Melissa Merrill, Will Eglin, Joan Beth Brown

**Introductions:** Deborah welcomed the group and summarized WHC efforts in 2018/2019. Deborah thanked Grant for his continued involvement, the WHFD for their partnership, and the WHC for their support in following this initiative. Dennis thanked Deborah for her leadership in bringing the SLR Working Group together.

**Recap of 2019 SLR/Storm Surge Program:** Deborah and Jocelyn discussed 2019 happenings for the WHC which included workshops, the SLR resolution, networking with the community, Lanphear *LIVE!*, and StormTools walk-in-clinics. Pete and Grant discussed the flooding conditions on Fort Road near the Yacht Club, Napatree, and Beach Club entrances. During extreme high tide conditions, water is coming up through the road bed and at the Yacht Club entrance. A tide that is 0.8ft higher than MHHW will breach the Yacht Club ramp. At 2.2-2.4ft higher than MHHW, flooding is severe in the Larkin Square parking lot.. Grant discussed using geotextile sand-filled bags (“burritos”) to increase the elevation at the entrance to Napatree to reduce nuisance flooding/access issues.

**Goals for 2020 SLR/Storm Surge Program:** After some discussion, with mapping scenarios presented by Pete, the group landed on 3’ SLR as a planning target. Bay Street is a geographic area of concern but at a future meeting the group will view a 3’ SLR of all of Watch Hill to discuss priorities. Group also wants to know what the cost would look like to prepare for 2100 SLR predictions. Additionally, need to understand how to minimize and mitigate damage from storm surge.

**Lap Around the Table:** Each member of the group was given a moment to identify their concerns for SLR/Storm Surge. Common themes were: without shopping/dining opportunities tourism numbers will be affected; our efforts need to be proactive rather than reactive; access to Watch Hill; cooperation with Local, State, Federal, or other nonprofit groups will be important; public safety, making sure that the short-term and long-term plans sync for effectiveness; and the need to identify tasks and strengths within our own group.

**Next Steps:** Next meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 9:00am- 11:00am. Will try our best to rotate between Friday and Saturday mornings. If group members have recommended engineering firms, please let Jocelyn or Deborah know.