

## February SLR Working Group Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 7, 2020

**Time:** 3:00pm-5:00pm

**Location:** Watch Hill Fire House

**Attendees:** Deborah Lamm, Andrew Barber, Georgia Jones, Peter Brockmann, Dick Sayre, Bob Peacock, Joan Beth Brown, Ed Morrone, Peter August, Janice Sassi, Jocelyn Lahey, Dick Holliday

**By Phone:** Bill Gridley, Grant Simmons, Dennis Algieri

### Short Term Challenges/Solutions:

History:

- Fire District Park Commission has been working on these problems for the past 5 years.
- Problem becoming acute, need to resolve now.

Areas affected:

- WHYC entrance (WHFD responsible for the road and WHYC responsible for ramp)
  - Tides at 0.8 feet over MHHW result in water overtopping the entrance ramp.
    - Question from the group: How many of these are happening during the season?
  - Solution: raise the ramp above tide heights that cause flooding. Must elevate the roadbed at the entrance to make the ramp angle ADA compliant.
  - Raise or restore the integrity of the seawall at the WHYC ramp “cutout” location.
- Napatree Point entrance
  - Bring in sand contained in geotextile fabric bags to increase the elevation at the entrance.
- Fort Road
  - Seawall extension
  - Add an impermeable layer on top of the road/parking lot
  - Stop the leaks at the sea wall

Questions from the group:

**We will get more details from the Park Commission and provide to the participants**

- What projects or responses, if any, are in the “pipeline”?
- Are these projects funded already?
- Who owns the sea wall at the base of the cabanas where the numbered spots are?
- Who is paying for the work?
- Short term cost/benefit analysis

### Mid-Range Challenges/Solutions:

Planning for 3’ of sea level rise.

- Height of sea wall raised for all of Bay Street
  - Would also need to raise docks
  - Would need to be watertight
  - Could add architectural design elements for pedestrians
- Add elevation to Fort Road parking lot
- Vegetation in parking area or on Bay Side
- Explore “green” solutions such as swales
- Install a second tier sea wall on Bay Street side of the green
- Are there solutions on the bay side or in the water/bay (such as levies) rather than on land?
- Septic system failures will be a problem in the future

**List of Contacts:**

- Fairbanks Engineering
- Conway School
- Richard St. John
- Rob Lambert, WHYC architect
- Charles Brown, GNCB Consulting Engineers (WHYC)
- James Rossman- Stadia Engineering (WHYC)
- Duncan Kopp
- South Kingstown Town Engineer

**Next Steps:**

Next meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 9:00am- 11:00am. Melissa Cote will join us to present on her findings of what other local RI municipalities have done to mitigate effects from SLR/Storm Surge. The group considered adding time for a presentation from the WHFD Parks Commission representatives to address the questions raised today.