

AGENDA
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
COUNCIL WORKSHOP WITH CONSERVATION COMMISSION – 6:30 P.M
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

- Item 1.** Call to Order.
- Item 2.** Those Present.
- Item 3.** Review of The Sea level Vulnerability and Resiliency Department Engagement Report.
- Item 4.** Adjournment.

Town of Scarborough, Maine

To: Scarborough Town Council
From: Peter Slovinsky, Chair, Conservation Commission
CC: Jay Chace, Senior Planner; Tom Hall, Town Manager
Date: May 11, 2016



RE: Sea level Vulnerability and Resiliency Department Engagement Report

Dear Councilors:

Since 2010, Scarborough has been involved in many efforts to identify the vulnerability of Town infrastructure and resources to impacts of coastal storms and potential future sea level rise. Most of these efforts have been completed as part of the Saco Bay Sea Level Adaptation Working Group, or SLAWG, which includes the Town along with neighboring Old Orchard Beach, Saco and Biddeford.

Scarborough has much at-risk. SLAWG studies identified that, should a storm similar to the February Blizzard of 1978 hit again, around 5.3 miles of public and private roads could be inundated. Should sea level rise by 2 feet, up to 4.8 miles of public and private roads could be inundated *during the higher tides of the year.* These potential scenarios would have *significant impacts on emergency access, school bus routes, and daily travel.* Another SLAWG study, presented to the Town in 2011, found that Scarborough has *over 1000 structures located in the mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain.* Finally, other work by SLAWG and the State of Maine found that sea level rise could *significantly change the existing Scarborough marsh,* which is the largest contiguous marsh system in the State of Maine. These impacts included loss of existing marsh, and significant conversion of the species that dominate the marsh surface. Some of these referenced documents are available to view on the [Commission's website](#).

Past efforts should be applauded; the Town must make strides in actual planning for or on-the-ground adaptation to storms and sea level rise in terms of ordinance changes or departmental policies. We feel that now is the time to start taking action.

The Commission proposes to work closely with the Planning Department to undertake an approximate year-long process of engaging Town departments in order to identify issues for each department, and, working in concert, help develop specific recommendations for departmental policy changes as it relates to coastal storms and potential sea level rise. This effort will define actionable measures, help minimize risk, and increase resiliency of the Town. Through this work, we would look to engage the following departments as part of a cooperative process:

- Planning and Code Enforcement;
- Public Works and Town Engineering;
- Fire and Rescue; and
- Community Services.

At the end of this process, the Commission will craft a report summarizing our findings and developed recommendations, which will be presented to the Council for consideration and development of next steps. We look forward to providing a presentation on this proposed work at Council Workshop on May 18, and answering any questions you might have.