

Islesboro Sea Level Rise Committee Meeting

2/13/25 5:30 pm – Town Office & Via Zoom

MINUTES

In attendance (in person and online): Jennifer West, Lauren Bruce, Donna Leone, Shey Conover, Peter Willcox, Peter Rothschild, Fred Porter, Sue Stafford, Shri Verrill

1. Called to Order @ 5:30 pm. Quorum established.
2. Approved draft minutes from 1/9/25 meeting. Peter Rothschild moved, Peter Willcox seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. Narrows Update – Shri Verrill
 - a. Shri summarized the permitting agency site visit. The entire narrows is part of a cobble dune system, which will need to be considered in permitting. We need to understand the original footprint of the existing Army Corp revetment. Permitting agencies look to be recommending to move to “tall and thin” revetments at south and middle. They also asked if we should consider raising the road 4’ to provide more longevity. They didn’t encourage continuing to pursue a bridge option. They also asked us to consider a sheet piling wall rather than revetment to keep flying debris out of the road, and minimize footprint of a revetment. There were questions and concerns about this approach. Would prefer to continue explore tall and thin revetment option.
 - b. Fred – what were the engineering designs in Kennebunkport. Is it worth exploring the bulkhead designs they are designing and building on their dune system?
 - c. Discussion around raising the road 2’ versus 4’. Do we know how much more time we will get by going 4’ higher? How do we balance that against increase cost and increased environmental impact. Permitting agencies understand we are balancing longevity and public safety.
 - d. Next steps. US Fish & Wildlife & Army Corps of Engineers representatives are doing a site visit February 20th. Their feedback is important to make sure we are providing the right direction for GZA. We want to minimize the footprint of impact on the next iteration of designs.
4. FY2026 Budget Discussion – We have \$145k in capital reserves. After discussion there was general agreement that we budget FY26 requests to ensure we have funds to complete planning and get the project bid package developed. They will work with Shri to recommend a number that we will need to raise to accomplish to discuss at our next meeting.
5. Other Business – Liv is starting a position with Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve as the Resilience Training Coordinator. Congratulations to Liv!
6. Next meeting date is set for Thursday, March 13th at 4:30 pm. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.