

Town of Islesboro
Sea Level Rise Committee (SLRC)

August 14, 2025, Minutes

Present: Shey Conover, Fred Porter, Lauren Bruce, Peter Rothschild, Nancy Alexander, Peter Willcox, Donna Leone, Jennifer West (Secretary)

Zoom: Shri Verrill, consultant

Absent: Chloe Joule

Minutes of June 12, 2025 approved with one correction, Leone is correct spelling.

GZA Update by Shey and Shri

- They met by Zoom with GZA to discuss progress on 60% design.
- GZA working on possible options, looking at 15' road elevation, road is currently 10-11'.
- Drafting where impact goes outside ROW based on slope of 2:1 to the east and 3:1 to the west. A 3:1 slope would result in a 5' wide shoulder into marsh, which they propose to replant with native vegetation.
- In next few weeks will have information on impact to Donna's property. Looking at options for ingress/egress.
- Corings were made in the wetlands for the delineation data.
- Examining how to maintain some parking areas along the road.
- Southern and middle revetments will probably have more impact to tidal waters.
- Minimization of impacts to the marsh and tidal waters are important for permitting.
- The preliminary plan presented shows current conditions updated with accurate elevations and wetlands along with topography. Includes cobble dune in middle section. Note that the southern end of the northern narrows has on-going erosion.
- Restoration for impacts will include nature based options.
- Shri will share AI generate notes on GZA meeting.
- Plan is to have draft 60% design for September meeting, date to be determined. Cost estimate will be included at that time.

Communications Committee

- Draft completed for a mailing. Might be good to include date of next meeting.
- Town informational meeting was canceled so no presentation to the community.
- At next opportunity for community update should include a summary of the grants received/applied for.

Discussion

- Suggest plans for preliminary stabilization of berms. 2023 storms showed how vulnerable the berms are in high winds and seas. A major concern is stones from the berms becoming projectiles onto the road as well as other debris that can damage vehicles.
 - To avoid dangerous conditions the road should be closed, but this cannot happen until staff is available to the north as well as to the south.
 - Ideas for stopping rocks from becoming projectiles:
 - Place a screen(s) over the berms. Ask GZA for comment?
 - Important not to compromise the structure either by removal of smaller rocks (not recommended by Corp, as important to function of the structure) or compressing the structure with equipment as the base has been noted to be eroding.
- Funding of the project
 - Concern that cost will always go up, as noted with the Public Safety Garage, where initial quotes were extremely high but with modification of design the cost brought back to original cost estimate.
 - CDS grant
 - Although Senator Collins did not say yes, she did not say no, which is important as she is the Chair of the appropriations committee.
 - Senator King is still supportive. No new updates on the status of this application.
 - The SLRC is focusing on the most cost-effective design to bring to the community, which will buy the island time as sea level rises. If the funds are not available then we will have to revisit the design.
- After the GZA presentation there should be a discussion of how to phase in interim measures such as screen to stabilize the revetment. They will get preliminary thoughts from GZA on screening the berms.

Adjourned at 5:34 pm.