

## Sea Level Rise Committee Meeting

April 23rd, 2024

### Present:

Peter Rothschild, Lauren Bruce, Jennifer West, Shey Conover, Chloe Joule, Liv Lenfestey

### Virtual:

Shri Verrill, Donna Leone, Fred Porter, Paul Mickey, Sue Stafford, Judy Gardner

1. 4/4 Meeting minutes were approved
2. Shri gave an update on where we are at with GZA and project updates
  - a. For the first time, Shri was able to visualize what a bridge would look like. This vision came to her at the Town Meeting after feeling the palpable energy and enthusiasm for a bridge
  - b. On April 11th, Liv, Shey, Shri, Peter R., and Nancy met to discuss what a bridge would actually look like. She covered what was discussed at this meeting– including raising the road at the Northern section, building a bridge over the existing causeway, and **Near Shore Sills** as wave attenuation infrastructure.
  - c. Sue asked whether there was any reason to believe that the cost of a bridge would not be astronomically high?
    - i. We won't know until we have a preliminary design
    - ii. This bridge will only be at the Southern section so it would not be the same as creating a bridge for the whole site
    - iii. This will be a long term solution
    - iv. Shey noted that the alternatives GZA gave use were not diverse and that pushing them to fully consider a bridge will get us the kind of analysis we are seeking
  - d. Peter R. brought up that we need to think about storm surge as an immediate threat and sea level rise as a long term problem. He considered if we can raise the revetment to 4 feet to meet immediate needs.
    - i. Shri agreed that separating Storm surge and sea level rise as two different problems is good
    - ii. Shri talked about how she has received support from Maine Geological Survey etc to pilot Reef Balls in Maine
    - iii. GZA is open to considering off-shore wave attenuation infrastructure to meet this immediate need
3. Shri gave an overview of what Reef Balls are and how they work. This is a potential offshore wave attenuation infrastructure that would create habitat and collect sediment, a true nature based solution as was originally desired and requested from GZA (<https://reefballfoundation.org/#>)
  - i. Fred asked what percentage of wave inertia/strength the reef balls would take off the revetment? This is a question for GZA
  - ii. Lauren asked how much these have been tested and what their longevity is? She also asked how they will interact with the bridge, during construction and after? We are too early on to know this

- iii. Sue is in favor of it, the community has been suggesting a bridge as a solution so at least we will have an answer on its feasibility
- iv. Donna asked how her and the IIT property and access to her and IIT's property will be affected. She said "this is not a selfish comment, she does not want to pull away from the project as a whole"
  - 1. This will have to be a further conversation with the landowners, engineers, and project team
- 4. Our next questions for GZA include: At what point in the planning process can GZA tell us if/how IIT and Donna's property can be accessed?
- 5. Shri confirmed with committee members that A. at the North section, a 2ft rise of the road is appropriate B. at the Middle section raising the road 2 ft and adding a near shore sills C. at the Southern, adding a bridge that crowns around 6.6ft and adding reef balls to break wave action (there would not be a full tidal exchange but there would be some water crossing over)
- 6. The committee further discussed the big rock revetment, jersey barrier, or some sort of combination. We ultimately agreed that this will come down to the cost and longevity of these solutions.
  - a. The committee is skeptical about how Jersey Barriers will work at the site, noting that they have not been successful at other locations and other planners have said they would be not be effective at places such as Grindle Point
- 7. Shri went over the cross sections submitted by GZA's 3/36 presentation of the existing conditions and proposed designs
  - a. Terry, a member from the public, pointed out that these plans only address the East side, but that the western side needs to be considered as well. Shri pointed out that there is a salt marsh on the Westside that will protect that side and that area is more generally protected
- 8. Next steps on the Narrows: Shri will follow up after her meeting with GZA, Shri will be in touch about scheduling a meeting with landowners (IIT and Donna). We also would like to set a date where GZA can make a longer form presentation
- 9. Liv announced she's making a movie! A video of the Narrows
- 10. Meeting adjourned, next meeting date was not set.