

## August 3, 2023 Sea Level Rise Committee Meeting

Members present: Shey Conover, Lauren Bruce, Sue Stafford, Nancy Alexander, Donna Leone, Liv Lenfestey (Island Fellow), Shri Verrill (Project Manager)

1. Approved minutes from both 6/15 and 7/20
2. Overview and debrief of Small Group Discussions with The Sewing Circle and Neighbors of the Narrows, and next steps for outreach. Feedback included:

7/20:

- There were lots of new ideas and new ways of expressing ideas that surprised members of our committee, special interest was noted in the comment on Noise pollution in our design.
- The community feedback and response has been really positive so far. The Committee decided to make our presentation more succinct, here were “too many options for visuals” during the meeting
- The Committee discussed the community response and understanding of the different SLR scenarios. The Committee did not get a firm understanding on which scenario community members felt that they wanted to plan for

7/25

- The group seemed to be interested in planning beyond 4ft
- This meeting was a bit more succinct, shorter and had a lighter tone.
- We would like to emphasize that with rising sea levels, we will also see more intense storms. This must be factored in our planning
- We need to make a clear way to communicate with the community the next steps in this process and how we are aligning our process with the funding that is available now
- We would like to add another town information meeting to our communication planning, sometime next Spring before the vote

3. Shri updated the committee on her work and next steps:

Shri clarified a few questions and presented on the following

- The committee is willing to consider options beyond a bridge or raising the road, such as a living shoreline.
- We need the elevation data to hand over to the engineer, which may be available through the Ransom study.
- Shri will be on island 8/10 and 8/11. When Shri is there we will look at the previous Ransom study and discuss how to read engineering plans.
- After Shri’s visit to Islesboro, she is going to reach out to previous engineers that have worked on Islesboro and discuss how much work they are willing to do.
- Shri and Liv will be meeting regularly, Tuesday at 10am
- Updating the website and creating a place where recent updates and resources can live is a priority.

- The Committee looked at the 8.8ft scenario and talked about defining the project area to include Dunn lane. There is a low lying place before the Narrows that we should be considering in our design so that we do not build a bridge that we can not reach at 8.8ft
  - The Committee discussed using the terminology “phased approach” rather than “scaffolding”, and being more precise with our overall language and terminology
4. Friday August 11th @ 10am Marsh Walk. Meet at Donna’s and expect to be out there for no longer than 2 hours. This will be a work session with just the committee and Steve Miller.
    - salt marsh ecology
    - Review engineering plans
    - Answer questions from IIT and SLRC
  5. Planning for August 10th:
    - We will be the second topic discussed, after Municipal Building Project and before the Ferry and Energy Committee
    - This could be a good opportunity to position our message within the greater discussion of climate change and other relevant topics happening on the island.
    - Tuesday we will finalize a timeline and we will have the presentation ready to be sent to the technician for the meeting
      - Liv will follow up with Shri to create this timeline
    - We discussed the feasibility of creating a hand out for this event
      - Desired content: NOAA predictions, project timeline, committee contact, and town website
  6. We discussed clarifying WHAT we will be bringing to town vote, when the committee reach that point in their process. How will we address cost and funding at the town vote?
    - this process will be evolving depending on what the engineers offer
    - We will be asking for “conceptual approval”
    - The timing will have to align with grants
  7. The committee reviewed a graphic timeline and defined the various plots that need to be highlighted.
  8. The committee discussed when this is brought to town vote, how the summer community will be engaged.
  9. The committee talked about funding: Since we are apart of the CRP, our district 1 coordinator should connect us to options.
  10. Adjourned