OLD SAYBROOK
SEA LEVEL RISE AND
CLIMATE ADAPTATION COMMITTEE

INITIAL FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS
PURPOSE OF SLRCAC (First meeting May 8, 2104)

- Raise awareness of SLR problem
- Utilize best available science, data, and models to identify impacted areas and problems
- Make recommendations to town administration based on current data
- Educate residents on issues
WHAT’S BEING DONE

• Regulatory
  • Building Code
  • Flood Plain Ordinance / National Flood Insurance Program

• Planning
  • Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (approved by FEMA) to become part of POCD

• Looking for help and best practices
  • Sources of funding
  • Partner with other organizations, e.g. TNC
SURVEY FOR OLD SAYBROOK

• Taking action is important, and residents are willing to pay for an effective coastal adaptation strategy.

• Some coastal adaptation effects are more highly valued than others. Protection of waterfront homes from flooding may be very important to those living there, but is not the top priority of the general public.

• A balanced coastal adaptation strategy prioritizing the broader protection of natural assets and public resources will gain more support than one emphasizing engineered defenses and homes.
OLD SAYBROOK

2010 Population 10,242

Abuts Long Island Sound at the Mouth of the CT River

Coastline 6 Miles on LIS 17 Miles on CT River
The Densest Development Is South of Rt 95
Residential Development along the Coast Typically Is on Very Small Lots
> 2000 Homes (~35%) Are in the 100-year Flood Zone

> 1200 Homes (~21%) Are in the 500-year Flood Zone

This Represents > 55% of All Residences in Old Saybrook
PROJECTED SLR THROUGH 2100
STORM
SANDY
SURGE
LEVELS
STORM SANDY SURGE LEVEL ON TOP OF 4’ SLR
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Topics

• Environment
• Community
• Economics

Addressed by answering the following three questions

• Where are we?
• Where are we going?
• How do we get there?
RECOMMENDED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

• Incorporate SLR in all town planning
• Establish committee/staff to maintain focus on SLR and CC
• Form a citizens advisory group
• Hire a Grant Writer
• Prepare a Coastal Resiliency Plan
• Install a tide gage
OUR CHARGE TO THE COMMUNITY

• Learn about and understand the problem
• Provide feedback to the committee and town staff
• Host an information session
• Talk with your family and friends
• Understand the fiscal impacts on individuals and the Town
RETREAT?

• 226 homes @ < 5’
• Total appraised value of these properties is $142,800,000
• 3.5 times annual town budget
• Who pays?
COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS