

Branford Coastal Vulnerability ad hoc Working Group
Town of Branford, Connecticut

Paul Muniz, Tracy Everson, Jonathan Waters, Peter Hentschel (chairperson)
invited: Curt Johnson, Sharon Huttner



Zoom Meeting Agenda: Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 5:00 PM

- Call to Order and Roll Call
- Approval of Meeting Notes for 1/23/24 and 2/27/24
- Discuss status and next steps on the following initiatives:
 - a. CIRCA sea level monitoring and emergency notification system trials – Branford participation
 - Goal 1: to acquire new data on tidal sea level cycles and resulting road flooding.
 - Goal 2: to allow Branford to use their alert system to put out “micro-alerts” to neighborhoods
 - Review of possible locations for installation of hardware.
 - Report on communication with CIRCA
 - b. Community Reporting Network – Roadway Flooding – “MyCoast” Application
 - Goal 1: to engage the community in the photographic collection of roadway flooding data
 - Goal 2: to work with the MyCoast application software group in CA to facilitate uploading data
 - Report on recent zoom call with MyCoast to discuss the use of their BETA software
 - c. Emergency Management Services Resiliency – work with Chief Mahoney regarding key locations of road flooding which impact delivery of emergency services
 - Goal: to identify critical locations and research resiliency solutions to each
 - Review of key EMS road flood locations identified by the Chief
 - Report on communication with Chief Mahoney
 - Discuss next steps in supporting Chief Mahoney’s GIS initiative.
 - d. Roadway Flooding – finding solutions for the community
 - Goal: to investigate possible resilience actions, consult with key regulatory authorities including DEEP, and determine DEEP’s response to - protecting low roadways, nuisance flooding retention walls, etc.
 - Engagement of John Lust to review key one of the Chief’s critical road flooding locations and use this to approach DEEP to determine their areas of concern. This will give us guidance on how to address other areas on concern in Branford
 - e. Zoning Regulation and Town Ordinance tools - PZC / CVWG joint working group - status
 - Goal: to determine actions to build resilience through ordinances and/or zoning regulations.
 - Follow up on meeting with Harry Smith and Peter and Sharon to discuss some initial thoughts on ways to strengthen our regulations.
 - Discuss how to build community agreement regarding the goals of increasing regulation of coastline development.
 - f. Community engagement – Branford River Neighborhoods presentation status report and possible recording of Sara Crosby’s current marshland studies in Branford
 - Goal to build public awareness, feedback, and public involvement.
 - Communication with Sara Crosby regarding her Blackstone Library Presentation
 - CVWG presentation on Branford River still pending.

- g. Approaches to resilience by other towns and states – Status of calls to these towns
Goal: to determine if other towns have taken innovative steps to resilience.
- Discuss setting up a mutual group from East Haven, Branford, Guilford, Madison, and Clinton to hold a regular zoom meeting and share insights and challenges (maybe bi-monthly).
- h. WWTP vulnerability study – status of Phase 2, preliminary design of conceptual solutions
Goal: to promote the “hardening” of the town’s sanitary system and treatment plan.
- Update from Paul on the Phase II working group WPCA/CVWG just established.
- i. CVWG page of Town Website - Q&A portal, Facebook page, FEMA page status report
Goal: to make our webpage more interactive and responsive to public needs regarding coastal resilience.
- Update from Peter and Paul
- j. Cattle Crossing flood gate study – status report
Goal: to track this project and to determine how AMTRAK has responded to issues regarding flooding against their elevated track beds
- Update from Tracy
- k. Stony Creek CV sub-group – status report
Goal: work with the SCA subgroup to initiate actual resilience projects in Stony Creek.
- Update from Peter

Peter Hentschel, Chairperson

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