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

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BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

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



Scheduled Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 5:00 PM

Zoom meeting recording posted on Town website

- Call to Order and Roll Call
 - **Present: Everson, Hentschel, Huttner, Calderwood, Town Planner Michiel Wackers**
- Discuss status and the next steps on the following primary ongoing 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.
 - **Circa sensors are still out for maintenance and re-installation**
 - **The Waverley Park location will be supplemented with a CVWG Tide Gauge that will be installed by DPW using CVWG materials**
 - **The adjacent roadway will be undergoing some drainage improvements to raise the low point**
 - **Tracy and Sharon have met to discuss the press release and shifted the focus to the MyCoast application since the CIRCA sensors have been temporarily removed.**
 - b. Community Flood Reporting and Photographic data acquisition - "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
 - **PH reviewed a recent MyCoast report showing the impact of some east winds on high tide levels in Stony Creek on May 22. The tide gauge recently installed shows a 4'5" NAVD88 water level which is almost 18" above the normal predicted high tide. The MyCoast app report also shows a tide level well above the normal prediction for this day. So, both are showing similar results.**
 - **PH showed a proposal for a sign to be attached to the tide gauge which would identify this as a CVWG gauge and include a QR code link to further information about the initiative and about the CVWG. That document could be flexibly edited over time. The sign will be printed with adhesive vinyl on an aluminum backer attached to the gauge. Jim agreed to work on further edits to the QR document.**
 - **Tracy and Sharon's press release is now focusing on the MyCoast application. The goal is to interest residents in participating in the collection of flood report photographs.**
 - **Sharon suggested also sharing this press release with the local Branford associations i.e. Pine Orchard, Short Beach, etc. to see if that would reach interested parties.**
 - **Paul has suggested some edits which Tracy has yet to review. Tracy and Sharon will finalize for next meeting.**
 - **Tracy will reach out to Jamie and the Fire Chief to schedule a zoom review of the press release and add any quotes they may offer. Alternatively she can suggest that they could respond in writing rather than a zoom.**

- c. **Roadway Flooding – finding protective solutions – nuisance flooding tide walls.**
Goal: to investigate possible resilience actions, consult with key regulatory authorities including DEEP, and determine DEEP's response to - protecting low roadways from nuisance flooding by use of low retention walls, etc.
- **John Lust is waiting for John Hoeffler to gather survey results for the location in Stony Creek that will be our test site for the tide wall study. That survey work is under contract with Criscuolo Engineers.**
 - **PH noted some recent road flooding projects in Guilford that were using some State funding sources. Sharon agreed to reach out to the Guilford Town Engineer to get more information about their funding sources.**
- d. **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.
- **No update provided**
- 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.
- **PH attended a recent meeting with the new Town Planner, Michiel Wackers, and updated him on the Group's initiative to develop some zoning regulation upgrades to provide more tools for the PZC to apply to coastal development in future flood prone areas**
 - **PH to reach out again to CIRCA to see if they might develop a workshop to share ideas for regulatory tools**

Peter Hentschel, Chairperson