

Westbrook Town Beach POP-UP SUMMARY

Saturday, August 19 from 9AM-1PM

FACILITATORS

- Liz Podowski King, CED
- Bridget Snover, CED
- Peter Gillespie, Town of Westbrook
- Tony Cozza, Town of Westbrook

FORMAT


- Attendees were encouraged to provide feedback through several interactive exercises focusing on community resiliency assets and issues. The Project Team was available during this time to answer questions.
- Approximately 50 people attended the event.



IDENTIFYING ASSETS AND ISSUES

Participants were asked to share community assets and issues related to historic flooding and erosion issues and current/future concerns.

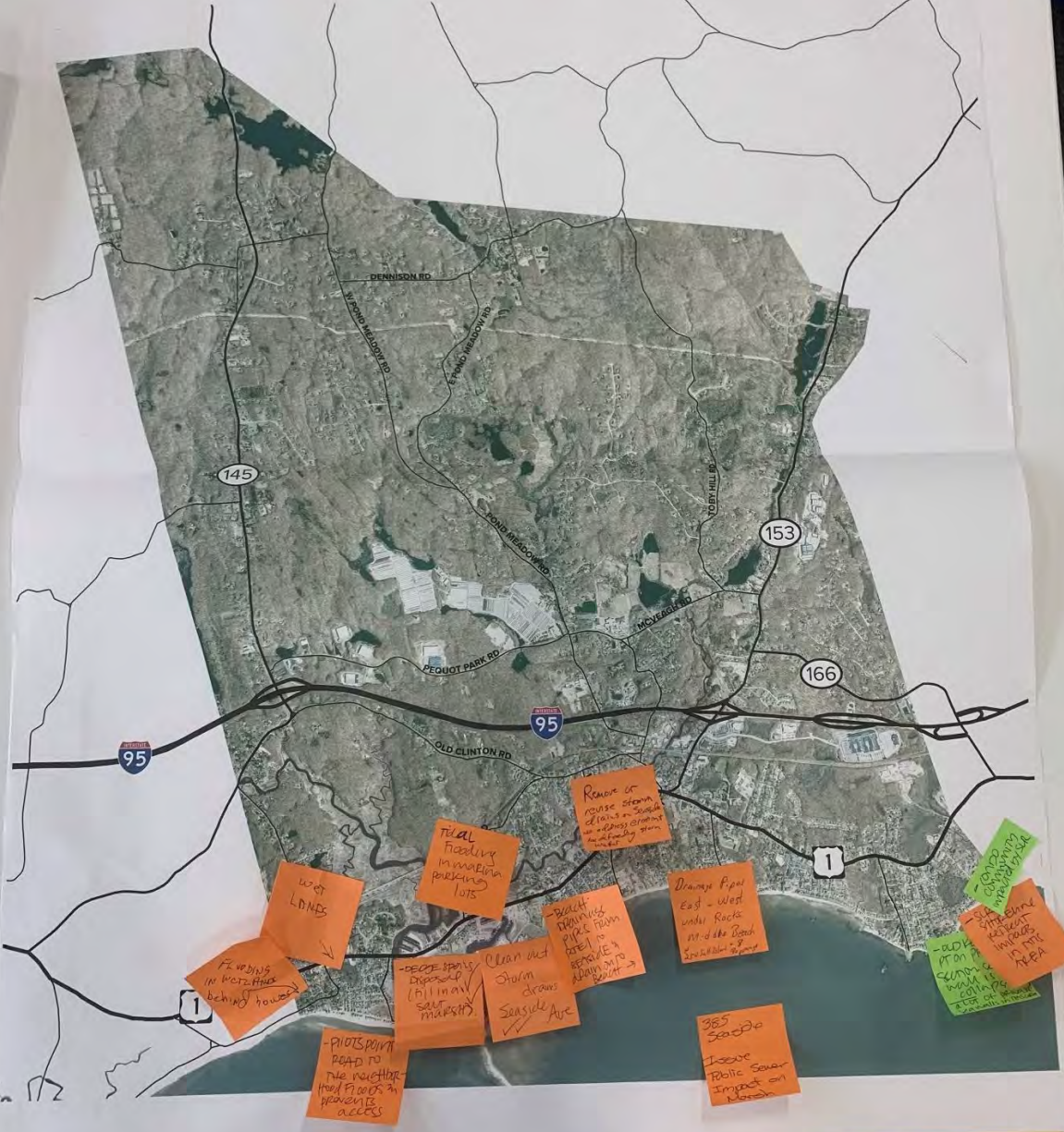
Town of Westbrook



WESTBROOK COMMUNITY ASSETS + ISSUES

Please use the **post-its** provided to identify community assets and issues. For assets, please let us know why it's important to maintaining a high quality of life in your community. For issues, please let us know a bit about historic flooding and erosion issues and current / future concerns.

Assets Issues




Assets:

- Wetlands in wetlands behind houses
- Wetlands
- Tidal flooding in parking lots
- People have deposited (fall in) salt marsh
- Pilot Point Road to the north of town floods in heavy rain access
- Clean wet stream draws Seaside Ave
- Beach cleanup pipe from pipe to pipe to separate debris into bins
- 385 Seaside Issue: Public Safety Impact on beach


Issues:

- Remove or raise storm drains on Seaside in heavy storms and heavy rain
- Drainage Pipe East - West with Rocks in of the Beach
- Sea level rise impact on beach
- Sea level rise impact on beach
- Sea level rise impact on beach

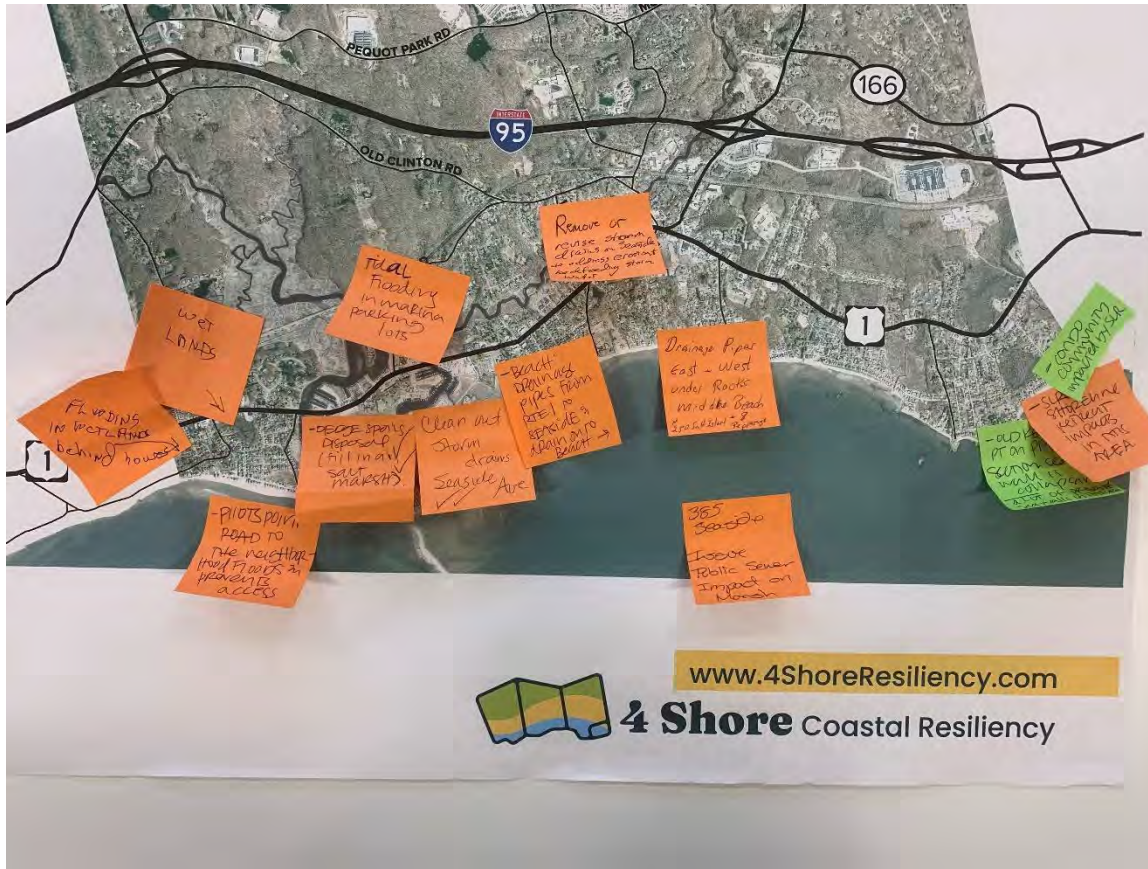
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NORTH



4 Shore Coastal Resiliency



THOUGHTS SHARED – COMMUNITY ASSETS AND ISSUES:

- Flooding from marshes threatens coastal properties from behind more so than storm surges from the front
- Large drainpipes empty into the Long Island Sound with no end cap protection threatening children and wildlife
- Catch basins fill with sand and prevent water from draining resulting in heavy flooding during rain events
- The breakwaters on Duck Island are crumbling and need attention
- Frequent flooding on Old Mail Trail, Pilots Point entrance, Tarpon Ave, Dolphin Ave, and Striper Ave
- Drainage issues at the railroad underpass and it is a school route. Sidewalks should be added

STORY AND IDEAS WALL

Participants were asked to share a story about how flooding, erosion, and/or high winds have impacted them in addition to any ideas about how to improve the community's ability to adapt to future sea level rise.

Story and Idea Wall

Do you have a story about how flooding, erosion, and/or high winds have impacted you? We want to hear!
Do you have an idea about how to improve your community's ability to adapt to future sea level rise? We want to hear that too!
Please use the space below to record your stories and ideas.

- LET THE DUNES FORM NATURALLY IN FRONT OF THE BEACH FRONT PROPERTIES INSTEAD OF LEVELING THEM.

- MANAGED RETREAT IN BEACHFRONT, FLOOD-PRONE AREAS. IMPORTANT TO START THIS CONVO. NOW BEFORE SEPTICS FAIL AND POLLUTE LIS.

- Fine neighbors for cutting Trees on the Dunes

- FUNDING FOR ELEVATING HOMES.

- ARMORED PROTECTION OF SHORELINE.

Allow properties to be filled and stop the sea level of bay. we need to be higher than the dunes.

- EMERGENCY WARNING / COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR TIDE & STORM-RELATED EVENTS.

- road flooding - old mail trail

- DREDGE NEEDED IN PATCHOGUE RIVER TO INCREASE DEPTH SO WATER HAS A PLACE TO GO OTHERWISE PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE ON OLD ALL SUBJECT NEIGHBORHOODS BACK RD

- BEACH/DUNE GRASS -> USED TO BE A UCONN PROGRAM PROVIDING SUBSIDIZED BEACH GRASSES TO HOME/LANDOWNERS FOR RESTORATION/EROSION PREVENTION.

Wall along waterfront in this block

Westbrook 8.19.23
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THOUGHTS SHARED – STORY AND IDEA WALL:

- Let the dunes form naturally in front of the beachfront properties instead of leveling them
- Managed retreats in beachfront, flood-prone areas
- Fine neighbors for cutting trees on the dunes
- Funding for elevating homes
- Shoreline armored protection
- Build a wall that lines the marshes behind neighborhoods
- Emergency warning indication system for tide and storm-related events
- Dredge Patchogue River to increase depth so water has a place to go
- Provide beach/dune grass to property owners (UCONN program used to provide subsidized beach grasses for restoration/erosion prevention)