

Westbrook Community Workshop Summary

Wednesday, September 13 from 6:30PM-8PM

FACILITATORS

- Liz Podowski-King, CED
- Jackie Fernandez, CED

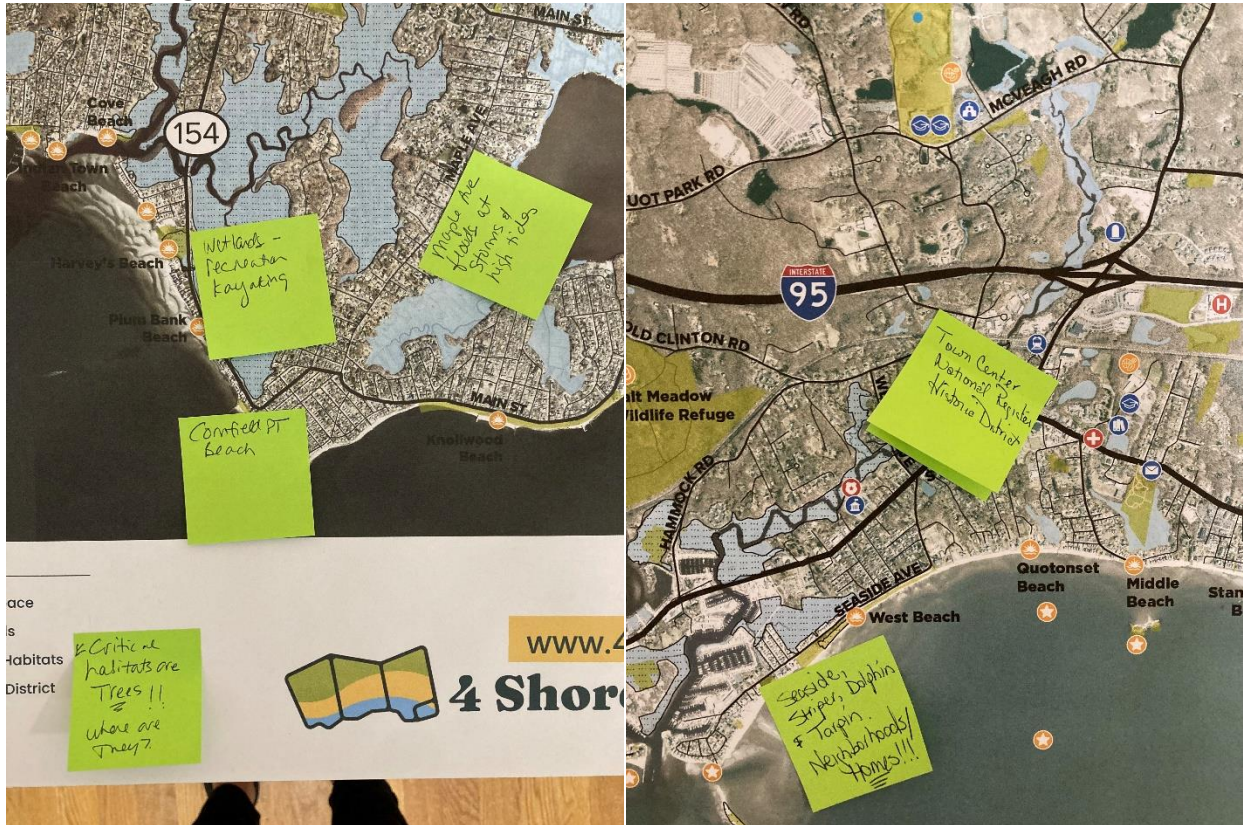
FORMAT

- A presentation about the need for the project, its impact, and the importance of community input. The presentation lasted about 40 minutes and the remaining time was dedicated to community engagement.
- 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 40 people attended the event.



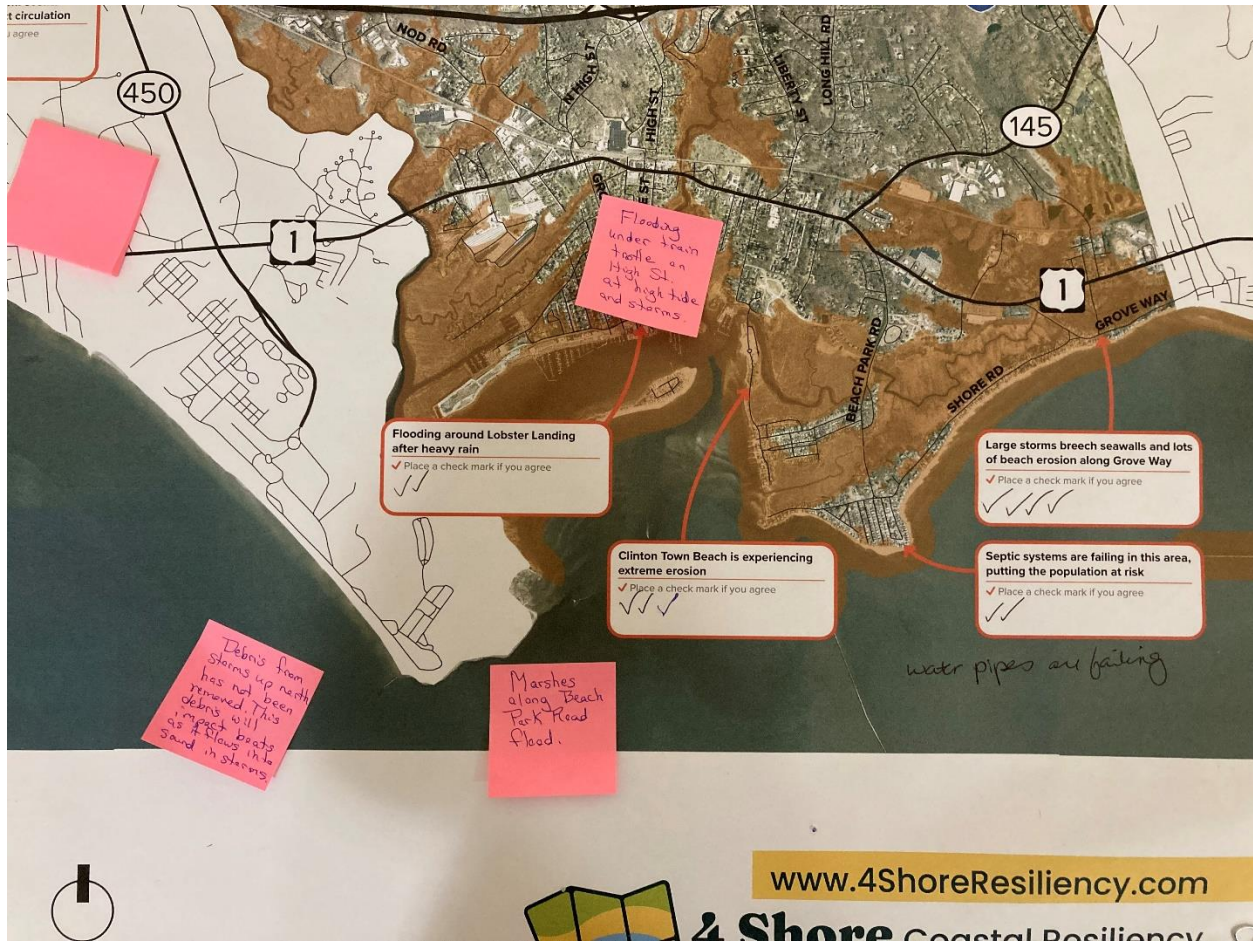
IDENTIFYING ASSETS AND ISSUES

Participants were able to ask questions and share comments during the presentation. During the hands-on portion of the workshop, participants were asked to share community assets and issues related to historic flooding and erosion issues and current/future concerns.



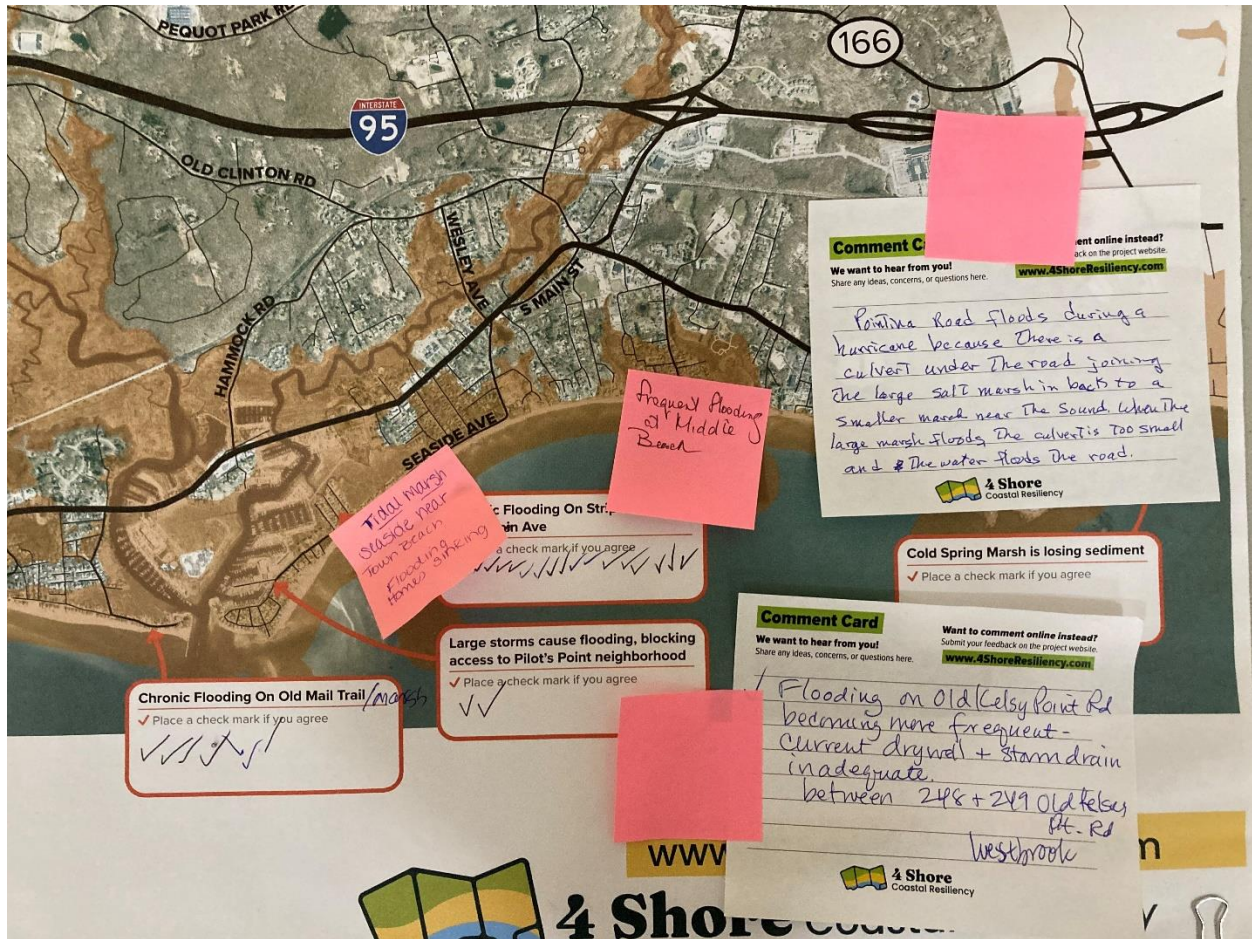
THOUGHTS SHARED – COMMUNITY ASSETS:

- Wetlands for recreation and kayaking
- Cornfield Pt Beach
- Trees are critical habitats
- Westbrook Town Center National Register Historic District
- Duck Island Breaker Wall



THOUGHTS SHARED – FLOODING / EROSION ISSUES:

- Flooding along Seaside Ave, Striper Rd, Dolphin Rd, and Tarpon Rd
- Flooding along Maple Ave
- More frequent flooding after rain events and high tide
- Marshes along Beach Park Rd flood -- causing homes to sink
- Debris from storms up north has not been removed and will impact boats as it flows into the Sound in storms
- Water pipes are failing
- Flooding under the trail trestle on High St at high tide and during storms
- Cornfield Point and Old Saybrook Town Beach Road floods and become isolated



THOUGHTS SHARED – FLOODING / EROSION ISSUES:

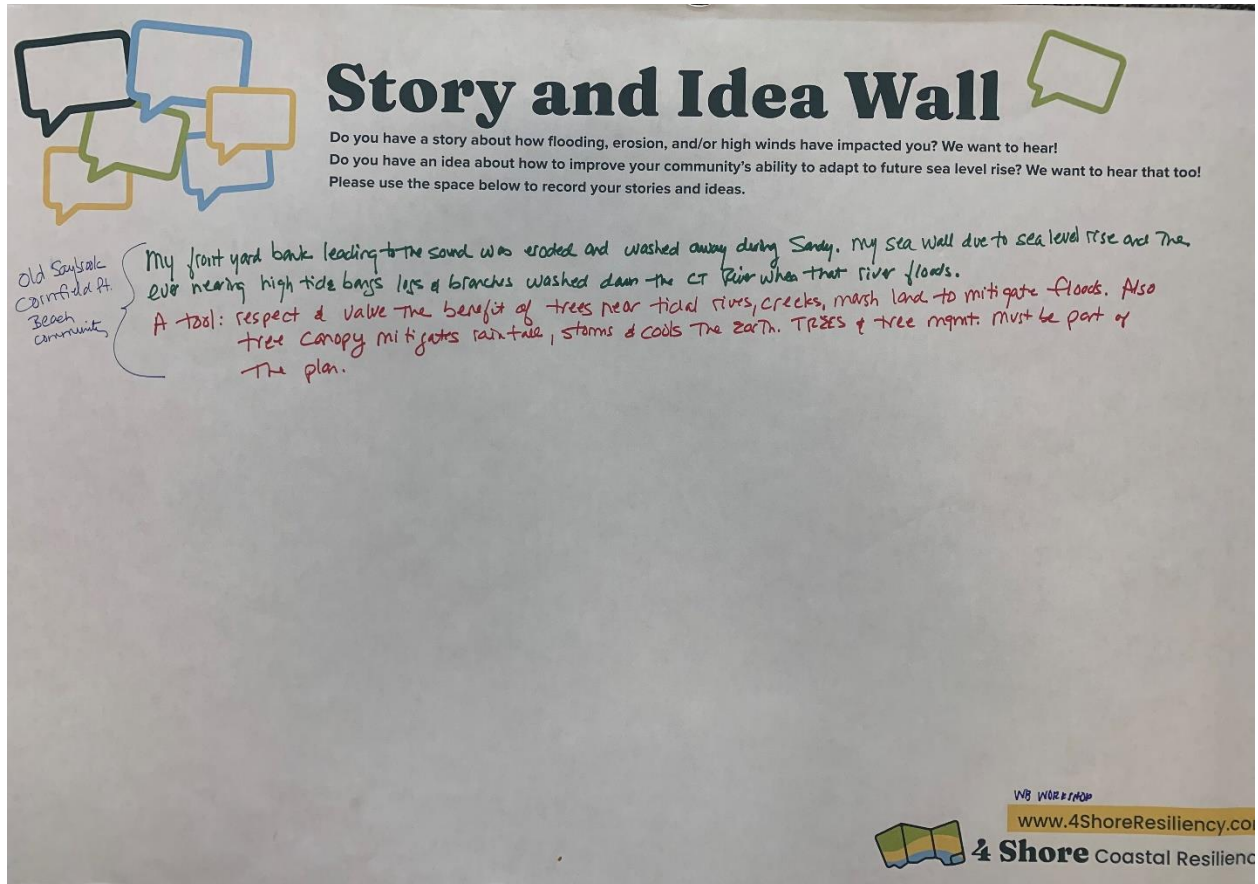
- Participants were concerned about funding the possible outcomes of the plan
- Frequent flooding at Middle Beach
- Tidal marsh seaside near Town Beach flooding and homes are sinking
- Flooding on Old Kelsey Point Rd is becoming more frequent – current dry well and storm drain is inadequate (between 248 and 249 Old Kelsey Pt Rd in Westbrook)
- Pointina Rd floods during a hurricane because there is a culvert under the road joining the large salt marsh in back to a smaller marsh near the Sound. When the large marsh floods, the culvert is too small and the water floods the road.
- There were multiple questions regarding the process of the plan

OPPORTUNITIES

- Reducing impervious surfaces
- Trees are important in mitigating floods

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.



THOUGHTS SHARED – STORY AND IDEA WALL:

- A resident's front and back yard was eroded and washed away during Sandy washed away and eroded yards in Old Saybrook
- Debris from storms has traveled down the Connecticut River and into the Long Island Sound
- Respect and value the benefit of trees near tidal rivers, creeks, and marshes to mitigate floods. Trees are valuable and beneficial. Adding trees and tree management must be part of the plan.