

**Awareness to Action: Local Communities Building Resilience**  
**The Beaches Conference**  
**June 14, 2019**

Moderator: Jessa Kellogg, Town of Kittery  
Note Taker: Jodi Castello, GrowSmart Maine

Adapting to Flooding in Hampton

Speakers: Jay Diener, Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance and Rayann Dionne,  
Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance

a) More frequent coastal flooding

- intensity and frequency changing
- minor flooding with high tides (10 ft) no storm needed for flooding
- long term flood planning has not been a priority because not sense of urgency (ordinances have passed with flood protection in mind)

b) Workshop 50-55 property owners

- consider moving both wanted fair market value
- felt more comfortable talking about retreat, hence survey
- “CHAT”- 7 municipal board and commission, planners, and local citizens
- “Roundtable”- one goal- close loop b/w municipal officials and residents

Questions:

- Seasonal vs year around (first 50’)- haven’t done the analysis (320 properties)
- Evacuation- elderly or handicapped? The emergency manager is focusing on routes and EM expectations
- Zoning changes- effects on density changes/impervious cover changes? Positive impact on redevelopment projects

Local Vulnerability Assessment Mapping in South Portland

Speakers: Lucy Brennan, City of South Portland and Gayle Bowness, Gulf of Maine Research Institute

- Proximity of NH towns, does flood plain depend on neighboring towns? Goal of “sha” to look regionally and dissolve municipal boundaries
  - Been fortunate because few storm events have occurred
  - After 50 year event started planning
  - Office started 4 years- adaptation is much more recent
  - Looking at Climate Plan for city
- Coastal Resilience grant NOAA- Flood Resilience Checklist done with many in city government
  - In 1<sup>st</sup> few phases
  - Phase 1 and 2 robust data collection
  - Phase 3

Gayle-

- How to quantify/qualify each flood event to help communities in planning? How much water and impact?
  - What are the vulnerabilities
  - Working with SMPDC
  - Municipal staff will be able to use ARCGIS to record data
  - Create a complex mapping system- social, economy, and environmental impacts
- City SP: bring citizens into the planning and discussions

Questions:

- Builder thinking ahead of regulations and proactive? Can't speak to developer but the sense in the community is that this is where we are heading
- Proactive like on Marginal Way in Portland some new buildings, 1<sup>st</sup> few stories are parking or raise electrical component to higher floors
  - South Portland has not seen historical flooding like Portland

- Cataloging? Where do they get information? Institutional knowledge, going forward a new platform that is easy to use so that a wealth of data can be collected moving forward
- How far back are they looking? As far as they can go, they will see

### City of Portsmouth NH Historic Resources Vulnerability Assessment

Speakers: Julie LaBrache, Rocking Planning Commission and Peter Britz, City of Portsmouth

Julie: Focus on process- facilitate local adaptation committee

- Stakeholder driven process (9-10 members of LAC)
- Made it clear about roles, responsibilities and how the input would influence outcome (LAC)
- Worked effectively together and really listened to each other which really enhanced the project

LAC- this was better than a public meeting, got better input and information

- Come up with strategy areas: downtown, mill pond area, south mill pond, south end (most historic)
  - Wanted to give citizens actionable items and then came up with recommendations
  - Put information in ESRI story map (available on website)
  - Master plan – developed around these themes
  - Given the LAC map to locate and tag important information
  - Scoring criteria really helped to prioritize
  - Story map helped the report have legs into the future
  - Historic Commission uses the 3 D mapping available
- Collaborative monitoring involving homeowners, building owners/groundwater more immediate impact
  - Plan Portsmouth website

### Q&A

- Ranking system, how to integrate into tax system? Doesn't address equity but it is a very small weight, did have a discussion about it (as of today probably will not include it)
- Water infiltration (ground and pipes) don't really know- Strawberry bank used to be an inlet so that might be part of it, tidal influences two mile inland, flooding most of the old marches