

PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN RYE

GAINING INSIGHTS AND CHARTING A COURSE

“Given the trends in increased frequency of storms, coastal flooding, and sea-level rise, how might these impacts affect (people, infrastructure or natural resources) in Rye?”

Summary of group discussions from Project Kick-off April 1, 2014 6:30-8:30pm – Rye Junior High School

Highlights indicate issues that will be addressed in Tides to Storms (TTS).

(11) Freshwater resources

- Water supply on 1A and public health (6)
- Water quality, supply, and aquifer (3)
- Erosion of freshwater streams – NH DES is studying Fluvial Erosion Hazards.
- Salinity affecting fish and salt water intrusion

(8) Impacts to Salt Marshes

- (5) More runoff into marshes coupled with increase in impervious surface, more contamination – Not a significant issue if adequate flushing of marshes.
- (1) Upland changes to marsh and wetlands
- (1) Increase wetlands flooding
- (1) Marshes may flood and change over time
- People pressure on existing natural resources
- Marsh buffer change and limitation
- One participant indicated that of Rye’s approximately 36 square miles of land there are about 24 square miles of marsh, which is a resource for Rye.

(7) Roads (Wash outs, temporary loss of access, long term costs of repair)

- (1) Beach Club road flooding
- Bridge Impacts (both State and locally controlled bridges)
- Marsh Road inundation.

(6) Public Health

- (6) Public health resulting from septic issues
Future action

(5) Sea walls – Refer to Living Shorelines Conference, 12/11/2014. Also, this area is something for an engineering study.

- (3) Incoming tides undermining earthen berms (shale piles) tidal drainage that accommodates the changing tides.
- (1) Damage to Shale Piles, sea walls and earthen berms
- (1) Jenness Beach impacts, degradation of the seawalls
- Rye Harbor infrastructure—the jetty/sea walls: the improvement of the jetty in light of sea level rise...potentially raising it; possible harbor dredging
- Earthen berms are damaged by tidal activity and storms

(4) Stormwater management Future action

- (2) Water runoff intensity
- (1) Pollution
- Stormwater management infrastructure currently stressed; Increased upland flooding due to clogged stormwater devices.
- Culvert Inundation, especially the Eel Pond culvert; Eel Pond to harbor drainage system is ineffective.

(4) Beach erosion

- Changes in recreational use of beaches – will we lose them or will they move?
- Changes in shoreline habitat, shifting of sand bars
- Harbor

(4) Economic loss

- (1) Seafood, shellfish – fewer available, harder to reach, increased \$
- Fishing industry
- Business might help but Rye has less of a business community – See Roger Stephenson

- Less beach, fewer tourists? See Roger Stephenson
- Tax base and flooding, loss of access, taxes (increase)

(3) Nuclear plant risks? Evacuations – See Rye Emergency Management plans. See Newfields – PING alert system.

(1) Already poor cell coverage (voters not for towers) – See Broadband Effort. Follow-up for

Planning/Zoning and Emergency Management efforts.

(1) Food supply (increase? Decrease?)

Refer to Food Solutions New England and new plan, NH Drought Plan, Seacoast Eat Local, Energy Committee suggested a Food/Ag Committee in draft Master Plan.

How was this summary made?

The number in parenthesis is the number of sticky dots or “votes” the item received at the April 1st meeting. The “votes” were combined into broader categories, shown in bold. In some cases, the category was a topic identified by participants and received votes in addition to the bulleted items. For additional context, bulleted items without a “vote” are included that were related to that category.