



Coastal Flooding Discussion

Public Listening Session

Thursday April 11th

6:00 PM City Hall Auditorium

1. Welcome & Introductions (10 min)
 - a. Meeting overview
 - b. Staff
 - i. City Management
 - ii. Emergency Management
 1. Police/Fire
 - iii. Public works
 - iv. Planning
2. January Storm Events, February and March High Tides Reflections – (20 min)
 - a. Sharing of information
 - i. Preparations for storm/ flooding events
 - ii. Specific concerns
 - iii. Damage observed
3. Identifying Lessons Learned (25min)
 - o *Share specific actions taken during/ before/ after the storms*
 - o *Things learned from storms*
 - o *Discussion on successful strategies and outcomes*
 - o *Discussion on common themes and challenges faced*
 - o *What else is needed?*
4. Next Steps – 15 min

Meeting Notes:

Recent events of flooding identified by residents include:

December 23th 2022

December 18th 2023

January 10th 2024

January 13th 2024

Residential locations of concern

Butler Head – Flood occurrences are more than previous years (30 year residential owner). Came to meeting hear about future plans and current emergency response.

Front St. – Resident has raised ‘boathouse’ two different times in response to increasing water levels. Does not have long term plans in place, and is curious about the planning and resources moving forward.

Upper Washington – Neighborhood has organized in response to coastal flooding issues. They have developed a neighborhood messaging system that allows communication in preparation for flooding events. They have met as a neighborhood to discuss this issue, and have delivered a letter to the City seeking attention to the flooding issues.

Downtown – public safety concerns as the storms have become ‘spectator events’ and there seems to be an influx of people in a potentially hazardous area. Concerns included:

- Drivers speeding up to get through inundated roads
- People having difficulty navigating through the area due to road closures (better communication?)
- Effects on businesses during flooding events

Emergency Response

Discussion surrounding emergency response to neighborhoods that lose access/ become disconnected. Fire Chief ensured that response still occurs regardless of accessibility ‘we will get there’. Fire chief offered examples to various ‘what if’ scenarios.

Discussion about the capacity of our local emergency responders. Fire Chief pointed out that there has not been an issue for capacity in these recent events, and the coordination of Police/

Fire/ DPW is essential during these storm events. There are scenarios where capacity becomes an issues (mutual aid responses, etc.).

Questions regarding prioritizing emergency response and transparency were discussed.

Discussion of river usage for emergency response – Fire Chief gave a brief history of how Bath responds to on water emergencies, and touched upon BIW’s emergency response role.

Environmental Concerns

Water quality concerns – what happens during these events in regard to water quality? DPW provided details about the current CSO system, and what occurs during storms. The City has been addressing this issue for over 30 years, and is continuing to address the issue. Planning has been done, and funding is available for a series of projects that will upgrade certain areas of the system...while much is getting done there is still a long way to go. The recent planning is taking into account climate resiliency measures.

Central Maine Power

Discussion about CMP response times, City’s role and coordination with CMP? SCEMA provided a response into CMP power outage/ lines down protocols. Emergency response relies on response from CMP to clear hazards.

Discussion of burying CMP lines to avoid these situations?

CMP invite for community meeting??

Planning and funding.

Discussion of next steps and potential costs of planning and responding.

- City is underway on a pilot project for design of addressing flooding at Harward/ Washington – over the next 6 months residents will be contacted as the planning gets underway
- City is developing interactive web mapping that will include the recent Vulnerability assessment data/ maps that will allow people to research areas of concern with multiple sea level rise and flooding scenarios.
- School busing...impacts to getting kids to and from school. SCEMA will be following up with RSU 1 and transportation providers to discuss issues.
- City is identifying priorities from the vulnerability assessment, and will begin efforts to address coastal flooding.

Communications

- Pre and post-storm communications (survey was provided for attendees)
- Schools and bussing communications to parents
- Roadway signage placed pre storm?
- Website/ social media usage for road closures
- List of contacts
- CMP communications with City?

Resources

SBA Disaster relief resources were introduced and discussed

SCEMA emergency preparedness brochures were available

Communications survey was distributed (hardcopy and QR code for online submissions)

FEMA resources were made available