



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town Unveils Town-wide Coastal Resiliency Plan Draft

Following analysis of risks to vulnerable, flood-prone areas of East Hampton, as well as projected sea-level rise, proactive strategies to address current hazards and long-term plans to reduce climate change impacts were developed

The Town of East Hampton announces the availability of its draft Coastal Assessment and Resilience Plan (CARP).

This Coastal Assessment Resilience Plan (CARP) is an important first step to reduce the Town of East Hampton's vulnerability as a coastal community and adapt to the changing climate. The CARP evaluates key coastal risks our community currently faces, and highlights the drastic increase in severity of those risks. Rising sea levels and increased intensity of coastal storms will have an increasing impact on near-shore homes and communities.

The need to immediately begin resilience projects and policies is urgent. The plan identifies 11 focus areas where East Hampton must act first to address the impacts of climate change and recommends ways to reduce the Town's vulnerability, including planning initiatives, changes in regulations, emergency response to storms and other events, public works projects, public education and consensus building, and new funding sources. Initiatives included in the CARP such as moving back from vulnerable areas, transfer of development rights, updates in infrastructure, and the elevation of roads or railways are complex long-term projects that need to be initiated as soon as possible

The draft CARP was prepared by consultants GZA Geoenvironmental, Inc., Dodson & Flinker, and Coastal Ocean Analytics with the participation of the Town's Coastal Assessment & Resiliency Plan Committee. The committee comprises eight community leaders and is co-chaired by Alison Branco of The Nature Conservancy and Laura Tooman of Concerned Citizens of Montauk and ex-officio members of the Town's Natural Resources and Planning Departments.

"The goal of CARP is to prepare for a prosperous and vibrant future by facing the challenges of rising seas and more virulent storms head on," said East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van

Scyoc. " In addition to our committee members, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Natural Resources Department staff member Samantha Klein, and Councilwoman Cate Rogers, who is the Town Board liaison to the committee."

Laura Tooman, President of CCOM and CARP Committee co-chair noted, "This plan has been years in the making. We have started and now must continue the very difficult dialogue about next steps, especially in areas like downtown Montauk. The conversations, undoubtedly, will be hard, but we must not shy away."

Alison Branco, Climate Adaptation Director for The Nature Conservancy in New York and CARP Committee co-chair added, "The completion of this plan marks an important milestone in East Hampton's effort to envision a safe and thriving future for this community on the front lines of climate change. But the work is just beginning. The committee looks forward to working with the residents and businesses in East Hampton to create a future that preserves the coastal way of life while safeguarding the natural features that make East Hampton such a wonderful place to live, work, and visit."

The draft Coastal Assessment Resiliency Plan and supplemental materials can be found at <http://ehamptonny.gov/574/Coastal-Assessment-Resiliency-Plan>

The draft plan will be presented and discussed at a Town Board work session in May. The board will subsequently vote on its adoption. Once adopted, work on implementing the recommendations will begin.