

# STONINGTON WATERFRONT ADAPTATION PLAN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MARCH 2016

### What is the Purpose of this Plan?

Stonington's waterfront faces many challenges. This plan is a guide to help the town establish priorities for maintaining and improving the working waterfront. Every proposed capital expenditure and any recommended change in town land use ordinances requires town meeting approval. For more information, see <http://www.hcpcme.org/stonington/coastal/index.htm>.

### What Challenges Does the Waterfront Face?

There are congestion problems in the water and on-shore. The harbor needs more vessel docking and vehicle parking space. The fishing community is also affected by the loss of diversity in fishing stocks. It is now almost entirely dependent on lobster, which has fluctuated in value in recent years.

The waterfront faces increased storm surges and a projected sea level rise by as much as one foot by 2050 and two feet by 2070. While these projections are subject to change, the overall trend is that waterfront facilities will face more potential damage from storms and flooding.

### What Improvements Does the Plan Recommend?

The plan identifies a range of improvements. Given the many demands on the town's already over-stretched annual budget, it may not be possible to make all the improvements. This means that some projects may have to be delayed. The list below presents an initial set of priorities.

- **Continue Work on Hagen Dock and Replace Fire Station:** To protect against projected flooding, the dock needs to be raised by two feet. This must wait until the fire station is replaced department with a new facility elsewhere in town.
- **Upgrade the Municipal Fish Pier:** Needed improvements include harbor dredging, expanding and raising the harbormaster's office and the electrical fixtures above projected flood elevation levels. Additional parking is needed as is improved access to the hoists.
- **Colwell Ramp:** The ramp needs to be enlarged and its angle adjusted to allow for better access. Other needs include a hoist and more room for vehicle and boat trailer parking.
- **Sewer System:** The system faces several challenges. Nine of the seventeen pump stations are in the flood zone. This makes them vulnerable to failure during a flood event and increases the risk of pipes leaking and contaminating the area with sewage. The sanitary district operations building is within the flood zone. Some of the electric panels

and two of the generators are less than two feet above the current sea level and will have to be elevated.

- **Water System**: While about 54 percent of the mains are in poor condition, they are gradually being replaced.
- **Stormwater Drainage & Public Works**: The town has been gradually replacing culverts and making other drainage improvements to increase the resiliency of its road system. There are still several areas with poor stormwater drainage or flooding problems. The most pressing need is segments (such as Oceanville and Indian Point Roads) that provide the sole means of access to peninsulas from the rest of town. These are both places where flood conditions or storm damage could result in these areas having no road access.

### **How Much Will These Improvements Cost and How Can We Afford Them?**

The plan recommends spreading the improvements over a 22-year period. Some will be funded through grants and loans. Others may require a town meeting appropriation. The proposed schedule is shown on the tables below.

<b>Proposed Schedule of Capital Improvements, 2016-2021</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Target Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Finish Hagen Dock	2016 -2017	\$1,070,000	CDBG, other harbor grants, and town
New fire station	2019-2021	\$1 million	Grants, loans, and town
Water Company	Until 2021	\$1 million	Maine Drinking Water Program, CDBG, grants and, loans

<b>Proposed Capital Improvements, 2022-2038</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Target Year</b>	<b>Preliminary Cost Estimates*</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Colwell Ramp	2026	\$400,000	Grants & Savings
Fish Pier Expansion/Harbor Dredging	2030	\$500,000	US Army Corps of Engineers
Sanitary District	2025-2026	\$1,600,000	Grants, Savings, and Loans
Upgrade Oceanville and Indian Point Roads	2028	\$100,000	Loans
<b>*NOTE:</b> These are preliminary estimates and subject to change			