

Salisbury Winter Storm Meeting/Action Plan Update – Tuesday January 23, 2024

The meeting was attended by Senator Bruce Tarr, Representative Dawne Shand, DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo, DCR Deputy Commissioner Zach Crowley, DCR officials Patrice Kish and Darryl Forgione, Undersecretary of Environment EEA Stephanie Cooper, Peter Mulcahy EEA, Johannes Buchanan EEA, Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington, Salisbury Selectmen Chuck Takesian and Mike Colburn, Salisbury Planning Director Lisa Pearson, Salisbury Conservation Commission Chair Jeffrey Ward, Salisbury Conservation Agent Adriane Marchand, Tom Hughes, coastal environmental consultant for the Town of Salisbury, and Valerie Coolidge, Director of Special Projects for Senator Tarr.

Action plan updates are as follows:

Action Item 1 – Set up expedited process for private property owners to take emergency actions to protect dunes and structures.

Update items:

1. Emergency certification - The Conservation Commission is now prepared to process emergency certifications and has prepared a checklist to guide applicants through the process.
2. Construction Access Permits - will be processed by DCR once emergency certificate and necessary state permits are received.
3. MEPA - on behalf of the town, Tom Hughes will coordinate necessary MEPA filings consistent with previous NOI and other filings that have been part of an ongoing process involving the larger project being designed.
4. Natural Heritage and other approvals - Tom Hughes is also working on behalf of the Town to finalize these approvals in groups comprised of emergency applications in batches as they are received.
5. Salisbury and DCR officials will hold a public information session / workshop to assist property owners and contractors with the necessary procedures to secure approval for emergency work on Thursday, January 25, at 9:00 Am at Town Hall.

NOTE - The goal of all involved parties is to facilitate emergency work by property owners on or before the coming weekend.

Action Item 2 - Develop and implement a comprehensive plan for short - term dune and coastline rebuilding.

Update items:

1. The plan survey work necessary to inform decisions about project scope options and costs is being finalized.

The necessary survey work will be performed by MassDOT, using a LIDAR capable drone, on behalf of DCR. Tom Hughes will coordinate with DCR to ensure that the survey work is complete and provides the

necessary levels of detail and accuracy to inform the decisions that will need to be made as to project scope and cost.

This effort is on track for drone and other survey work to begin early next week and completed in a few days.

Action Item 3 - Request to the Healey - Driscoll administration by the Town Manager and the Salisbury Board of Selectmen for all possible regulatory approvals (on an expedited basis) and financial support for Action Items 1 and 2.

Update items - On Monday evening, January 22, the Board of Selectmen conducted a very productive public meeting with the involvement of Tom Hughes and many concerned residents / property owners.

The Board voted unanimously to make the request outlined above, and to transmit correspondence to that effect.

Next Steps - the group will reconvene on Friday, January 26th via Zoom to continue work on Action Items 1 and 2.

Thanks to all who are working intensively to respond to the emergency presented by the current conditions on the beach.