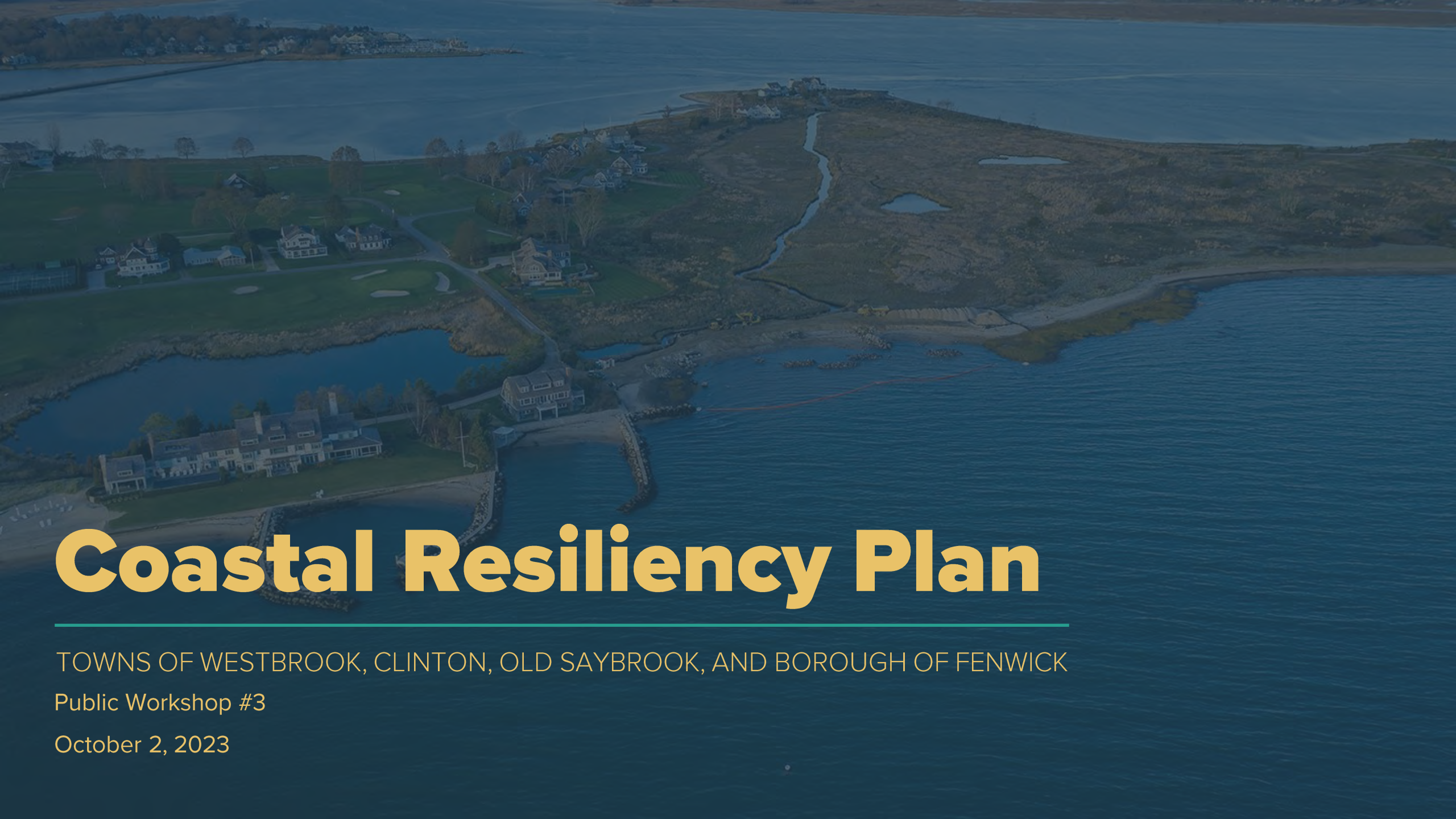


Coastal Resiliency Plan

TOWNS OF WESTBROOK, CLINTON, OLD SAYBROOK, AND BOROUGH OF FENWICK

Public Workshop #3

October 2, 2023

Meeting Overview

01 Project Purpose

02 Roles + Responsibilities

03 Scope + Schedule

04 Public Engagement

05 What We've Learned So Far

06 Next Steps

07 Activity

01

Project Purpose

PURPOSE

Why Create a Coastal Resiliency Plan?

To provide the Towns of Clinton, Westbrook, Old Saybrook, and the Borough of Fenwick with a comprehensive understanding of future risks associated with sea level rise and to collaboratively develop a shared vision for strategies and projects that will reduce risk and build community resilience

Project funding provided by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Futures Fund

PURPOSE

Building on a Strong Foundation

We are not starting from scratch.

Several related plans have already been completed or are currently underway in each municipality:

- Clinton Coastal Community Resilience Report (2022)
- Westbrook Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019)
- Old Saybrook & Fenwick Local Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update (2019)
- Old Saybrook Coastal Resilience and Adaptation Study (2018)

PURPOSE

Building on Local Knowledge

Municipal staff

Local coastal resiliency committees/task forces

Beach associations

The community

WHAT IS RESILIENCE?

Resilience is...

The capacity of a social-ecological system to absorb or withstand disturbances and other stressors and still maintain its basic structure and function.

(Holling 1973; Gunderson & Holling 2002; Walker et al. 2004)

WHAT IS RESILIENCE?

Three Interrelated Strategies to Address Climate Change

RESILIENCE

preparing for and improving the area's ability to recover/bounce back from climatic events

ADAPTATION

implementing changes to ensure we can live with and adapt to the impacts of climate change (e.g., building elevation)

MITIGATION

tackles the cause of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., renewable energy)

WHAT IS RESILIENCE?

Resilience of What and to What?

Resilience of **communities**
to **climate stressors**

- Sea level rise
- Coastal erosion
- Extreme precipitation & flooding
- Storm surges & high winds
- Extreme heat
- Warmer winters

WHAT IS RESILIENCE?

Benefits of Resilience

- Protect homes, businesses, & community infrastructure
- Protect Long Island Sound & its plant, animal, and marine life
- Protect beaches, wetlands, & coastal attractions
- Proactively prepare for future natural disturbances so our communities can quickly respond & recover
- Build local capacity to adapt & learn from past disturbances
- **Sustain a high quality of life for all residents**

qualities of a
RESILIENT WORLD

- Diversity
- Ecological variability
- Modularity
- Social capital
- Innovation
- Redundancy
- Ecosystem services

Walker & Salt (2006)

RESILIENCE ACROSS SCALES

Impacts Across Socio-Political Scales

United States

Connecticut

Regional

Municipalities

Landowners

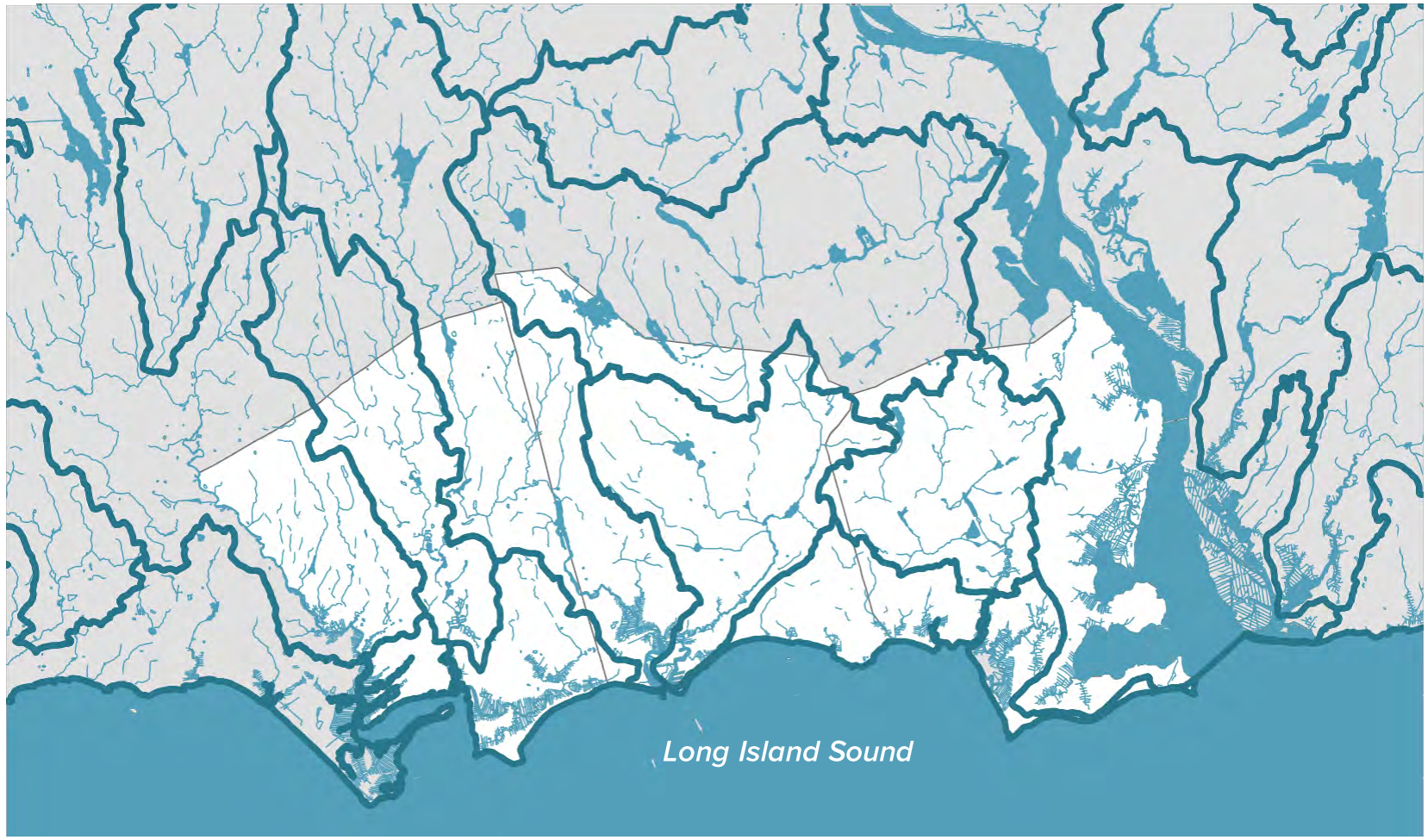
SLOWER MOVING VARIABLES
(laws, regulations)

FOCAL SCALE

FASTER MOVING VARIABLES
(land use + land management)

RESILIENCE ACROSS SCALES

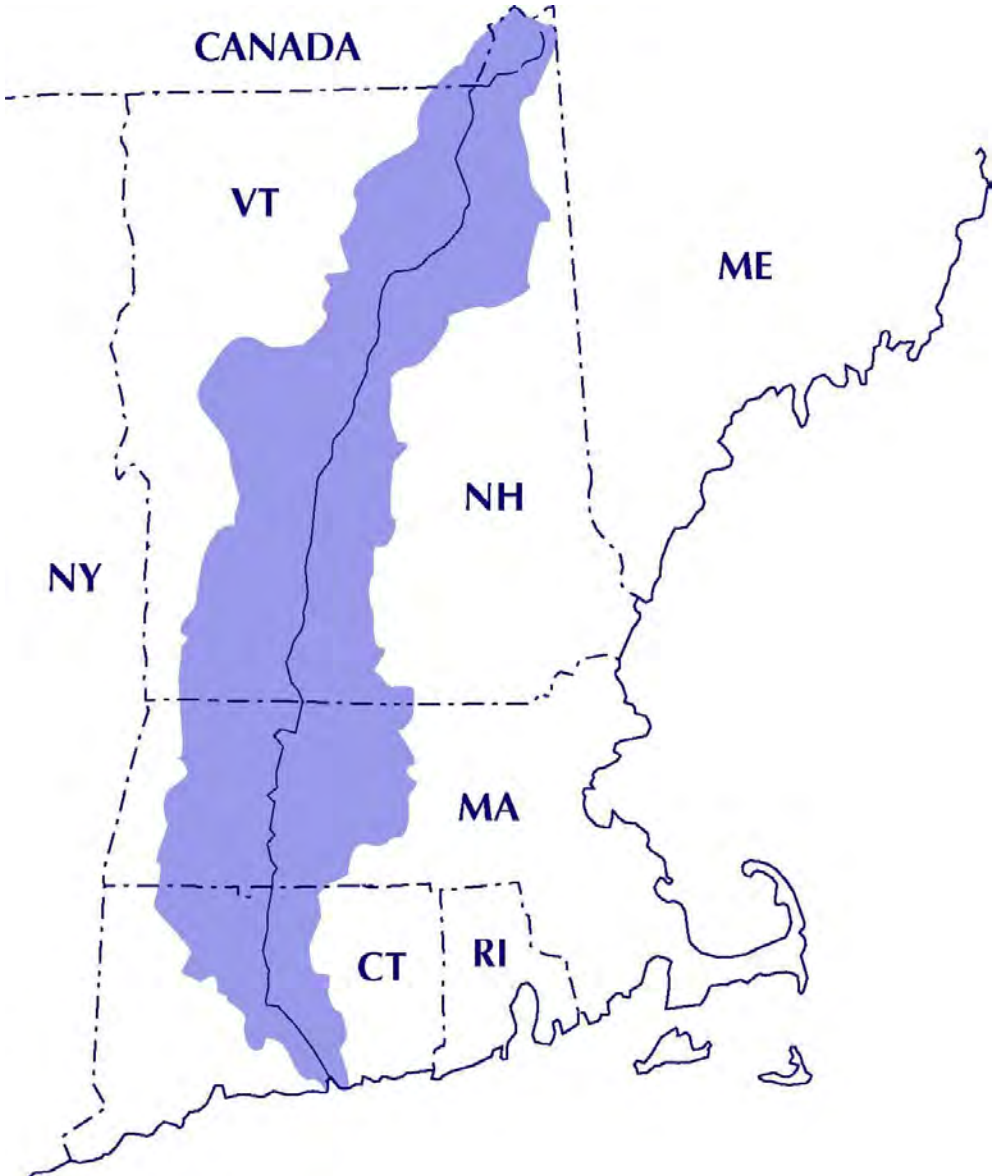
Impacts Across Ecological Scales



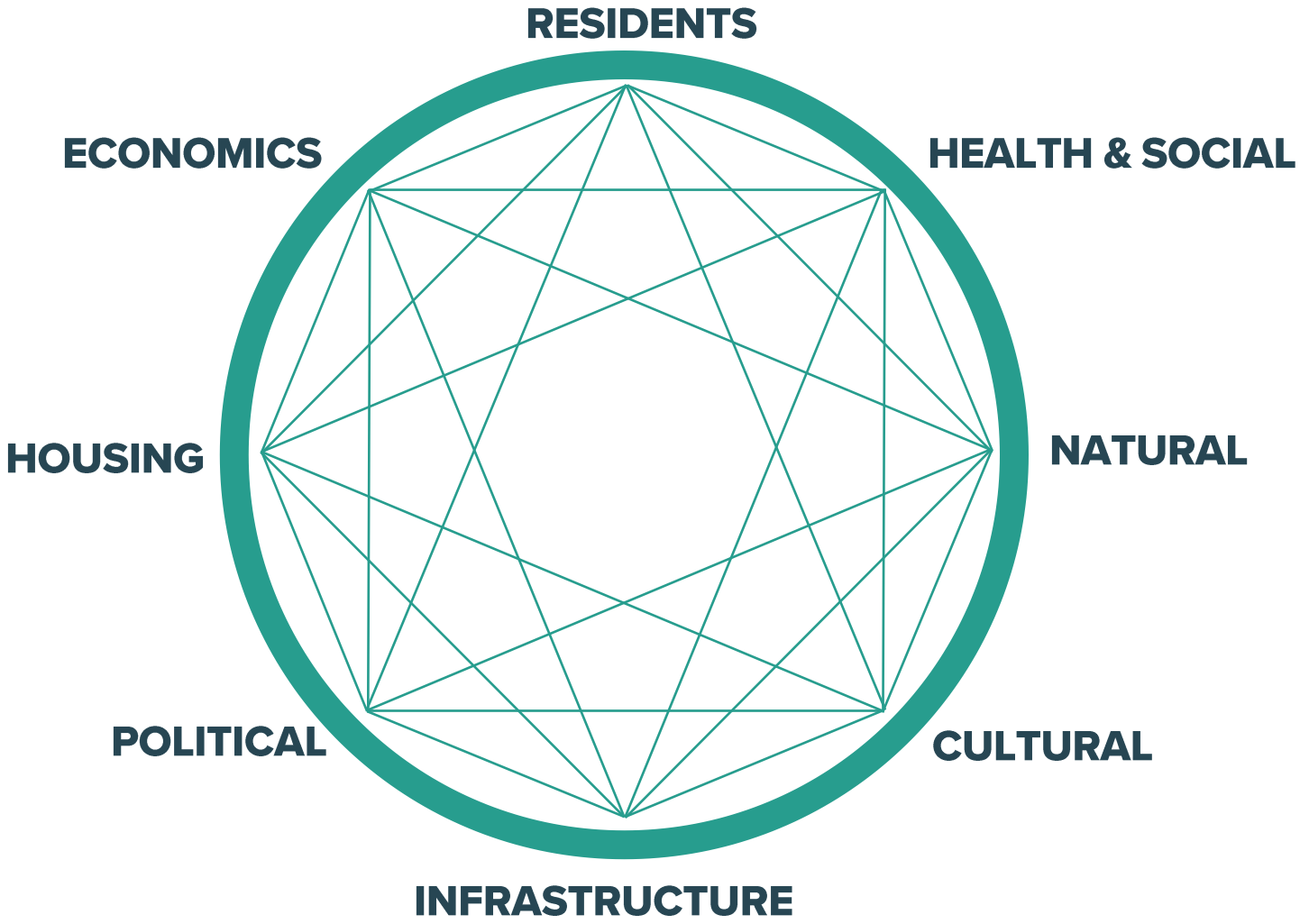
Subregional watershed basins

RESILIENCE ACROSS SCALES

Impacts Across Ecological Scales



INTERCONNECTED SYSTEMS



02

Roles + Responsibilities

ROLES + RESPONSIBILITES

Executive Committee

Stakeholders + Public

Consultant Team

ROLES + RESPONSIBILITIES

Executive Committee

Oversee and guide the planning process

- Representatives from each municipality
- Meet regularly throughout the project
- Review all draft deliverables
- Provide direction and assistance with public outreach

TOWN OF CLINTON

Abby Piersall, APiersall@clintonct.org

Carrie Allen, Carriefallen@gmail.com

TOWN OF WESTBROOK

Peter Gillespie, PGillespie@westbrookct.us

Tony Cozza, Tonycozza@comcast.net

TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK

Chris Costa, Chris.Costa@Oldsaybrookct.gov

Doug Mccracken, mccradsol@gmail.com

BOROUGH OF FENWICK

Marilyn Ozols, ZEO@fenwicknews.com

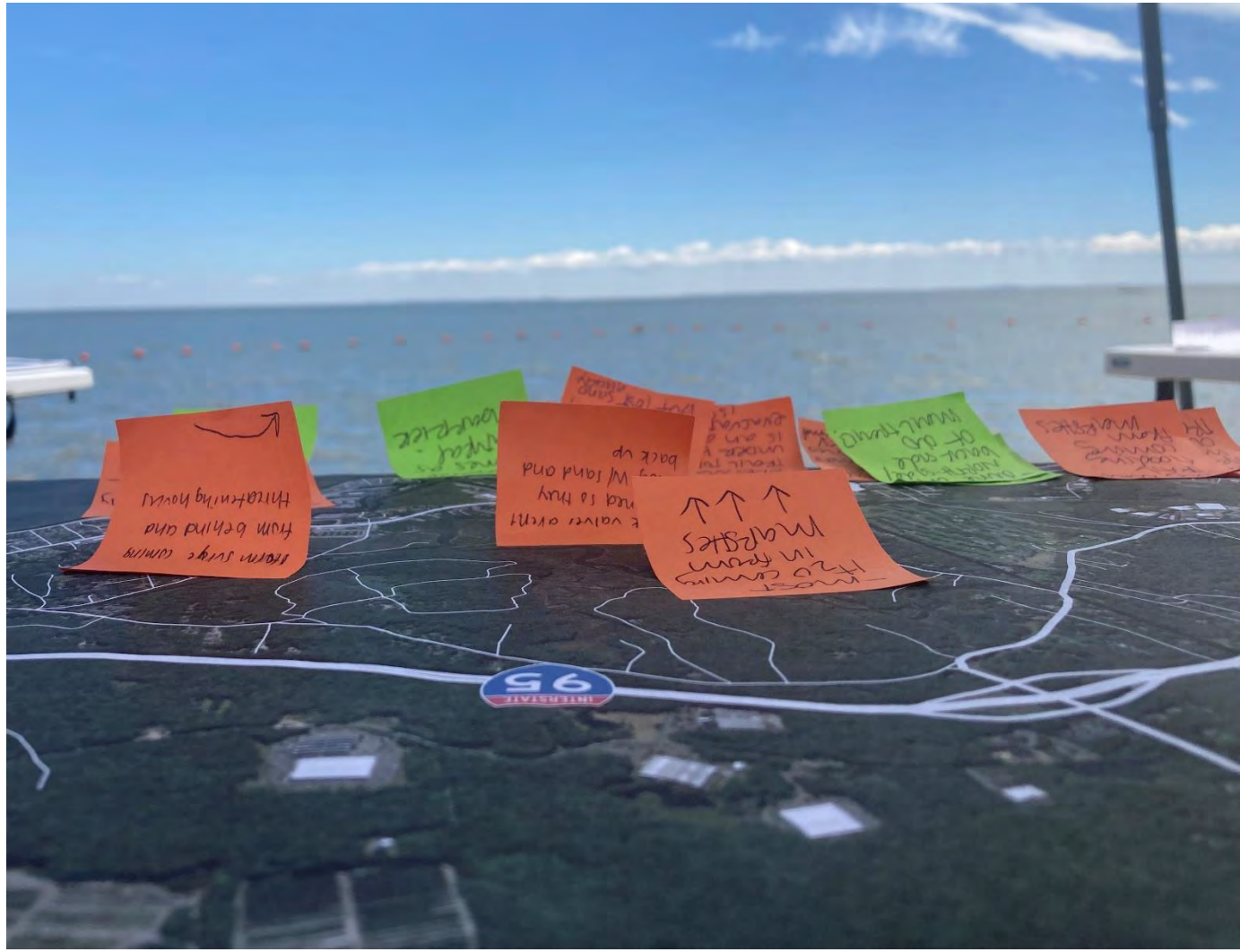
Bruce Baird, bbaird263@gmail.com

ROLES + RESPONSIBILITIES

Stakeholders + Public

Local Experts

- Contribute to and vet community asset mapping
- Provide feedback on issues and opportunities
- Assist with project identification and prioritization
- Provide input on draft Coastal Resiliency Plan



ROLES + RESPONSIBILITIES

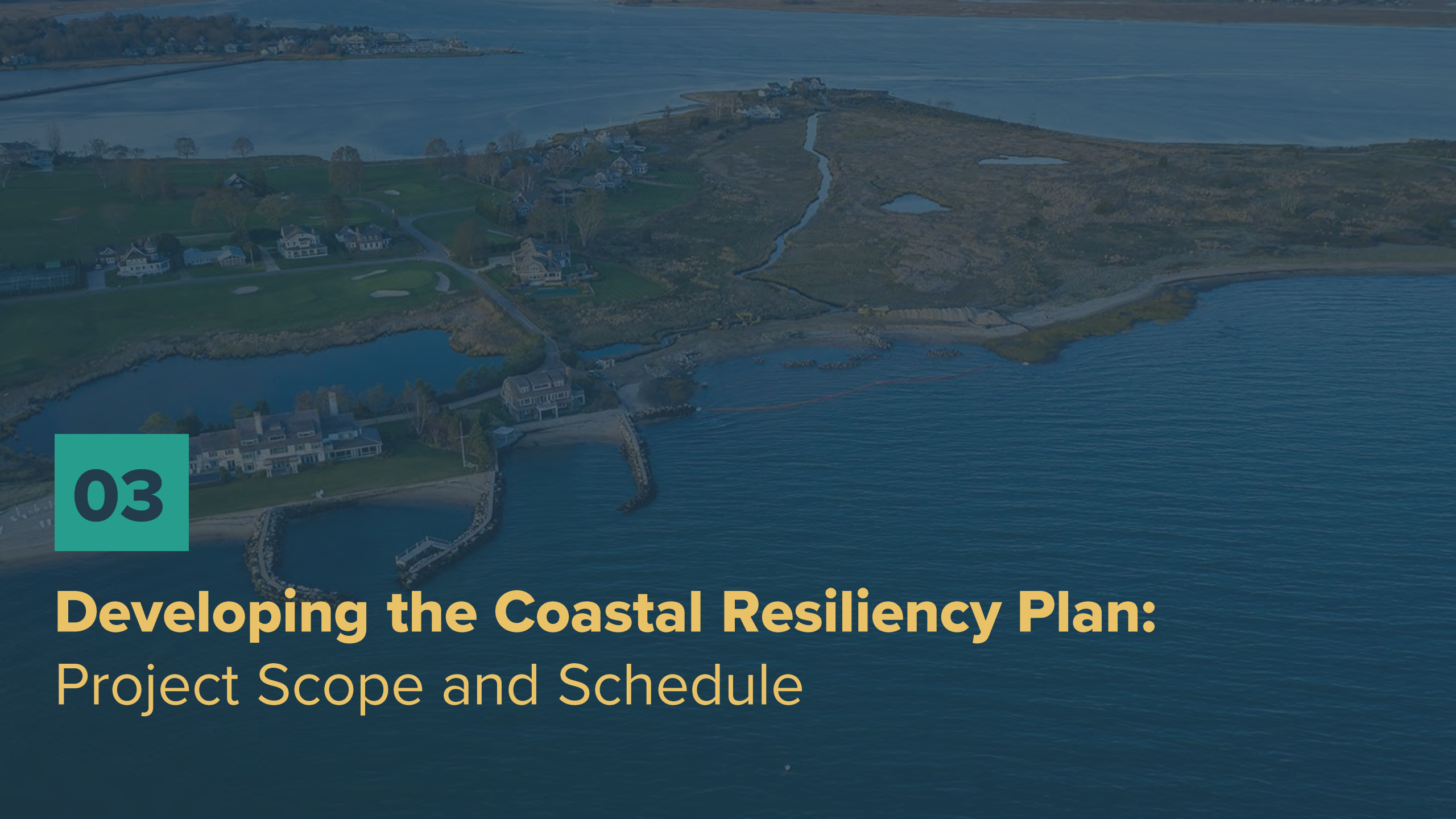
Consultant Team

Colliers Engineering & Design

ANCHOR QEA

Technical Project Leads

- Interdisciplinary firms with regional experience developing coastal resiliency plans and implementing resilience projects
- Hydrodynamic modeling
- Vulnerability assessment and project development
- Develop Coastal Resiliency Plan



03

Developing the Coastal Resiliency Plan: Project Scope and Schedule

PROCESS

Project Scope

identify
Community Assets
collaboratively w/ municipalities and the public

develop
Sea Level Rise Scenarios
using hydrodynamic modeling

conduct a
Risk Assessment
to identify vulnerable assets and systems

identify
Projects and Strategies
to increase the region's coastal resilience

1. IDENTIFYING ASSETS

Resources that Sustain a Community

Organized based on the Core Recovery Functions of the FEMA Recovery Framework

Housing

Infrastructure Systems

Health and Social Services

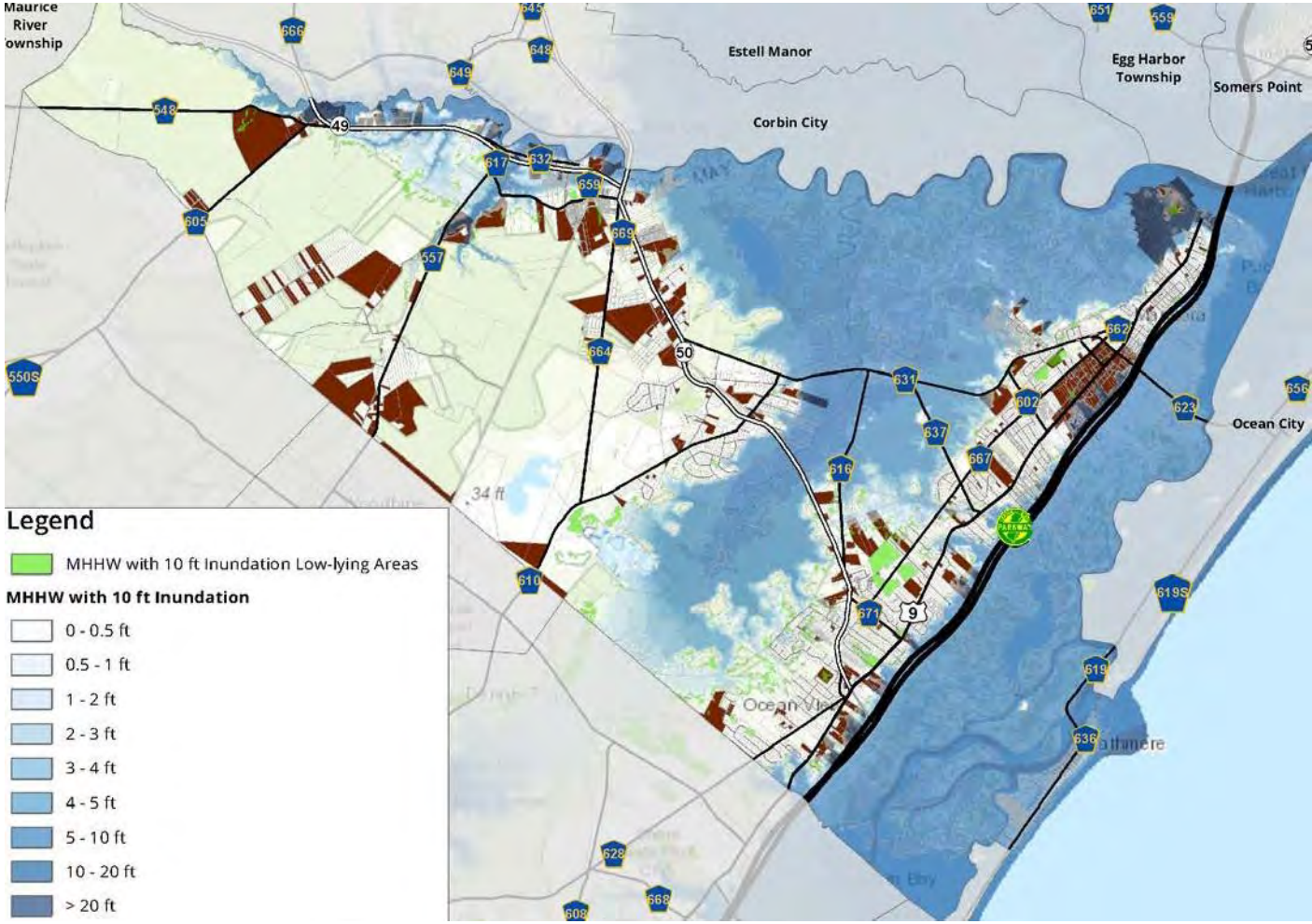
Natural and Cultural Resources

Economic Systems

2. MODELING SEA LEVEL RISE

Anticipating Future Flood Hazards

- Hydrodynamic modeling to develop custom sea level rise scenarios
- Parameters of the scenarios to be developed in coordination with the Executive Committee
- Modeling to be ground-truthed with public input / local knowledge
- Lays the foundation for the vulnerability and risk assessment



3. VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Assessing Risk to Assets

- Sea level rise scenarios overlaid with community assets
- Risk determined based on value of the asset and likelihood and severity of flooding
- Will result in the identification of short- and long-term projects to reduce risk

4. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Projects to Increase Resilience

- Collaborative process with the Executive Committee and community
- Grounded in best practices, science, and community needs
- Will identify several different types of projects, from regional projects to planning and policy-related initiatives

Planning
(e.g., POCDs)

Land Use Regulations

Capital Projects

Capacity Building

4. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Projects to Increase Resilience

4. PROJECT PRIORITIZATION + ACTION PLAN

Action plan for implementing projects and recommendations to include:

- Lead entity
- Key partners
- Cost estimate
- Timeframe
- Immediate next steps
- Funding sources

4. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Conceptual development of high priority projects

- 3 to 4 projects per municipality
- 2 regional projects

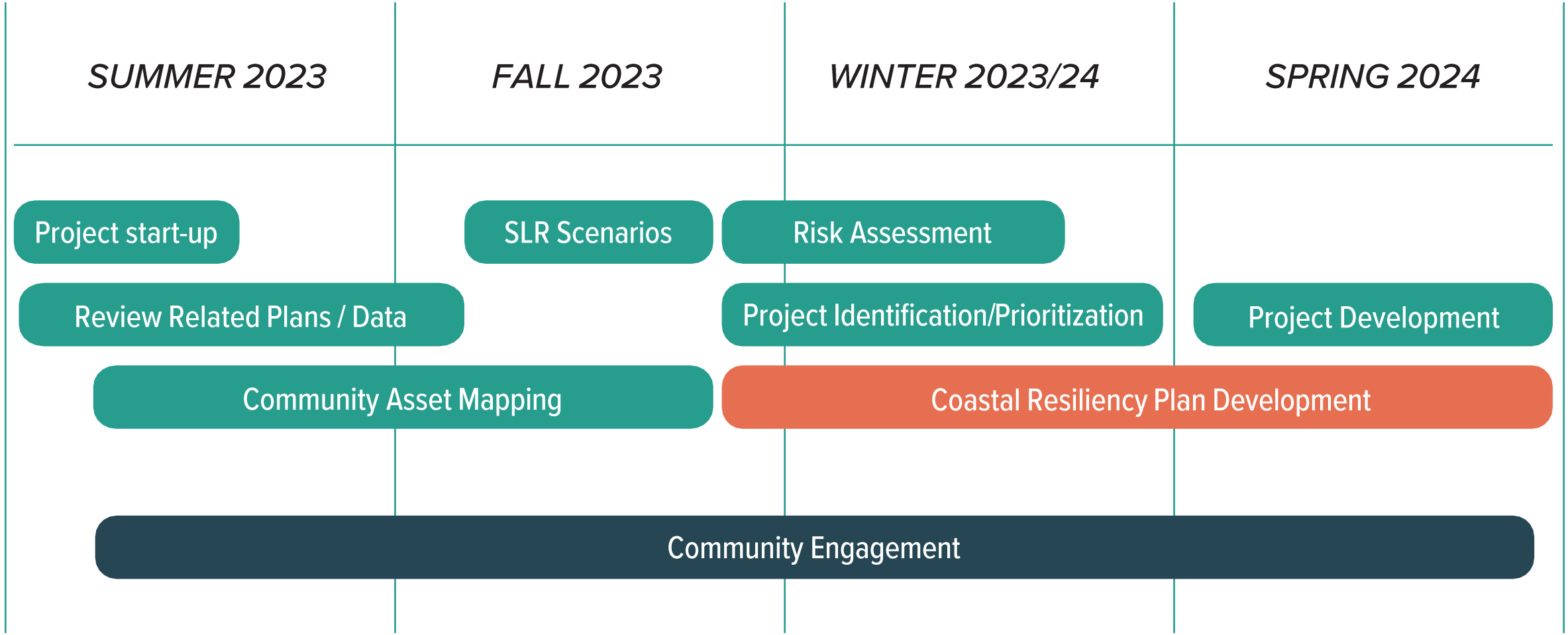
5. COASTAL RESILIENCY PLAN

- Draft Plan in May 2024

- Final Plan by end of June 2024

PROCESS

Project Schedule



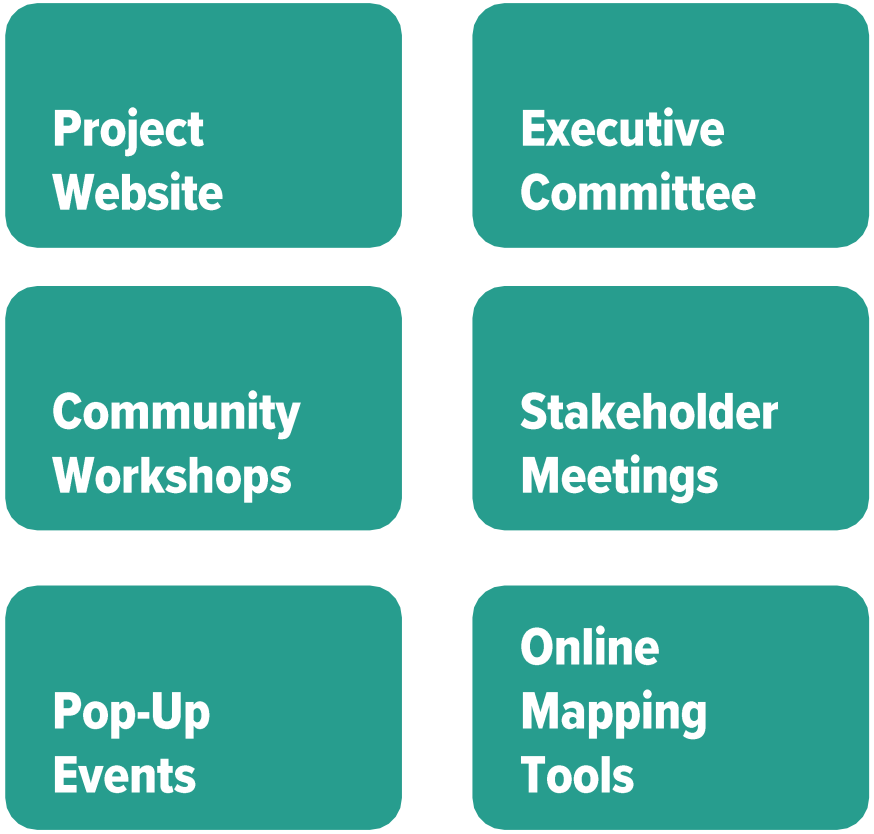
04

Public Engagement

OUTREACH

Public Engagement

- Developing a community-based plan is a priority of the planning process
- Public engagement will occur throughout the entire planning process



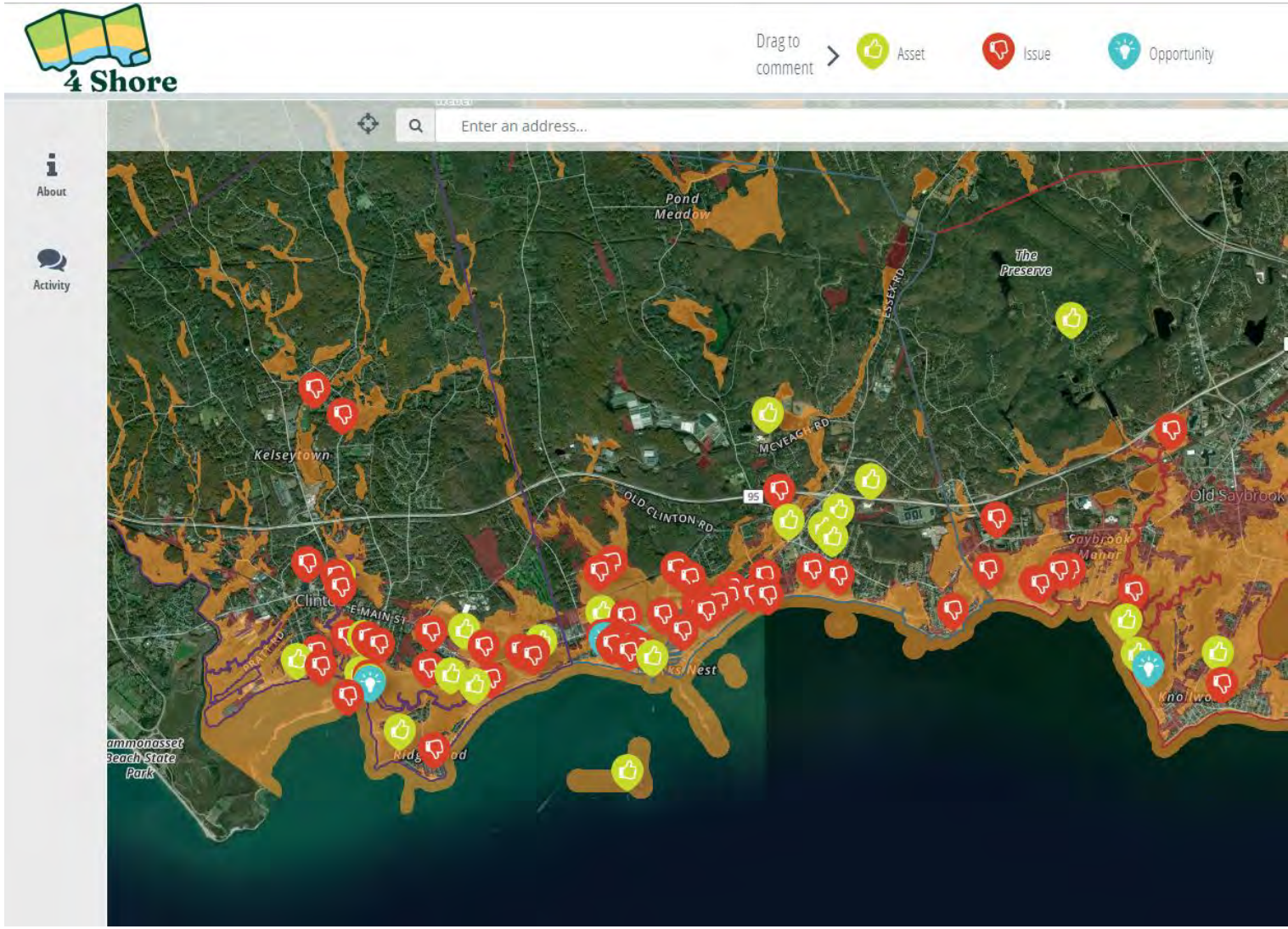
OUTREACH Public Engagement

- Project Website
- Executive Committee
- Community Workshops
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Pop-Up Events
- Online Mapping Tools

OUTREACH www.4ShoreResiliency.com

Several ways to access information and provide input:

- Read about the project
- Access related resiliency resources
- Learn about upcoming public events
- Submit comments to the project team 24/7
- “Subscribe” to the project website
- Add assets, issues, and opportunities to an **interactive map**



OUTREACH

Public Engagement

- Project Website
- Executive Committee
- Community Workshops
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Pop-Up Events
- Online Mapping Tools

OUTREACH

Community Workshops

OUTREACH

Upcoming Community Workshops

Content at these two meetings will be identical. Multiple options are being provided to expand access.

IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

6:30PM - 8PM

Old Saybrook Middle School Auditorium

OUTREACH

Public Engagement

- Project Website
- Executive Committee
- Community Workshops
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Pop-Up Events
- Online Mapping Tools

OUTREACH

Pop-Up Events

SUMMER/FALL 2023

1 2 3

Intro to the resiliency plan + community asset mapping

WINTER 2023 / 2024

4 5

Risk assessment review + project identification/prioritization

SPRING 2024

6

Presentation of draft resiliency plan

OUTREACH

Public Engagement

- Project Website
- Executive Committee
- Community Workshops
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Pop-Up Events
- Online Mapping Tools

OUTREACH Stakeholders

Learning from local experts and building on local knowledge

Meetings throughout the project

Format tailored to stakeholders
virtual, in-person, small group, site visits, walking tours

Meeting invitations coordinated with Executive Committee

05

What We’ve Learned So Far

OUTREACH

Public Events + Stakeholder Outreach

Public Input Received to Date:

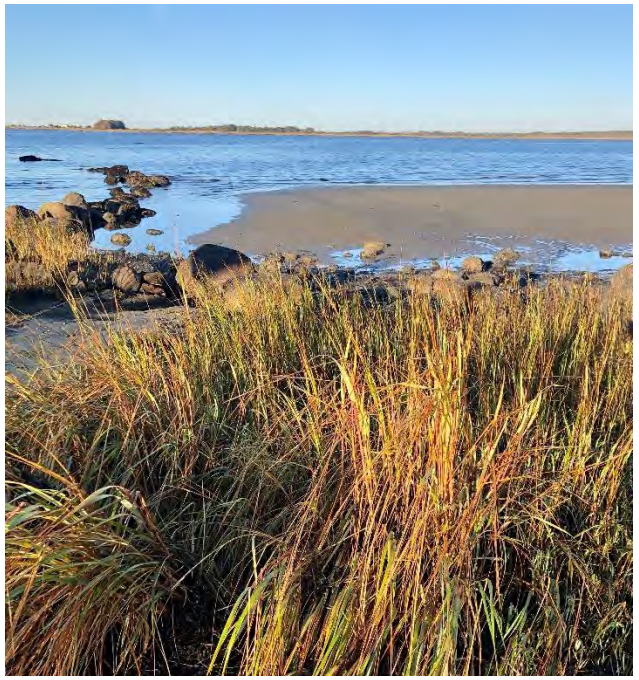
- Pop-up event at Westbrook Town Beach
- Pop-up event at Clinton Summerfest
- Driving tour of study area with Executive Committee
- Comments submitted via website and interactive map

ASSETS

What We're Hearing

Assets

- Historic districts / homes (e.g., Waterside Lane)
- Public docks, marinas, and beaches (e.g., Saybrook Point, Clinton Town Dock)
- Emergency services (fire, EMS, police)
- Schools
- Recreational facilities (parks, golf course)
- Beach communities
- Urban forest
- Marine habitats
- Salt marshes, wetlands, and rivers



ISSUES

What We're Hearing

Issues

- Damaged seawalls and other structures
- Beach erosion
- Roadways prone to flooding (e.g., railroad underpasses, coastal roads)
- Critical facilities at flood risk (e.g., fire departments)
- High tide flooding
- Stormwater runoff
- Septic system failure and impacts to water quality, public health, and ecological health

ISSUES

What We're Hearing

Issue Areas

- Lobster Landing
- Shore Road and Groveway
- Clinton Town Beach
- Old Mail Trail
- Pilots Point Neighborhood
- Tarpon, Dolphin, and Striper Avenues
- Chalker Beach
- Cold Spring Marsh
- Stormwater run-off from US Rte 1
- Sequassen Ave

06

Next Steps

NEXT STEPS

Resiliency Plan Development

- Asset inventory development
- Setting the parameters for the hydrodynamic modeling
- Stakeholder meetings
- Continued public outreach

NEXT STEPS

Public Engagement

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

from 6:30PM - 8PM @ the Old

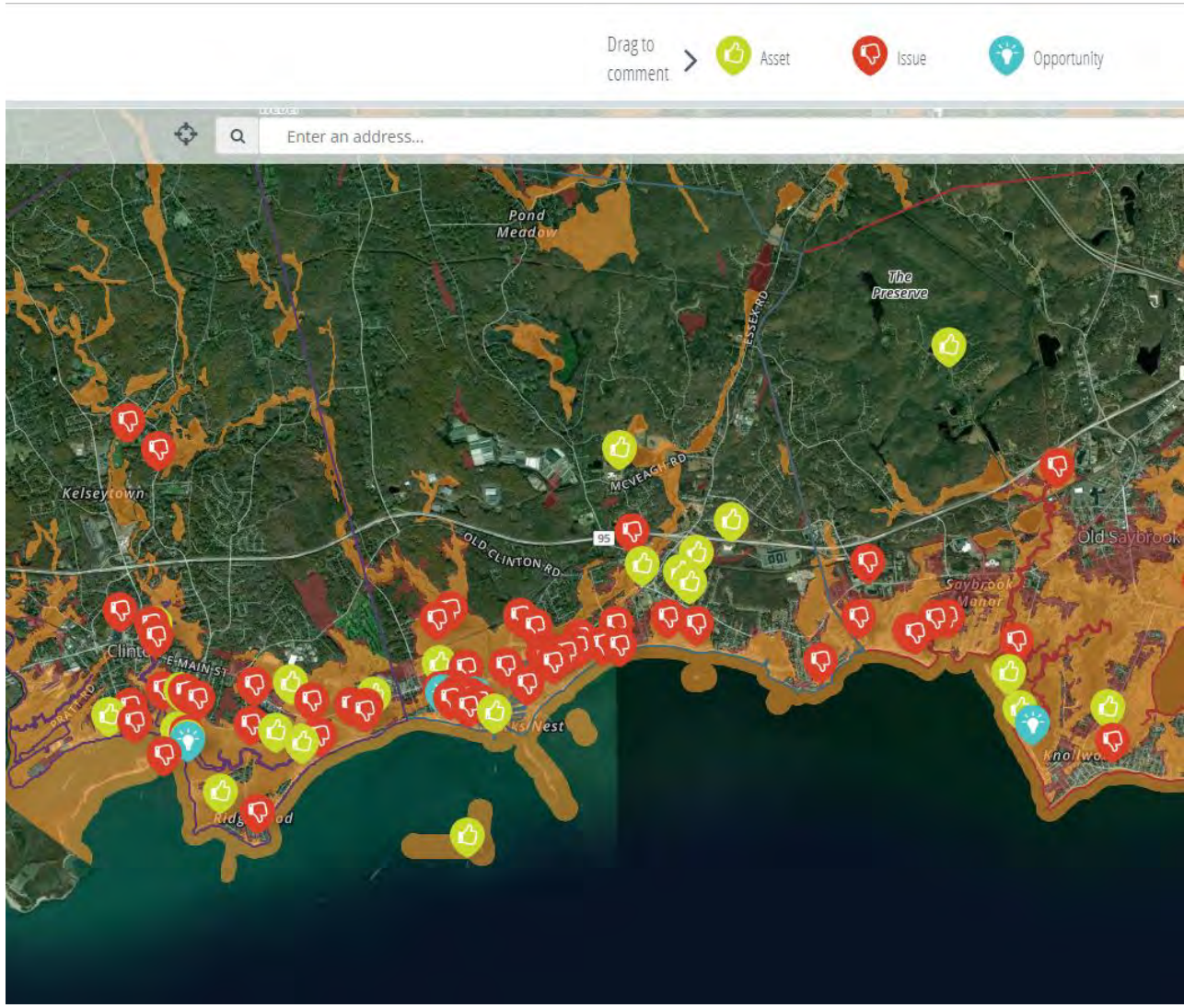
Saybrook Middle School Auditorium

NEXT STEPS

Don’t Forget to Visit the Website!

www.4ShoreResiliency.com

Please visit the project website to add your insights and ideas to the interactive map!



07

Activity


Thank You!
www.4ShoreResiliency.com