

Town of Southern Shores

CRS Activity 510

2023 Progress Report for Hazard Mitigation

Name of Plan: Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date Adopted: August 18, 2020

Location where copies are available for review: Town Hall, Town Website

Review of Mitigation Strategies:

- 1. Enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance as a hazard mitigation tool**
 - The Town continues to enforce the adopted Zoning Ordinance. Zoning Permits are issued for new development, changes in use, and new uses in order to ensure compliance.
- 2. Identify “at risk” X Zone properties for added emphasis on flood risks and notify the responsible agencies about discrepancies between floodplain maps (FIRM versus SLOSH).**
 - The Town continues to identify at risk properties following storm events by utilizing GIS data and in the field observations.
- 3. Continue enforcement of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance**
 - The Town continues to enforce the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Building permits are not issued unless plans demonstrate compliance with the established requirements.
- 4. Continue the enforcement of the NC State Fire Prevention Code, referenced by the Town Fire Code**
 - The Town continues to enforce the Town Fire Code. The Town’s Building Inspector conducts fire inspections of non-residential properties to ensure compliance. A full-time Building Inspector was hired in December, 2020.
- 5. Continue enforcing the Lot Disturbance provisions of the Zoning Ordinance**
 - The Town continues to enforce the Lot Disturbance provisions of the Zoning Ordinance. No grading, filling, or other alteration of the topography or elevation of any unimproved lot, or demolition and clearing of improved property, nor any manmade change to any improved real estate resulting in the discharge of stormwater onto adjacent property and requiring a building permit, is undertaken without prior issuance of a lot disturbance permit.

- 6. Seek the maximum points available from the Community Rating System to keep flood insurance costs to the citizens as low as possible**
 - The Town continues to seek the maximum points available from the Community Rating System. The Town's last cycle visit was in 2021 which gave the Town a rating of Class 6 which is recertified annually. Communities with a Class 6 rating receive a 20% discount on insurance policies issued for properties in special flood hazard areas (SFHA's).
- 7. Coordinate wildfire prevention efforts with tree preservation policies**
 - The Town requires a permit for open burning and encourages all property owners to contact the Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department prior to any open burning.
- 8. Continue enforcing Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) regulations**
 - The Town continues to enforce the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) regulations. The Town's Local Permit Officers continue to review and issue Minor Permits and Exemptions in accordance with the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA).
- 9. Continue enforcing the state Erosion and Sedimentation Control regulations**
 - When applicable, all new development must obtain a State-issued permit prior to issuance of a building permit.
- 10. Identify factors that affect the severity of drought.**
 - The Town continues to identify factors that affect the severity of drought.
- 11. Obtaining local data including tax parcels, building footprints, critical facility locations, and other information for use in risk analysis.**
 - The Town continues to use Dare County GIS to obtain local data including tax parcels, building footprints, critical facility locations, and other information for use in risk analysis
- 12. Modeling various "what if" scenarios to estimate potential vulnerabilities in order to develop sea level rise mitigation priorities.**
 - The Town is currently in the process of updating its CAMA Land Use Plan which includes scenarios showing the potential impacts of sea level rise.
- 13. Continue enforcement of the State building code, including wind load requirements.**
 - The Town continues to enforce the State building code, including wind load requirements. All building plans must demonstrate compliance prior to issuance of a building permit. The Building Inspector continues to conduct inspections during construction and no Certificate of Occupancy is issued unless all requirements are satisfied.
- 14. Conduct the Canal inspections and Debris Removal program twice a year.**
 - The Town's Public Works Department periodically inspects the Town's canal system and removes debris as needed.
- 15. Continue implementation of the Waterways and Beaches Ordinance.**
 - The Town continues to implement the Waterways and Beaches Ordinance. The Town Community Resource Officer and contracted lifeguard service conduct patrols of the beach to ensure compliance. All development along Town waterways is approved following demonstration of compliance. The Town continues to send Notices of Violation for canal obstructions.

16. Continue enforcement of the Beach and Dune Management Ordinance.

- The Town continues to enforce the Beach and Dune Management Ordinance. The Town Community Resource Officer and contracted lifeguard service conduct patrols of the beach to ensure compliance.

17. Continue to monitor plans for the Mid-Currituck Bridge to expedite evacuation.

- The Town continues to monitor plans for and support a Mid-Currituck Bridge which has been tied up in a lawsuit for the past several years. The Town submitted an Amicus Brief to the U.S. Court of Appeals Fourth Circuit on June 13, 2022. In April, 2023, the 4th Circuit denied the Plaintiff's request for rehearing.

18. Inspecting bridges and identifying if any repairs or retrofits are needed to prevent scour.

- The Town receives bridge inspection reports from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

19. Continue to have a standing Reconstruction Task Force.

- The Reconstruction Task Force was reappointed on October 3, 2023.

20. Continue to provide an Emergency Operations Center.

- The Town continues to provide an Emergency Operations Center when needed for storm events and coordinates events with the Dare County Emergency Operations Center.

21. Keep emergency plans current and provide staff with continuing education opportunities.

- The Town updates its Emergency Management Plan annually and provides Town Staff with continuing education opportunities.

22. Educate citizens on expected impacts of hazards on daily life.

- The Town utilizes social media, its website, and a bi-weekly newsletter to disseminate information regarding the impacts of hazards on daily lives.

23. Educate citizens regarding the dangers of extreme heat and cold and the steps they can take to protect themselves when extreme temperatures occur.

- The Town utilizes social media to share information about the dangers of extreme weather and how citizens can protect themselves.

24. Encouraging residents in flood-prone areas to elevate homes.

- The Town continues to encourage residents in flood-prone areas to elevate homes.

Recommendations:

- Ensure that flood information is included in the adoption draft of the Town's updated Land Use Plan.
- Ensure that sea level rise information is included in the adoption draft of the Town's updated Land Use Plan.

Dissemination:

- This report was sent to our governing body via electronic mail on July 31, 2023. This report was made available to the public by posting it on the Town website on July 31, 2023 and included in the Town's electronic Newsletter that was sent on July 31, 2023. This report was released to the media via electronic mail on

October 6, 2023.