

## CRS Activity 510

### Annual Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan

Name of Community: Borough of Stonington CT

Date this Report was Prepared: January 11, 2022

Name of Plan: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update -- Annex for the Borough of Stonington

Date of Adoption of Plan: Adopted January 16, 2018 by Board of Warden & Burgesses

5 Year CRS Expiration Date: January 2023

1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained:  
*The plan is posted on the Borough website under Fire & Emergency Management Department.*
2. Describe how this annual progress report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:  
*The progress report was prepared by the flood plain manager (warden) and zoning official and submitted to the Board of Warden & Burgesses at the January 2022 regular meeting. Local media have declined to cover this story, but the progress report is posted on the Borough website.*
3. Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:  
*The plan contains 10 action items, which are listed in the table on the next page. Implementation status is provided following the table.*
4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:  
*The major factor limiting implementation of some recommendations, specifically infrastructure projects, is lack of funds. This is true, for example, of #6, Coastal Resiliency Plan recommendations; of #7, upgrading the resiliency of the Borough water pollution control facility; and of #8, exploring the feasibility of constructing a seawall around the Borough. All of these projects are beyond the fiscal resources of a community with fewer than 1000 residents.*
5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?  
*As the HMP is updated in 2022, place more emphasis on implementing specific infrastructure improvements, such as hardening the Borough water pollution control facility, which is located on the harbor, and improving storm water drainage systems.*

ACTIVITY 510 BOROUGH OF STONINGTON HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (2018)  
ACTION ITEMS

1	Integrate additional elements of this HMP into the Plan of Conservation and Development during the next update
2	Investigate feasibility of creating new egress from the Borough.
3	Install an emergency generator at Borough Hall
4	Dry floodproof the utility room in Borough Hall
5	Upgrade storm water collection and discharge systems to keep up with rising sea level
6	Implement recommendations of the Stonington Coastal Resiliency Plan as is appropriate
7	Work with the Town of Stonington to ensure that the Waste Water Treatment Facility is protected from coastal flooding and storm surge.
8	Explore the feasibility of large-scale flood protection projects such as construction of a seawall around the Borough.
9	Revise local flood regulations as needed to clarify the exemptions and variances available to historic properties (refer to the Historic and Cultural Resources Resiliency Planning Report as needed)
10	Send Borough staff to a State Historic Preservation Office / Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation training for local historic district commissioners and Certified Local Governments on managing historic districts in Connecticut

## IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

1. The next update of the Borough Plan of Conservation & Development is due in December 2022. The next update of the HMP will be completed about the same time. The floodplain manager will work with the planning & zoning commission to coordinate integration of the two documents.
2. The Borough is divided roughly in half by Amtrak rail tracks. The only egress from the western part, which is a narrow peninsula, is by a viaduct (vehicles and pedestrians) or by a footbridge. In an effort to create a third exit for emergency use only, the warden has been in discussion with Amtrak officials since August 2019. These communications have consisted of meetings as well as letters and email. Thus far Amtrak has provided verbal assurances of allowing the emergency egress, but they have not put that agreement in writing. The warden continues to pursue this objective.
3. A 32 kW Generac unit was installed in January 2020.
4. A concrete barrier has been constructed around the outside entrance to the utility room to reduce the probability of flood water entering the room.
5. The Borough has allocated a significant portion of its ARPA funding to have the storm water drainage system inspected and mapped and several known drainage problem areas assessed. Monitoring and maintenance of storm water infrastructure has been improved under the joint Town/Borough MS4 Plan.
6. The *Stonington Coastal Resiliency Plan* (2017) provided a high level analysis of the Town's and Borough's future threat from climate change. It offered a range of possible responses to the threat, from "hard" solutions such as seawalls to softer approaches (living shorelines) as well as administrative and outreach actions. A few high value assets were discussed in more detail, and more specific solutions were proposed for those cases. None of the so-called "Top 5" assets is in the Borough. Our response to the 2017 study thus far has been three fold: (1) improve existing seawall and drainage infrastructure; (2) review and improve zoning regulations as they apply to the SFHA; and (3) participate in the Town's

Climate Change Task Force, which seeks to educate residents and to obtain funding for capital projects that address resiliency.

7. The treatment plant located in the Borough is owned and operated by the Town of Stonington. At present the Town is focusing its capital program on upgrading the plant's capacity and efficiency. There are no current projects to improve the plant's resiliency.

8. In the current and prior fiscal years, the Borough has invested approximately 5 percent of its total budget (and approximately 40% of its infrastructure budget) on maintaining public seawalls. Repairs to the wall around Wayland's Wharf were completed in 2021. Constructing a seawall around the entire Borough is not fiscally feasible at this time.

9. Section 3.3.2.7 of the Stonington Borough zoning regulations was revised and adopted in March 2020. The revision expands on the explanation of variances for historic properties in the SFHA.

10. Training has not been available during Covid-19 restrictions in CT.