

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Stony Point was convened on August 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

The following resolution was duly offered by Supervisor Monaghan,
Seconded by Councilman Basile and unanimously carried by a voice vote
Of those board members present; to wit

RESOLUTION 2018/34

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED PLANS FOR COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT WITHOUT SUFFICIENT STUDY OR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

WHEREAS, from July 9 through July 11, 2018, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACOE) held public meetings for the first and only time regarding it “Coastal Storm Risk Management” study (CSRМ) for New York Harbor and the Hudson Valley; and

WHEREAS, four of the ACOE’s proposed alternative plans (2, 3A, 3B and 4) involve outer and inner harbor barriers that almost entirely block either the Hudson River or major New York Harbor tributaries during storm events and would alter river and tributary flow patterns at all times; and

WHEREAS, two of the ACOE’s alternatives propose barriers (2 and 3A) that would entirely close off the harbor and river from the Atlantic during storm events and would alter river and tributary flow patterns at all times; and

WHEREAS, the proposed barriers could impede the estuary’s tidal flow, contaminant and sediment transport, and migration of fish, and impede the tidal “respiration” of the river; and

WHEREAS, over time, the barriers have the potential to 1) significantly restrict migrations of striped bass, Atlantic sturgeon, herring, shad, eel and other species essential to the Hudson estuary, 2) prevent the ocean tide from flushing NY Harbor, and 3) inhibit rainstorm flood waters like those during Irene and Lee in 2011 from leaving the Hudson.; and

WHEREAS, open tidal exchange is essential to move sediment and flush contaminants and if tidal exchange is restricted, the harbor could require much more dredging to maintain shipping channels. Sewage and other contaminants could flush to the ocean more slowly, resulting in more pollution for our already contaminated harbor and river; and

WHEREAS, proposed alternative #5 – described as “Perimeter-only” and relying entirely on shoreline-based floodwalls and levees - is the only scenario presented so far that may protect low-lying communities from storm surge from storms like Irene, Lee and Sandy, while leaving our rivers to continue to flow naturally; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plans with in-water barriers do not account for climate change and do nothing to help communities adapt to sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, insufficient scientific data is available to fully understand the consequences of altering Hudson River flow with permanent barriers; and

WHEREAS, the public comment period has been set for only five weeks during peak summer vacation times when many residents are away and not easily informed about this major set of proposals; and

WHEREAS, Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, and many others have voiced their concern and opposition to storm risk management approaches that could severely compromise the health of the Hudson River and its tributaries; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Stony Point of does hereby register its strongest possible opposition to proposed plans 2 and 3A, and asks that they be removed from further consideration; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Stony Point does hereby register its support for further studies to ensure that shoreline-based measures such as Alternative 5, described as “Perimeter Only”, would in fact protect New York Harbor and the Hudson Valley from flooding; and be it further.

RESOLVED, that further planning to manage the risk of coastal storm damage take into account the impact of climate change and its impact on seal level rise; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the public comment period be extended by 90 days to allow for full public understanding and response to the US ACOE proposals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to Nancy J. Brighton, Chief, Watershed Section, US ACOE, Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Kristen Gillebrand, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Congressman Eliot Engel, Governor Cuomo, Secretary of State Rossana Rosado Senator Andrea Stewart –Cousins, Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti