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From: Lorraine Iovanni <l.iovanni@comcast.net>

To: "harrisona@manchester.ma.us" <harrisona@manchester.ma.us>, "olneyc@manchester.ma.us" <olneyc@manchester.ma.us>, "zbachairperson@manchester.ma.us" <zbachairperson@manchester.ma.us>, Mike Pratt <michaelcpratt@yahoo.com>

Cc: "Mastrogiacomor@manchester.ma.us" <Mastrogiacomor@manchester.ma.us>, "creightons@manchester.ma.us" <creightons@manchester.ma.us>, "tennyl@manchester.ma.us" <tennyl@manchester.ma.us>, "foleym@manchester.ma.us" <foleym@manchester.ma.us>, Christine Delisio <delisioc@manchester.ma.us>, "Philbricks@manchester.ma.us" <Philbricks@manchester.ma.us>, "hunterg@manchester.ma.us" <hunterg@manchester.ma.us>, "wareb@manchester.ma.us" <wareb@manchester.ma.us>, "federspielg@manchester.ma.us" <federspielg@manchester.ma.us>, "roundj@manchester.ma.us" <roundj@manchester.ma.us>, STEVE GANG <steve.gang@resonanceinsights.com>

Date: 07/07/2023 2:55 PM EDT

Subject: Input: MBTA Task Force Flood Data/ July 20, 2023

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LA_LY2HZah8

Attn: MBTA Task Force

Cc: Planning Board and Chair ConCom

(Ms Hunter, please ensure that Mr Morse, Ms Bodmer-Turner, Mr Smith, and Mr Hall receive this email also..thank you).

Good Afternoon, All:

In anticipation of the July 20, 2023 MBTA Task Force Meeting, I am recommending that the Task Force view the You Tube video above containing consultant Fuss and O'Neill's MBTA Coastal Vulnerability Action Plan presentation to mitigate downtown flooding based on the State Coastal Zoning Management (CZM) future flood models for 2030, 2050, and 2070.

The consultant outlined various risk factors, visuals, and mitigation recommendations for the area surrounding the MBTA station. The major takeaway:

1. Proposing buy outs of residential housing on Beach St, Tappan St, and houses surrounding Sawmill Brook.
2. Coordinating with the MBTA to raise (increase in height) the rail line (the consultant estimated 6ft to 8 ft.)
3. Building a berm system around the Park and MBTA areas to prevent flooding.
4. Raising private residences on Beach St and Tappen St.

5. Allowing Masconomo and Reed parks to purposely flood, with access by boardwalks.
6. "Reimagining" our relationship with the waterfront in that area (whatever that means).
7. Ms Tenny who attended remarked with several great points on tolerances for land use, use of municipal land, and strategically thinking about short term vs long term costs for mitigation. Mr Gang remarked regarding the accuracy of MIT and NOAA numbers on projected flooding vs State Coastal Zoning numbers posited by the State CZM, thereby raising serious questions on foundational data upon which to assess future flooding of the MBTA area.

The Fuss and O'Neill Report is an essential viewing as a framework for the MBTA Task Force decision making process with regard to the position of the MBTA Station, zoning changes, and potentially more residential housing related to future flooding in that locus.

I will make an effort to attend the July 20 meeting and I hope that this Report becomes the backdrop for any future deliberations on additional MBTA housing pursuant to Ch40A, Sec 3A. We may have a dichotomy here between CZM and DHCD driving MBTA housing specifically for MBTS future flooding challenges.

Best,

Lorraine

Lorraine Iovanni

20 A Pine St