

**Saugus Board of Selectmen Meeting  
February 6, 2024**

**7:00 PM**

*This meeting is being recorded.*

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TOWN OF SAUGUS, MASS.

Open Meeting: Welcome.

**Attendance:** Chairman Debra Panetta, Vice Chair Jeffrey Cicolini, Selectman Anthony Cogliano, and Selectman Corinne Riley. Selectman Serino was absent. Also present, Town Manager Scott Crabtree.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business: Ms. Ellen Schena, requesting signatures on the Warrant for the Presidential primary on March 5th, 2024. A vote is needed by the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Panetta explained that the March 5, 2024 warrant includes another location called the Central Tabulations facility, the CTF, located at the Saugus Senior Center. This is not a polling location for foot traffic, but to process early voting absentee ballots by precinct through a high velocity scanner. The Central tabulation facility has been around since 2020 and included in the Votes Act of 2022. Many Massachusetts cities and towns are moving in this direction due to the high volume of Early Voting ballots.

When the tabulations come from the ten precincts, they will not include numbers. Once at the town hall the town clerk and staff will place them in the appropriate precincts. This process, a first for the town, will speed up the results.

Vice Chair Cicolini made the motion to call for the Presidential Election on March 5, 2024. Chair seconds, all in favor – motion passes 4-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A Happy Birthday Citation from the selectmen was presented to Mr. Louis Fantasia on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Saugus Lions Club permit request for their annual Canning Drive on Saturday, May 18, 2024, for donation for eye research from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Locations: Hamilton Street, and Central Street and at the Saugus Center Rotary, and the Lynn Fells Parkway/Main Street traffic lights.

Requirements: Proper vesting to be worn and cones placed according to the regulations of the police department. Selectman Cogliano made the motion to grant the permit, seconded by the chair. All in favor, Selectman Riley abstained as she is a member of the Lions Club. Motion passes 3-0.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Selectman Cicolini asked the Chair for permission to take Mr. Julian Cardoos, a continued hearing, out of order, for the Special Permit to operate the Alloy Personal Training business. Chair seconds, any further discussion, seeing none all those in favor, motion passes 4-0.

Mr. Julian Cardoos, One Olson Street, Unit 7, Wilmington, MA. "We are planning to open a private, personal training studio at the Walnut Street Plaza in August of this year. It is a guided



fitness facility where it will be essentially six clients to one coach. It will be owner occupied by two part-time employees, and we are seeking a Special Permit to operate our business. The scope of the construction is minimal, which would be flooring, drywall and a bathroom.”

Chairman Panetta asked if the petitioner is working with the town’s building inspector and was told they were and are in a bid process with general contractors. Chairman Panetta asked if Board members had any questions. Vice Chair Cicolini: “You are looking for the hours of 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday through Friday, with limited hours on Saturday 7:00 AM to 12:00 noon with a closing on Sunday. The landlord approved the parking plan and there is enough parking for your six clients plus.” Mr. Cardoos stated that his client will need less parking than the previous tenant which was Weight Watchers. He said he would need 8-10 weeks of build-out.

Chairman Panetta asked if any Board members had questions, seeing none, she asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak in favor or opposed to this application. Seeing none, Selectman Cogliano made the motion to close the hearing. Chair seconds, all in favor, motion passes 4-0.

Selectman Cogliano made the motion to approve the request of Mr. Julian Cardoos for a Special Permit to operate the Alloy Personal Fitness Center to be located at 198 Walnut Street, Saugus, MA. The hours of the operation will be 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and limited hours on Saturday; 7:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Closed Sunday. All orders from Inspectional Services to be followed.

Chairman Panetta asked for any further discussion – seeing none.

Roll Call Vote: Selectman Cogliano YES; Selectman Riley YES; Vice Chair Cicolini YES  
Chairman Panetta YES; Motion passes 4-0.

Vice Chair Cicolini made a motion to return to the original agenda schedule. Chair seconds, all in favor, Motion passes 4-0.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **7:10 PM: Tokyo II Steak House, Transfer of All Alcohol liquor license**

Attorney Russell Chin, 400 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA: Mr. Giamgii Lin requesting allowance of Peter to transfer of ownership to him, which he presently shares with his brother David Lin., a family transfer from brother to brother. They expect a smooth transfer.

Chairman Panetta: “I can see he is TIPS certified. Is he familiar with the Saugus Liquor Rules and Regulations?” Attorney Chin said yes. The Chair asked if there was a change of hours. Attorney Chin confirmed that the hours will remain unchanged. Vice Chair Cicolini made it clear that the liquor license is the property of Simon Mall and there is no pledge. Attorney Chin stated that was also correct.

Chairman Panetta: “Any further questions from the Board, seeing none, is there anyone in the audience who would like to speak in favor or opposition? Seen none, Vice Chair Cicolini made the motion to close the hearing, Chairman Panetta seconded, all in favor; any further discussion, seeing none. Motion carries 4-0.



Vice Chair Cicolini: "I will make the motion to grant the transfer request of Tokyo II Steak House d/b/a/ Tokyo Japanese Steakhouse 1201 Square One Mall, space #e109, Saugus, MA petitioning to transfer the All-Alcohol Liquor license, Common Victualer and Entertainment license to A & A. Steakhouse, Inc, d/b/a Tokyo Japanese Steakhouse, 1201 Square One Mall, Space #109, Broadway, MA to buyer/owner Mr. Peter Guangui Lin, 65 Bradley Road Ext, Braintree, MA 02184. No changes or construction to the restaurant, same hours of operation and no pledge by the petitioners." Motion seconded by the Chair, any further discussion, seeing none, Motion passes 4-0.

#### **New Business: Flood Gate Study letter**

Vice Chair Cicolini made a motion to take the floodgate study out of order and allow several of the town meeting members to speak. Chair seconds. "All in favor, motion passes 4-0."

Chairman Panetta explained that Town Meeting Member Peter Manoogian requested the Board to write a letter in favor of moving forward with the Food Gate study.

Town Meeting members present: Peter Manoogian, Marty Costello, Darren Ring and Peter Delois. There is also a letter from Carla Sucerella to be read into the record.

Vice Chair Cicolini read the letter:

*To the Board of Selectmen:*

*I wish to offer my wholehearted support for the step the board is considering taking by its potential vote tonight. I know the residents of East Saugus will be very grateful to hear about this. We cannot afford to take a wait and see view any longer in relation to the flooding issues in East Saugus.*

*As we all heard at your prior meeting, some longtime business owners in East Saugus are considering moving out of town completely, which will be a loss for our community. The homeowners are facing more and more water damage if residents start leaving this area of town, our community also loses. East Saugus needs help and the board's action tonight can definitely state the commitment of Saugus to improve the situation. I urge the Board of Selectmen to vote in favor of sending the letter to the state and federal officials concerning an update study of the Flood Gate Project. Thank you, Carla Scuzzarella Town Meeting Member, Precinct 10. Carr Road resident.*

Chairman Panetta: "With the direction from my fellow board members, I drafted a letter, along with Town Meeting Member Peter Manoogian, and I would like to read it into the record. (Letter attached).

In the letter there are five lines for the signatures of the selectmen. Chairman Panetta noted that she read it to State Representative Jessica Giannino, who said it was perfect. I also spoke with Selectman Serino, since he was not here, and he also approved the letter. He thought it was very good. The Chair asked if one of the Board members please make a motion that we send this letter to the honorable senator, congressmen, and state representatives?

Vice Chair Cicolini offered the motion, seconded by the Chair. "Any further discussion? Seeing none, all in favor please indicate by saying aye, opposed? Motion passes 4-0."



Vice Chair Cicolini moved to return to our agenda schedule and take up our 7:20 PM public hearing and was seconded by the Chair. "Is there any further discussion, seeing none, all those in favor, please say aye – any opposed? Motion carries 4-0."

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **7:20 pm Long Noodle, Request for Malt, Wine, and Cordial liquor license & Entertainment license**

Long Noodle, 48 Leonardo Avenue, Malden, MA 02148, owner of Long Noodle House, LLC, 184 Broadway, Suite 10, Saugus, MA requesting a Malt, Wine, Cordial liquor license and Entertainment License to be located at 184 Broadway, Suite 10, Saugus, MA.

Mr. Long Nguyen, the Owner, addressed the Board. Chairman Panetta asked if they were opened now and was told he was. He stated that he is TIPS certified and has read and understands the Saugus Liquor Rules and Regulations.

Vice Chair Cicolini stated that he heard positive comments about the business.

Chairman Panetta: "Do any Board members have any further questions? Does anybody in the audience want to speak in favor or opposed to this application? Seeing none, what are the wishes of the Board?" Seeing none, Vice Chair Cicolini made the motion to close the hearing; Chair seconds, all in favor? Motion passes 4-0.

Selectman Cogliano made the motion to approve the request of Mr. Long Nguyen, owner of Long Noodle, 184 Broadway, Suite 10, Saugus, MA for a Beer, Wine, Cordial liquor license and Entertainment license. No change in hours of operation. Chair seconds. Chair: "Any further discussion? Seeing none, all in favor, motion passes 4-0."

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Town Meeting Member Precinct # 10: Mr. Martin Costello, 18 Bristow Street, Saugus MA. He stated: "What occurred in many parts of East Saugus on January 13, 2024, impacted many of my neighbors by the extreme flooding which is the reason this issue needs engineering and environmental solutions. Your decision tonight will be the process where flooding will be made less destructive and costly to the residents of East Saugus, and Revere, and I want to thank you."

Town Meeting Member, Pct #10 Mr. Peter Manoogian, 50 Ballard Street. "I want to thank the Board for dealing with this issue as quickly as you have. The thrust of your letter is consistent with what the town manager suggested, and what the Board spoke about at the last meeting. We are willing to put our share of fundings up for the study, which could be anywhere from \$150,000 to \$200,000. But the other four communities also need to put their money on the table as well. The letter focuses on the state and federal delegation and representatives from Malden, Lynn and Everett must go to their respective communities and say there is a solution to this problem that is going to occur, and it is going to take place. Saugus cannot do this alone. The inquiry must go to the delegation – speak to the representatives as to what is happening, thank you very much."

Ms. Jackie Finn 33 Bristow Street, apartment 2, Saugus, MA. "I have been dealing with severe recurring flooding over by Bristow Park. This is the second time that we have been homeless."



We have reached out to FEMA, had several meetings, and they have told us about several grants available. I was out of my home for eight months previously, but this time was the worst.”

Vice Chair Cicolini: “I am concerned about this project, but this is going to be a long project. What do we do with tidal water, sewage backup? Photos looked like an ocean on the streets. When I-95 dug out the pile there was a difference. The three events, I-95 Revere Beach dug out, Winthrop got worse in the last five years that I lived in the area. There is a worsening of this situation and something else must be attributed to this devastation. These are real problems and cannot be put aside.”

Mr. Peter Delois, 32 Spencer Avenue, Pct 10 Town Meeting Member: “Spencer, Milton, Harvard, and Ballard Streets were underwater. New neighbors are having a difficult time. Property values go down, flood insurance is outrageous. We need to get on board as a unified community. We need federal level help. I believe that when they took the sand away that it increased the flooding. Saugus took the brunt of the flooding.”

#### **TOWN MANAGER APPOINTMENTS:**

Town Manager Scott Crabtree brought forward the following names for appointments/re-appointments:

Ms. Bernadette Wilkinson, 2306 Louis O’ Gray Drive, Saugus, MA for re-appointment to the Council of Aging, upon your approval. This re-appointment takes effect immediately upon confirmation and will expire on December 31, 2026. Vice Chair Cicolini made the motion to confirm the reappointment, Chair seconds. Roll Call: Selectman Cogliano YES; Selectman Riley YES; Vice Chair Cicolini YES; Chairman Panetta YES. Motion passes 4-0.

Ms. Elizabeth Kingsley, 16 Highland Avenue, for reappointment to the Council on Aging upon your confirmation and will take effect immediately and expire on December 31, 2026. Selectman Cogliano made the motion to confirm the reappointment, seconded by the Chair. Roll Call: Selectman Cogliano YES; Selectman Riley YES; Vice Chair Cicolini YES; Chairman Panetta YES. Motion passes 4-0.

Ms. Gloria Johnson, 11 Hood Street, to be reappointed to the Council on Aging upon your confirmation and will take effect immediately and expire on December 31, 2026. Selectman Riley made the motion to confirm the appointment; Roll Call: Selectman Cogliano YES; Selectman Riley YES; Vice Chair Cicolini YES; Chairman Panetta YES. Motion passes 4-0.

Mr. Robert Palleschi, 37 David Drive, to be reappointed to the Council on Aging upon your confirmation and will take effect immediately and expire on December 31, 2026. Chair seconds, Roll Call: Selectman Cogliano, YES; Selectman Riley YES; Vice Chair Cicolini YES; Chairman Panetta YES: Motion passes 4-0.

Mr. Lawrence Donovan, 33 Whitney for reappointment to the Council on Aging upon your confirmation This appointment will take effect immediately and expire on December 31, 2026. Vice Chair Cicolini made the motion to confirm the appointment. Chair seconds, Roll Call: Selectman Cogliano YES; Selectman Riley YES; Vice Chair Cicolini YES; Chairman Panetta YES: Motion passes 4-0.

Ms. Joyce Vecchiarelli, 6 Summit Avenue, for appointment to the Commission of Disability upon your confirmation. This appointment will take place immediately and expire on December 31, 2026. Selectman Cogliano made the motion to confirm the appointment, seconded by the chair. Roll Call. Selectman Cogliano YES: Selectman Riley YES: Vice Chair Cicolini YES; Chairman Panetta YES. Motion passes 4-0.

#### **SELECTMEN APPOINTMENTS:**

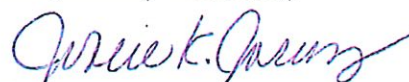
Ms. Norma L. Giraldi, 1 Atherton Street to be reappointed to WIN Waste Innovations as a Sworn Weigher. Vice Chair Cicolini made the motion to approve, seconded by the Chair, all in favor, Motion passes 4-0.

The Board of Selectmen's next scheduled meeting is February 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM, where the Board will be reviewing the 2025 budget.

Selectman Cogliano made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Chair seconds. All in favor, Motion pass 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice K. Jarosz, Temp Clerk

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## Town of Saugus

### *Board of Selectmen*

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Telephone 781-231-4124

Email: [jjarosz@saugus-ma.gov](mailto:jjarosz@saugus-ma.gov)

*Debra Panetta - Chairman*

*Jeffrey Cicolini, Vice Chair*

*Selectman Michael Serino*

*Selectman Anthony Cogliano*

*Selectman Corinne Riley*

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
TOWN OF SAUGUS, MASS.

February 7, 2024

Dear Honorable Senator Edward Markey, Honorable Senator Elizabeth Warren, Honorable Senator Brendan P. Crighton, Honorable Congressman Seth Moulton, Honorable State Representative Donald Wong, and Honorable State Representative Jessica Giannino:

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Saugus Board of Selectmen, at their regularly scheduled meeting, unanimously voted to approve and send this letter to our state and federal delegation requesting that funding for the **Saugus River Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study** be allocated as soon as possible.

In 2022, Senator Edward Markey sponsored legislation for a regional investigation for coastal flood protection and environmental enhancement, which he and Representative Katherine Clark did in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. This legislation was a result of five communities, Saugus, Revere, Lynn, Malden, and Everett, all jointly advocating for this study to take place. President Biden signed this legislation as part of the **National Defense Authorization Act** on December 23, 2022. However, there was no funding allocated for this feasibility study.

We want to remind you that on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Saugus, Revere, Lynn and other surrounding communities experienced some of the worst coastal flooding to-date. In fact, in 2024 the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> highest flood waters on record have occurred. The devastation experienced by our residents and property owners was both extreme and sobering. Saugus officials, homeowners, property owners, and businesses clearly recognize that future flooding events will in fact become more frequent and more destructive.

homeowners, property owners, and businesses clearly recognize that future flooding events will in fact become more frequent and more destructive.

Therefore, it is imperative that funding immediately occur so that this study can happen which would allow for a robust public participation process and ultimately a proposal to construct floodgates at the mouth of the Saugus River. The **Saugus River Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study** process would develop, evaluate, and update alternatives and impacts. Public involvement is required in order to evaluate alternatives and environmental concerns as well as to renew support from the Commonwealth and affected communities. This support and an approved Feasibility Report and EIS/EIR are required before the design process can resume. It is our understanding that the cost of this study would be between one and three million dollars. This cost would be shared between the federal and state government and the five local communities that are impacted.

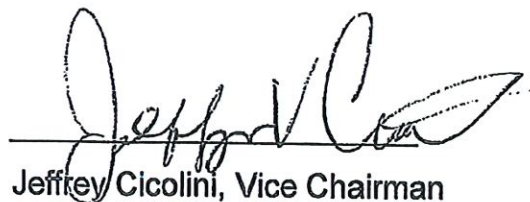
*Saugus is prepared to raise and appropriate its share of the cost for this study.* We now need your advocacy at the state level and with your respective city councils for a funding commitment. We need to immediately demonstrate to the Federal Government our commitment to cost sharing so that the study can commence.

We look forward to working with each of you to begin this process. Please call or e-mail our office should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration on this matter of critical importance.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Panetta, Chairman



Jeffrey Cicolini, Vice Chairman

  
Michael Serino

Corinne Riley

  
Anthony Cogliano

cc: Town Manager, Scott Craptree; Pct. 10 Town Meeting Members; Board of Health Conservation Commission.



# REGIONAL SAUGUS RIVER FLOODGATE PROJECT

## "THE THREAT IS REAL & IS HAPPENING NOW"

January 13, 2024

On February 6 and 7, 1978, a major northeaster hit the New England coast, a 100-year storm. The Blizzard of '78, as it came to be called, caused widespread damage to coastal communities and residents. The Saugus River Watershed was particularly



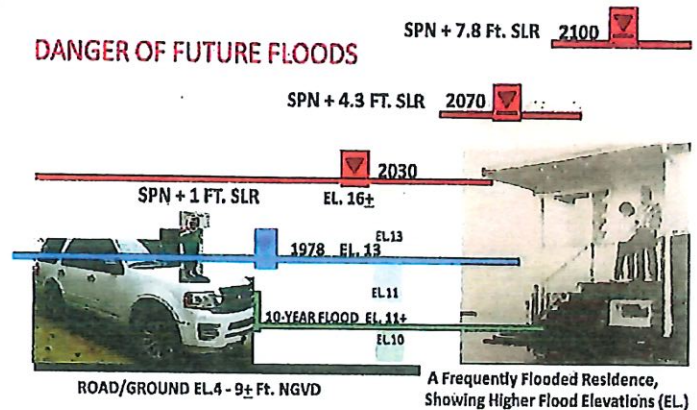
hard hit, with extensive damage in **Revere, Lynn, Saugus, Malden, and Everett, MA**. Flooding over much of the lower watershed was 4 to 7 ft deep and up to 3-feet higher in elevation than tide levels at the Boston gauge because of normal high tide, storm surge, and storm-driven waves. These flood waters damaged over 3,100 buildings, affected 10,000 residents and 20,000 employees, and cut off transportation for 400,000 commuters. Homes were without heat, electricity or means of evacuation. Two homes burned because roads were impassible. Damages were estimated at \$72 million in 1978 dollars, equivalent to \$332 million in 2023 dollars.

Since then, things have only gotten worse with significant flooding every few years, twice in 2018, a record high in Boston, and three in 2024, 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> highest of record! Also alarming, by 2030/34 with a 1+ foot rise in sea level: most properties around the estuary will see flooding twice a month during high spring tides; a 10-year storm becomes an annual event; and the Blizzard of '78 storm tide becomes a 10-year event, and by 2050, a 2-year storm. The Standard Project Northeast (or SPN), the worst storm likely to occur, would add at least two feet to the '78 tide level, and accelerated sea level rise (SLR) by 2050 would add another 2.5 feet according to the

Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Office. This would cause a potential depth of 10-feet over many of the low-lying areas of the five communities lasting several days to weeks. This would damage over 6,000 structures, displacing about 30,000 residents, as many employees, and stranding half a million commuters. By the turn of the century, 2100, CZM adopted an expected sea level rise of 7.8 feet above 2008 levels! Current damages from the SPN would exceed \$1 billion and by 2050 \$2 billion. The threat is real and is happening now, flooding low-lying properties several times a month.



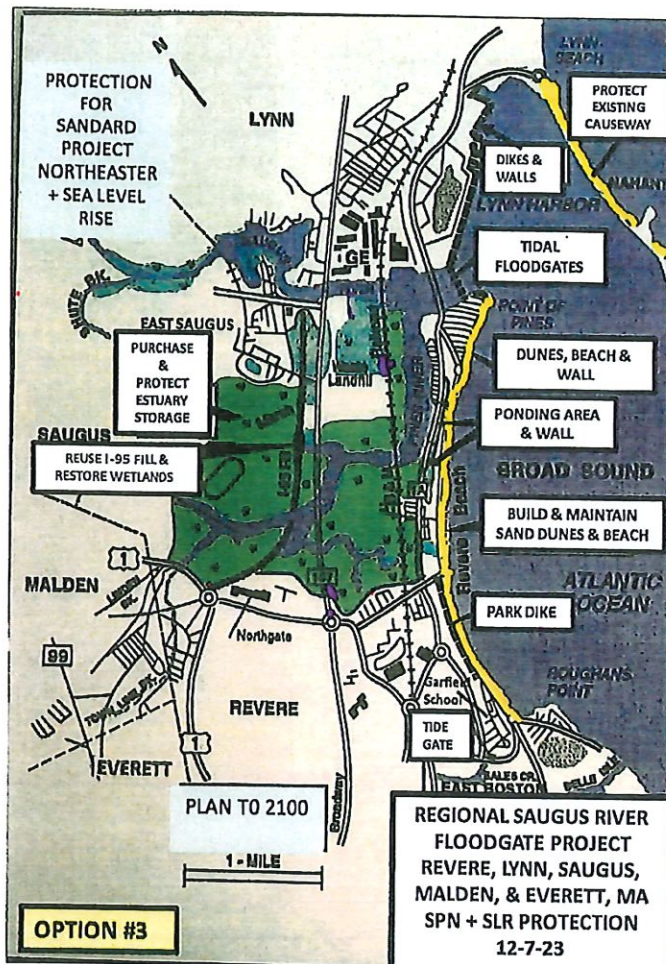
### DANGER OF FUTURE FLOODS



Driven by the affected municipalities, the Commonwealth and the Federal government began seeking methods to reduce these potential damages. The Regional Saugus River Floodgate Project was planned and designed over eight (8) years (1985-1993) at a cost of \$8.6 million (\$20 million at today's dollars) by the Army Corps of Engineers with the help of Citizen Steering Committees from Lynn, Malden, Revere, and Saugus and a Technical Group of Federal and state agencies and private environmental interests to reduce coastal flood damages from storms such as the Blizzard of '78 and larger storms, while protecting the estuary. Three major alternatives were considered: Option #1, Local Protection Plans which

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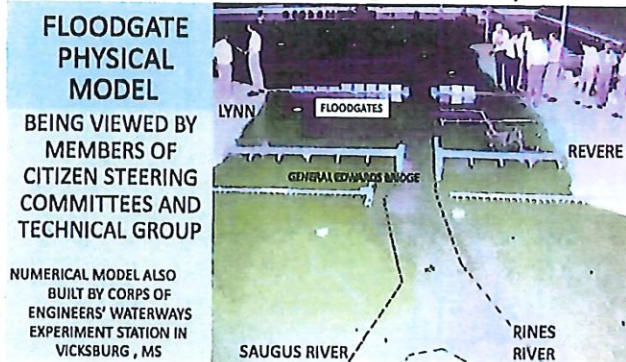


relied on 10 miles of walls up to 8 feet high above yards and roads surrounding flood-prone areas. This plan, while economically feasible, blocked views for many residences; Option #2, Nonstructural Measures examined raising or floodproofing individual structures. Only 240 buildings (7%) were found suitable for this approach and no protection could be provided for transportation and other infrastructure. These plans were unacceptable to all participating communities; and, Option #3, the Regional Project would provide protection against the SPN for all structures and critical infrastructure in the Region, but need modifications if sea level rise accelerated. It includes new walls and dikes with walkways along 1.7 miles of Lynn Harbor; 0.6-mile sand dune and beach at Point of Pines with a new river wall; and 0.6-mile raised parkland behind Revere Beach and a ponding area; and, a major floodgate structure at the mouth of the Saugus River with nine (9) gated openings (50 & 100 feet wide) to maintain natural flushing in the estuary and safe navigation. The total cost was \$250 million at 2023 price levels ('23pl), including purchasing and protecting the 1,650-acre estuary for flood water storage. The Regional Project was economically justified with 64% Federal cost sharing as authorized by Congress in 1992, and was widely supported, but it was placed on hold in 1993.

By 2023 accelerated sea level rise was adopted at "high" but different rates by both the Commonwealth and the Federal government which would require modifications to the Regional Project. The Corps' retired Project Manager (PM),

with the help of both his Environmental Manager and the MA Assistant Secretary of Environmental Affairs during the initial investigation, and folks in the region, all helped to remind the communities in 2020 that the project would still protect them from accelerated sea level rise. The five communities then sponsored a letter of support to have the Corps review and update the project with a required Corps' study, the Boston North Shore Feasibility Study, up to a 3-year effort depending on the scope of work, which was authorized by President Biden in December 2022, but is yet to be funded.

The Regional Project, Option #3, was reviewed to inform the communities of some likely changes and impacts from sea level rise, previously described in the EIS/EIR, focusing on the 5 feet of sea level rise above 2000 levels adopted by the Corps for 2100, provide the SPN level of protection, and prevent pollutants from entering the estuary. See the Option #3 map for the modified Regional Project. Over the next ten years with over half of properties along the rivers prone to flooding several times a month from rising high tides, residents would likely protect their properties with low level walls or berms, just as Revere is currently developing along Riverside. By 2034 when a Regional project could be built, the Floodgates would close



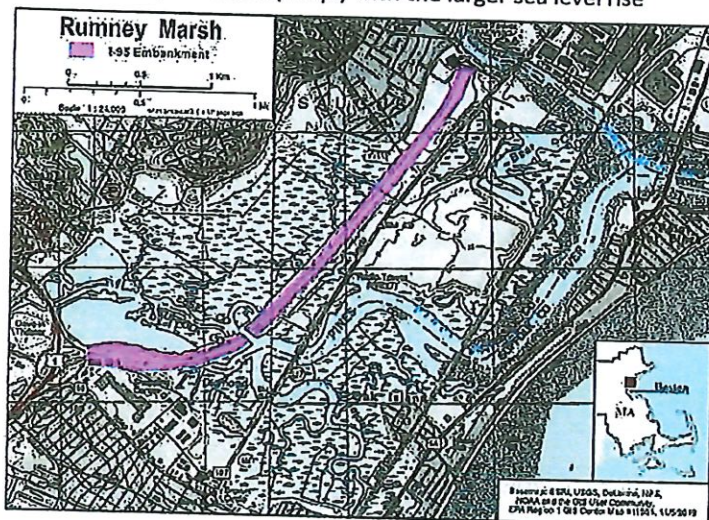
several times a year to prevent damage from intense storms, catastrophic flooding, and overtopping of walls, but increase operations with rising sea levels. The Feasibility study would evaluate when walls would need to be raised a few feet, to raise the start of damages, and to reduce the number of closures and potential impacts on navigation and the estuary. Sand dune/beach systems using I-95 sand proved the most effective solution to prevent overtopping based on results from post storm surveys, and physical and numerical modelling. Revere Beach, previously restored with I-95 sand, and Point of Pines would benefit from 3.4 miles of dune/beach



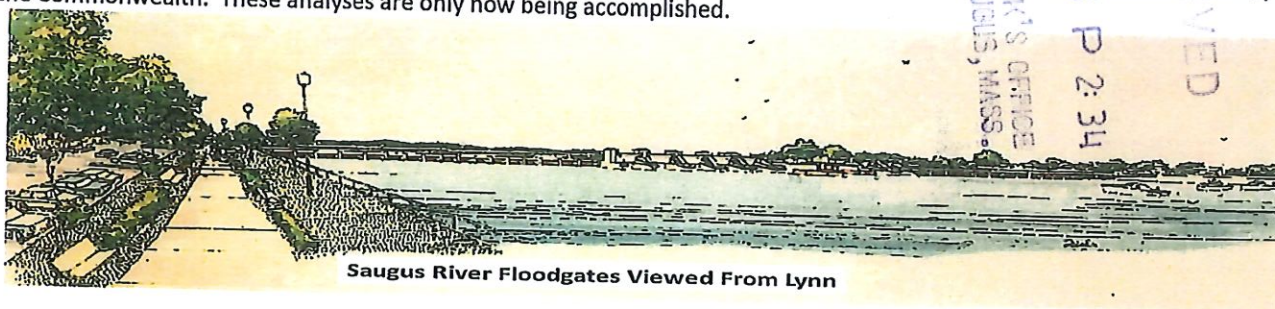
systems to prevent overtopping the oceanfront and protect the region from higher tides and more intense storms. Protecting the Nahant Causeway, assumed using a dune/beach system, is needed since it reduces wave action in Lynn Harbor, at Point of Pines, and at the entrance to the Saugus River. Plans exclude raising bridges which have been raised or planned to be raised. The modified Regional plan to include the Revere and Nahant dune/beach systems would cost about \$300 million ('23 pl) to protect the region against the SPN through 2100 while sea levels rise 5-feet. If low-level walls (3 to 6 feet) are required, it would increase the plan's cost to a maximum of about \$185 million, for a total project cost of \$485 million.

The Study would also consider other options including, a Wall Only Option #1 Plan (without a floodgate) for 2100, a 5-foot rise in sea level and SPN protection, which would require walls up to 12 feet high above the back yards of residents and along roadways which would significantly obstruct views around the estuary's 25-mile shore at a cost of about \$580 million ('23 pl). A Non-structural Option #2 Plan would require raising homes and other buildings up to 12 feet high at a cost exceeding \$540 million, however streets, roads and yards would be frequently inundated. An option for total retreat and removal of all buildings from the floodplain would likely double the initial estimate of \$7.3 billion ('23 pl) with the larger sea level rise floodplain.

The restoration of Rumney Marsh, a Massachusetts' "Area of Critical Environmental Concern", is an added environmental benefit of the Regional Plan prepared with the help of the US Environmental Protection Agency team member. It would include removal of the abandoned I-95 embankment, create over 40 acres of wetland, and reconnect and enhance the upper estuary's 500-acre salt marsh. Restoration would return natural flushing and tide levels to the marsh; enhance the habitat for wildlife, birds, and 38 species of finfish; stop deterioration of wetlands; and nearly eliminate phragmites reeds, marsh mosquitos, and frequent fires. All available I-95 sand would be used for the Revere and Nahant dune/beach systems.



The Regional project, extensively reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, achieved approval and favorable comments in 1990. The MA Secretary of Environmental Affairs then assigned the Metropolitan District Commission as the state sponsor. Even so, a new Secretary of Environmental Affairs, opposed to construction along the coast, called a halt to the project in 1993 to allow further examination of non-structural measures by the Commonwealth. These analyses are only now being accomplished.



Saugus River Floodgates Viewed From Lynn

With sea level rise accelerating and greater risks from climate-change enhanced storms becoming more intense in the mid-2030s and 40s, it is critical that the updated Feasibility Study be initiated as soon as possible either by the Federal Government or the Commonwealth, and if a project is approved by both, it should proceed immediately into final design. The communities are seeking support and up to \$3 million (50/50 Federal cost share) for this Boston North Shore Feasibility Study.

Information on the problems, solutions, environment, photos, Design and Feasibility Reports, EIS/EIR, Environmental Secretary's Certificate, and Sea Level Rise Plans are available on the web site: [www.saugusriverfloodgates.com](http://www.saugusriverfloodgates.com). For general questions call Elle Baker, Revere Project Planner, at [ebaker@reve.org](mailto:ebaker@reve.org) or 781-286-8188. For questions or a zoom presentation on the project, contact Bob Hunt, former Corps of Engineers Project Manager at [bobandbjhunt@hotmail.com](mailto:bobandbjhunt@hotmail.com) or 617-633-3974.