

Darien Board of Selectmen

Policy for Flood-Related investments

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for investments in flood-related infrastructure projects. The key principles of this policy are as follows:

Maintenance. The Town will continue to diligently maintain its drainage and flood-related infrastructure, including culverts, flood walls, pipes, drains, levees, and other such assets.

Holistic Approach. The Town will ensure that all flooding infrastructure decisions are based on expert evaluations that consider the full scope of the flooding challenge. The Town will strive to keep its perspectives on flooding problems up to date, pursuing new studies when warranted. All options developed will include a cost/benefit analysis and an assessment of taxpayer impact. Areas of benefit to explore will include flood risk reduction, assurance of access for emergency vehicles during a flood event, property protection, reduced damage costs, community resilience and reduced flood anxiety. The Board of Selectmen will consider the totality of the circumstances when evaluating flood-related investments.

Investment Objectives.

- Do no harm. Investments will not transfer a flooding problem to other downstream or upstream properties. All proposed projects should mitigate or resolve flooding by ensuring drainage into bodies of water (streams, Long Island Sound) capable of handling additional discharge.
- Reasonable number of properties improved. Investments should improve a reasonable number of properties given the amount of money invested. Costly projects that benefit a small number of properties will not be considered.
- Real improvement. Investments should provide meaningful improvement in flood resilience.
- Mitigation standard. The Town, at a minimum, will adhere to all Planning and Zoning Regulations and Town of Darien Drainage Manual criteria.

Funding. The Town will proactively seek alternative funding sources for flood-related infrastructure, including Federal and State grant opportunities and local business cost-sharing arrangements.

Efficiency. The Town will pursue completion of priority investments as efficiently as possible, adhering to standard approval channels (Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, RTM), as well as regulatory approval schedules and construction timelines.

Communication. The Town will provide transparent, clear and understandable communication on ongoing flooding and storm water management decisions through regular Board of Selectmen meeting updates, as well as comprehensive public outreach, including print media, Channel 79, social media and ongoing dialogue with affected property owners.

Adopted June 5, 2023