

LEARN THE CONTEXT OF THIS BALLOT INITIATIVE PROTECTING OUR WETLANDS & FLOODPLAINS

Didn't Salem just amend our Wetland Ordinance?

Yes, but it still allows for new construction in these areas. Salem continues to plan nine developments for these areas: Lee Fort Terrace, Ward 2 Social Club, Derby/Lafayette, Crescent Lot, 4 Franklin, 9-11 Franklin, 16-18-20R Franklin, Shetland Park, Bertini's; and additional smaller projects.

What are the FEMA recommendations?

Development in flood plains & flood prone areas should be discouraged through adoption & enforcement of zoning regulations that meet or exceed the latest published editions of the International Codes & Standards.

What about our state environmental regulations?

Unfortunately, construction is allowed in these areas right now, **but the Massachusetts Contingency Plan** is in the **process of amending some of these regulations**; and the **Board of Building Regulation and Standards is considering recommendations** which would go into effect in 2023.

What is the Salem Sound Coast Watch opinion?

As a non-profit, **SSCW must remain impartial** but their **new published Inundation Maps** created by the Woods Hole Group speak for themselves. <https://vimeo.com/473592435>

What about repairing and updating structures already built on wetlands and flood zones?

This would be allowable.

What about the newly proposed Wind Energy facility?

This would be allowable.

TIMELINE

August 2020

Development plans for **Overlook Acres off Highland Avenue** encroached nearly **100% of the 100-foot linear boundary of the wetland buffer zone**. **Members of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission repeatedly asked for stronger ordinances in regards to our wetlands**. Ultimately, because of the advocacy of neighbors and members of Not for SALE.m, extensive contamination was discovered and the project was withdrawn.

September 2020

Ward Three **Councillor Morsillo announces plans to update our Wetlands Ordinance**.

October 2020

Our **online petition banning new construction** on our wetlands **is initiated to support** the work of Councillor Morsillo and our municipal boards. It was a non-binding petition that garnered **1870 signatures**.

March 2021

After waiting in good faith for seven months for communication on this effort, **Councillor Dominguez was asked to bring forth a Temporary Moratorium on development in Wetlands & Flood Zones until the new ordinance is completed**. **A 10-1 vote passed a motion** to send the proposal into the Ordinances, Licensing & Legal Affairs Committee where it would be tweaked and brought to council on April 8 for approval.

March 2021

Subsequent to this vote, **Councillor Morsillo**, as the Chair of Ordinances, Licensing, & Legal Affairs, publicly **wrote that the matter of the Temporary Moratorium WILL NOT be brought forward in the OLLA subcommittee**.

April 2021

On April 8, **the city council voted unanimously to advocate \$40,000 for a consultant to help amend the Floodplain and Wetlands ordinance**. After eight months of grassroots campaigning, this is a welcome outcome which indicates that the Mayor, City Council, the Conservation Commission and Planning Board are in all in agreement that this is necessary for the future of Salem.

July 2021

On July 14, 2021, **Mayor Driscoll addresses the City Council discouraging its members** from sending the Temporary Moratorium to the Planning Board for review. **However, the Council voted 9-0 to send it to the Planning Board for review**.

March 2022

The Wetlands Ordinance amendment is passed by the City Council on March 24, 2022. However, this amendment **includes waiver criteria** at the discretion of the Conservation Commission which creates **latitude to allow developers to build in our wetlands and flood zones** at the discretion of our mayoral appointed Conservation Committee. **This is not what our boards were asking for and it does not provide stronger protections against development on our wetlands and flood zones**.

May 2022

On May 22, an Initiative Petition is launched that would put on the ballot a vote to ban development on our wetlands and floodplains and their buffer zones. The voters will then have the power to decide whether or not we should be building in these areas.

ADDITIONAL READING

https://boston.cbslocal.com/2021/04/26/boston-sea-levels-rising-dr-rob-decontro-zack-green/?fbclid=IwAR1VoXE53_RzygEYYya0AkBw40xbM_KaOGQpgv6WubalXEsC56U107zp728

https://www.clf.org/blog/spring-showers-may-bring-floods-and-massachusetts-isnt-ready/?fbclid=IwAR0d7X1Q7s-V42HI7fhOk807srZIM3SzTH-O6LV9_2WwxvSXD8uFzb9IYzU

<https://www.lincolnst.edu/.../managed-retreat-flood-zones>

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/04/02/business/judge-nixes-downtown-harbor-plan-sending-don-chiofaro-back-square-one/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/04/climate/flood-fire-building-restrictions.html>

<https://www.faiobserver.com/more/environment/sustainable-development-is-a-lie-90676/?fbclid=IwAR3xd3I5iZJdgnhzzAzf1tzwBVXtQM-BePIQXHkT6CkofgPo5beAulUp2Pc>