

Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC)

3:00 pm Oct 18, 2023

NRC Mission Statement

The Newburyport Resiliency Committee will analyze, coordinate, and develop a plan in conjunction with regional planning efforts to increase community resilience related to sea level rise, storm surge, flooding and extreme weather events throughout the city. Further, the committee will advocate for and oversee implementation of the plan's recommendations.

Attendees:

NRC Attendees: Jane Healey (chair), Julia Godfredsen, Molly Ettenborough, Connie Preston, Barry Connell, Joe Teixeira, Jon-Eric White, Andy Port, Sarah Tappan (note taker)

Other Attendees: John Moreland, Nancy Caswell

Absent: Samantha Burke, Kristen Grubbs (Newbury)

Agenda:

- Public Comments - None
- Approval of 9/20/23 mtg notes – Approved ACTION ITEM: Sarah will request the minutes are posted.
- Discussion: Resilient Newburyport - Community Action Project (CAP) - Leadership Dialogues Meeting with the mayor's office next week to discuss requirements. Goal is to make the best use of the opportunity. Committee provided feedback on the goals of the leadership dialogs and suggestions for how they could be structured to be most successful.
- Committee Updates
 - CommEdu
 - Storm Surge - Speaker Series
 - Oct 25, 7pm Senior Center: The Tide is Rising and So Are We: Hope in the Face of the Changing Climate
 - Dec 7 Deep Rising Film @Screening Room
 - Earth Day event at Cashman Park - Office of Fishing & Boating Access is reviewing the proposal.
 - Community Action Project (MVP Grant)

MVP Climate Resilient Newburyport: Community Action Project

Progress since September meeting:

- Kick-off meeting held with Project Team and MVP
- Community Partner Kickoff meeting held 9/27/2023
- Theater in the Open: Concrete Bouquet: A day of Dance in Nature held 10/1/2023
- Offer accepted for Financial Assistant - start date 11/8
- Interviews on-going for Project Administrator and Community Activists
- 2 SOW responses for Community Forums in review
- 2 SOW responses for Marketing/Communications in review
- Newsletter drafted

Community Partner Project Updates

- Friends of Newburyport Trees: tree planting -Plan, purchase and plant trees
 - Spring Planting not Fall
- Tinkerhaus: Bike stations and raised beds
 - Will schedule after the first of the year; staffing
- Coastal Trails Alliance: MBTA
 - Design Complete, preferred sites identified; waiting for MBTA approve the installation

Leadership Dialogs

Budget: 12K - \$3,658.00 for the design of the forum and \$8,365.00 for the delivery

Purpose: To build deeper understanding, trust and engagement in city climate resilience efforts with leadership, including department heads, city council, and volunteers from city commissions committees.

Goals:

- Provide information for city leaders to champion the integration of climate resiliency plan sustainability and environmental justice principles into all facets of city planning operations
- Cultivate support for future climate-related regulatory changes and infrastructure enhancements, including the exploration of nature-based solutions
- Enhance participants' capacity to effectively engage with all stakeholders and spearhead community outreach programs with specific emphasis on reaching underrepresented populations

Leadership Dialog - Next steps

Meeting scheduled with Mayor's office on 10/24 to explore their requirements

Complete SOW and solicit bids

Target timing training - Spring 2024

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Discussion - focus of dialogs

Climate Justice and Advocacy training (original goal)

- climate change
- issue analysis
- community stakeholder mapping,
- climate justice,
- advocacy strategies
- message framing

Municipal impacts of Climate change

- Legal implications : federal and state law. Updating building codes
- Environmental Justice
- Financial Risks to Municipality budgets
- Health and Welfare implications
- Nature-based Solutions
- Regional Approaches/Best Practices

- Discussion: The newsletter can go out to the resiliency e-alert list; Molly suggested she could send a short pointer to the sustainability list. Connie suggested asking the Mayor to promote.
- Leadership Dialog discussion on what would be most effective- Resiliency committee feedback: Molly suggested looking at the requirements that DOER just announced this week for Climate Leaders. Dialogs should be action focused. Molly liked the format of the Clean Energy Forum held a number of years ago. Different city divisions could discuss what they are already doing, future regulatory changes, board of health. Focus on improved communication between groups. Everyone together would be more effective. Council is pulled in a lot of directions. Connie suggested boiling the information down as a summary for a council as a whole. Connie would attend the

presentation but thinks it unlikely most would. Also council changes over every two years. Consider multiple condensed sessions at the boards as well. Couple different evening sessions; pulling all the different groups such as Public safety; zoning into the same meeting. Barry suggests no longer than 1-1.5 hours. Multiple sessions on different topic areas.

What is the goal for connecting with the department heads? Some department heads are already thinking about this, but everyone is so busy, they don't have time for this. Is this a directive from the mayor? Could we see we can tie to professional credentials? Might require formalizing to meet professional credentials. Goal is to get people to think about what is involved to include resiliency in their jobs. Needs to be informative and interesting and translates to something useful for them in their jobs. Could ask people what federal/state mandates that department heads have been seeing? What have they been receiving in terms of questions from their federal/state counterparts? Might need support to make this mandatory for city staff or part of professional evaluations. Consider involving unions? Consider grant money or stipends for employees to give them bandwidth to think about resiliency in your discipline areas. Jane noted that the input has been very helpful and we will keep the team informed as we move forward.

- Regs Working Group
 - MC-FRM floodplain mapping/Resiliency Questionnaire -Engineering has completed the 9.4 feet elevation lines. 9.4 feet translates to Mean High Water of 4.2 feet + Plus 4 feet sea level rise projected for 2070, plus 1 foot nuisance flooding. This layer will be added to the mimap for public education and as a reference for regulatory purposes. **Next steps:** Need to publish finalize disclaimers and note that the elevation lines excludes Plum island. **ACTION ITEM:** Jon Eric will communicate once the layer is available for review. The Regs team will complete the final review and sign off, then it can be made public.
 - Questionnaire - Andy and Julia are working with Dianne to get the questionnaire published. They are considering the best option for making it available. Ideally it would be included in opengov online permitting system. Questionnaire will be used as part of the permitting process for the Conservation and Planning boards and we would like to make it available as part of the application. Current thinking is that it will be an editable pdf that is uploaded and attached to the application. The workflow would be: a property is flagged, the applicant will see the questionnaire and fill it out, the completed questionnaire is uploaded and attached to the application. The questionnaire language is near final. The next step is to review the online form for usability. **ACTION ITEM:** Andy and Julia will work with Dianne to get form posted. **ACTION ITEM:** Jane will include review of the on-line form on next month's agenda.

- Finance & Funding
 - Grants - FLAP, other
 - The state wants all municipalities that went through the MVP planning process more than 5 years ago, to repeat the process using MVP 2.0. We will apply for a waiver.
 - The next round of MVP action grant expression of interest forms are due December 15. We discussed the Water Street Station/ Restoration of the

wetland as a potential candidate to apply for next year; A feasibility study of a Cashman living shoreland will be considered as a possible candidate for an expression of interest.

- FLAP Grant - Newbury will be the lead on this grant. The upfront work is finding the consultant and Kristin is drafting an RFP for the engineer. The project will be managed through Newbury but billed through Newburyport. Andy suggested considering a short inter municipal agreement (IMA), which would need to be reviewed by the council. Both municipalities are beneficiaries of the grant. This grant is for a study, so is considered low risk and there is a three year time-frame for the grant. Barry and Connie suggested looking into the grant to verify that there is funding for administrative services as part of the grant. Jon Eric noted that this grant was initiated by PRWR for the benefit of the municipalities.

- City Project Updates

- Lower Artichoke Dam Reconstruction Project (Jon-Eric) - Spillway protection. Bid was received for \$200K to complete the spillway protection platform. The contract is expected to be executed in November.
- Indian Hill Raw Water Line and Pump Station (Jon-Eric) - No update
- Water Supply Protection and Treatment Projects: Amesbury Interconnect – emergency and permanent, WTP Upgrades, watershed management (Jon-Eric) - No update
- WWTP Flood Protection - sidewalls (Jon-Eric) – Have received more details on the design; the area has very soft soil and will not support concrete. Considering other options.
- Central Waterfront Bulkhead Renovations (Andy) - Project is ahead of schedule; story map needs updates.
- Central Waterfront Park (Andy) - Work continues according to plan.
- PI / Reservation Terrace status (Julia) - No update
- CSO monitoring and communication alert system/app (Mayor's office) - No update

- Other Business

- 2023 ResilientMass Readiness Plan was released by the State. Good information. The status update format is something we could consider in the future.
- Discussed potential write-up on the resiliency aspects of the park expansion and bulkhead expansion projects. Suggestion to put in context of the full shoreline. Consider whether it makes sense as a letter or another format; like the news section of the city's website or a short video. Nancy Caswell offered to send contacts that did short videos for the BOH during the pandemic.

Next Meeting: November 15th, 3 - 4:30pm