

## **Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC)**

**3:00 PM Sept 20, 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.

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#### **Attendees:**

NRC Attendees: Jane Healey (chair), Julia Godtfredsen, Molly Ettenborough, Kristen Grubbs (Newbury), Connie Preston

Other Attendees: City Councilor Byron Lane

Absent: Barry Connell, Samantha Burke, Joe Teixeira, Jon-Eric White, Andy Port, Sarah Tappan

- **Public Comments**

- Councilor Lane expressed his concerns about climate change and that climate is top of mind for him and his highest priority. Stressed that the city needs to prioritize infrastructure that deals directly with the issue and that there will be trade-offs. Protecting the city's water supply should be the city's highest priority. Plum Island is very important, as a barrier island it protects Newburyport from storm surge.

Molly and Connie confirmed to Councilor Lane that protecting the city's water supply is the resiliency committee's highest priority right now and that significant work is being done.

Committee members expressed appreciation that he joined the mtg. Jane gave a quick recap of the upcoming MVP grant funded community forums and city government leadership dialogues. The goal of the leadership dialogues will be to gather city leadership - staff, Council members, and members of boards and commissions to talk about climate resilient infrastructure and how to integrate resiliency into all city operations and projects. She asked Councilor Lane if he would be interested in providing feedback as the plans for the leadership dialogues are being developed. Councilor Lane expressed interest in those forums and indicated that he would be happy to provide feedback.

Lane also stressed the importance of working with our neighboring towns, including West Newbury, Newbury and Amesbury. Kristen noted that protecting the water supply is definitely a regional issue, as a portion of Newbury's residents (homes on Plum Island and in Old Town Newbury) receive their drinking water through Newburyport's supply.

- Approval of 8/23/23 mtg notes ACTION ITEMS: Jane will solicit email approval since we didn't have the full group in attendance.
- Committee Updates
  - CommEdu
    - Storm Surge (via written updates from Sarah)

Speaker Series October 25, 7 pm Senior Center

- Julie Wormer a Senior Policy Advisor at the Mystic River Watershed Association and co-founder of the Resilient Mystic Collaborative will discuss how the Resilient Mystic Collaborative was developed. A shared sense of urgency and dedication among senior municipal leaders led to the Collaborative being formed. These leaders recognized the need to ignore political boundaries and work collectively to tackle challenges that transcended individual jurisdictions. The Collaborative's mission is to empower cities and towns within the watershed area to forge collaborative solutions addressing critical issues such as stormwater flooding, water quality, and the resilience of essential infrastructure.
- Joining Julie for a brief panel discussion after her talk, will be John Macone (MRWC) and perhaps others.

Earth Day Public Education Project:

- Received zoomed in maps for Cashman and Waterfront Park from Kirk Bosma from Woods Hole Institute (attached below)
- The lines on the map indicate the approximate position of MHHW in 2030 (red), 2050 (orange), and 2070 (yellow). Remember, these are projections of SLR, combined with the physics-based flooding of our numerical model. This isn't a certainty of what is expected to occur (i.e., there is a lot of uncertainty in the SLR projections). There is a pretty significant jump in location of the MHHW between 2030 (which shows some minor intrusion in areas) and 2050 (which in places jumps to the back of the park), but this is a relatively flat area, so that makes sense.
- Dr Stephen Young (Salem State) offered to help with his Spring GIS students.
  - Group discussed the need to establish a process to update StoryMap pages now that Brett has stepped down. Jane will discuss with Sarah.
- Regs Working Group (Julia/Jane)
  - MC-FRM floodplain mapping/Resiliency Questionnaire - Questionnaire final draft complete. Julia will work with Andy and Dianne B to build

online forms and get feedback from potential users. Jane offered to help with that process if helpful.

- 9.4 floodplain levels - Some progress has been made on this map, Julia will talk with Jon-Eric about completing.
- Finance & Funding - Grants (Julia)
  - NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge: Deadline has passed. Kristen reported that MVPC may be working with CZM on an application. Julia has not heard from MVPC in terms of Newburyport involvement.
  - Near-Coastal Transition Zone Crossing Replacement: Site Selection for Preliminary Design Services - Notice of Opportunity: Julia will talk with Jon-Eric about a possible proposal. Deadline is tight. Brief discussion on what comprised a 'transition zone'. Connie asked about Hale St work as a possibility. Julia will follow-up.
- MVP Action Grant

State returned the signed contract on Sept 15, so work can officially start. The Project Team is Jane, Sarah, Molly and Julia with guidance from Andy Port and Nancy London. Input will also be sought from resiliency comm members as the project proceeds..

Sarah and Jane have drafted job descriptions for Project Administrator, Financial Asst, and Community Liaisons.

They have also drafted scopes of work for the community forums and marketing strategy consultants. Andy had forwarded an example scope of work he has used previously, the scopes of work were based on that. The project team has reviewed all documents and has provided feedback. Jane and Sarah have incorporated that feedback and Jane will send out the most recent drafts for final approval. Jane will contact the Mayor's office to provide an update on progress. Goal is to post job descriptions and release scopes of work early next week.

See attached slides. These slides were not presented due to technical issues, however Jane gave a summary of them.

- FEMA buyouts - Julia reported and she and Andy had just returned from a FEMA walk through that afternoon. No significant updates beyond that.
- City Project Updates
  - LAR Dam Reconstruction Project (Jon-Eric via written update): Met with West Newbury the other day to update them on status and impacts to their wellfield. Per State and Local directives, we cannot dissect an existing wetland so the proposed dam location will generally follow the existing dam location. Next step is to produce more detailed conceptual layouts and design on flood control options, and meet again with regulators.

- Indian Hill Raw Water Line/PS (Jon-Eric via written update): Tom Cusick is managing this. They met with the WN Select Board for status update. AECOM is still evaluating pump station locations.
  - Water supply protection, Ames Interconnect, etc (Jon-Eric via written update): Tom is managing these. Projects ongoing, nothing major to report.
  - PI Turnpike Feasibility Study - FLAP (Kristen G): Kristen G will be serving as project manager. She's working on logistics of the grant funding and how that will work between Newburyport and Newbury, as Newburyport was the lead applicant. There is no match required. Working on extending the project area up to the Newbury public beach. Kristen reported that she has started drafting a Scope of Work to hire a consultant and is hoping to have that done by Oct. The group discussed using a Resiliency Committee meeting as a public meeting when the time comes.
  - Central Waterfront Bulkhead Renovations (Andy) - no update, Jane has sent an email to Geordie asking for an update for the StoryMap Project page.
  - Central Waterfront Park (Andy) - no update
  - Water Street lift station (Andy) - no update
  - PI / Reservation Terrace status (Julia) - no update
  - CSO monitoring and communication alert system/app (Mayor's office) - no update
- Other Business
    - Connie reported that Councilor McCauley has contacted her about possibly having a representative of the resiliency committee present to the Council's Community Services committee. Connie has talked with Jane and the three plan to meet and discuss Councilor McCauley's interest. Jane will update the Mayor prior to the meeting.

**Next Meeting:** October 18th, 3 - 4:30pm

## MVP Climate Resilient Newburyport: Community Action Project

Progress since August meeting:

- Contract signed and received back 9/15, so we can get to work!
- Initial Press Release distributed 8/31/2023 by City, published in Daily News and Town Common, Ipswich local news, FB, nextdoor
- Job Descriptions drafted for Project administrator, Financial Asst, Community Liaisons
- SOWs drafted for Marketing, Community Forums and Leadership Dialogs
- MVP Kickoff meeting with Project team scheduled for 9/26/2023 @ 2 pm
- **Community Partner Kickoff meeting scheduled for 9/27/2023 @ 6:30 pm**
  - RSVP's from all partners and Michelle Rowden representing MVP
  - NRC and Mayor are more than welcome

## Next Steps

- Now - October
  - Hiring: project administrator, finance asst, community liaisons (suggestions?)
  - Hiring: vendors for marketing and forums (suggestions?)
  - Upcoming Community Partner projects
    - **Theater in the Open: Concrete Bouquet: Day of Dance Festival (Oct. 1st)**
    - **Friends of Newburyport Trees: tree planting Phase 1**
      - Plan, purchase and plant 3 trees
    - **Bresnahan Elementary: Compost**
      - Purchase Waste Sorting Station for Bresnahan & Molin/Nock
    - **Tinkerhaus: Bike stations and raised beds**
    - **Museum of old Newbury: Historic building resilience pilot**
      - Introduction of partnership in social media
      - Blog post about preservation and resiliency
    - **Coastal Trails Alliance: MBTA**
      - Order & Install 4 maps (approx 45" x 30") vinyl foam-core aluminum
  - First Monthly Status Report due (end of October)

## Community Forums - current thinking

Frame conversations around envisioning the future in 2035 (tbd) and leverage educational stations around the room describing vulnerabilities and projected changes in that timeframe. Possibly include role-play simulations.

Need feedback...

→ **What would your top priorities be for the educational forums?**

→ **Top 3 takeaways?**

### Examples:

- SLR & flood maps
- heat patterns
- precipitation forecasts
- storm projections
- energy costs & energy transition forecasts
- air quality forecasts
- waste and trash
- demographic shifts & potential potential in municipal revenue sources
- nature-based and gray infrastructure