

Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC)

November 21, 2019 Meeting

Attendees Michael Morris, Molly Ettenborough, David Chatfield, John O'Connell, Julia Godtfredsen, Jon-Eric White, Bill Mullen, Matthew Coogan,
Absent: Donna Holaday, Lise Reid, Barry Connell, Joe Teixeira, Christopher LeClaire, and Chris Boelke.

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

Agenda

- Review of DRAFT Resiliency Plan
- AOB

Previous minutes and review of previous meeting action points

The status of action items from previous meetings is:

- The water supply is very vulnerable. There are interim protections that can be done. These interim protections need to be detailed. **Jon –Eric - Feb 21**
- Arrange a meeting to occur in the next month with National Grid. **Barry Connell Feb 1**
- The section on public health needs to be reviewed by the City nurse. **Molly Ettenborough – Feb 7- will receive confirmation from Health Dept. on Monday Nov 25 that this was completed.**
- The emergency vulnerability of Plum Island will be discussed in the New Year at this committee. - **Chris LeClaire TBD**
- Six meetings have been held to continue the review of the draft Resiliency Plan. Following today's review it was agreed that Mike Morris has enough feedback to complete a next draft. **Complete**
- All committee members are asked to review the next draft when Mike issues it and then we can make final revisions at our next scheduled Resiliency Committee meeting on October 17th. **All Oct 17th 2019**

Resiliency Plan Write up

A number of the committee members had not been able to complete their reviews of the draft due to other work pressures. Ellie Baker of Horsley Whitten attended the meeting in order to pick up the finalization of the report. It was agreed that the report is not yet ready to be handed over to Ellie Baker. A meeting will be held with Ellie Baker to determine if Horsley Whitten can assist with the completion of the report – **David Chatfield Nov 27th 2019**

A Dropbox link for the latest draft version of the Resiliency Plan will be resent to all committee members. – **Mike Morris Nov 25th 2019**

The elevation numbers throughout the draft report will be checked, taking into account the input from Bill Mullen and revised as necessary. - **Jon Eric White – Nov 27th 2019**

Chapters 3 & 4 will be reviewed for alignment with the City Administration objectives and consideration of the financial points that were identified in observations from a Sustainability Forum (see at end of notes). **Andy Port & Matt Coogan Dec 2nd**

Committee members to review and provide proposed changes by email or comments or directly to Dropbox. – **All Dec 2nd**.

It was noted that due to work priorities Molly Ettenborough will complete by Dec 9th 2019

There are currently ~ 168 adaptation strategies in Chapter 3 with timelines of immediate, short term and long term with no identified person, position or name responsible for implementation.

It was proposed by Andy Port that the adaptation strategies be converted into a spreadsheet with unique numbering, priorities (high medium and low) and identified City positions/departments responsible for implementation. A template based on the master Plan will be provided to David Chatfield. - **Andy Port Nov 25th 2019**

Conversion of the adaptation strategies to a master plan format will be reviewed and the conversion started, **David Chatfield December 12th 2019**

Any Other Business

- A MVP Action Grant for WWTP was submitted on November 14th. The project is for “final design and construction of a sloped stone revetment and an elevated berm with a public trail on top”. This will protect the WWTF for an additional 1-2 foot of SLR, probably sufficient to the projected end of the WWTF usable life i.e. ~2070. In order for the WWTF protection to be fully effective perpendicular side walls will need to be installed along with a storm water pump at a later date.
- A MVP Action Grant has been submitted on November 14th by Newbury regarding Plum Island. The project will identify the public costs and benefits that both communities will need to consider and understand in order to evaluate management options for Plum Island.

Next Meeting: Thursday December 17th 3:00 pm

The Security and Sustainability Forum presented a forum with the title "How Cities are Paying for Climate Resilience" The link for the webinar recording is below:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/viewRecording/6007038143683785985/3415476043629688845/dchats21@gmail.com?registrantKey=3248415146893860619&type=ABSENTEEMAILRECORDINGLINK>

A couple of the items from that forum that David Chatfield thought were relevant and should be considered to add into the plan are:

- Confirms the use of storm water and electricity utility charges and also the generation of General obligation bonds.
- Getting owners and developers to make climate resiliency improvements such as elevations, SW retention, setbacks, sea wall heights, retreat mandates
- Requiring all City infrastructure improvements to meet resiliency standards
- Negotiate resiliency requirements as part of the permit program
- Tap into Federal as well as State grant programs
- New financial structures such as special assessment/taxing zones, city affiliated NGO

- Set up a resiliency review committee to review all building permits for resiliency issues
- Make a start even if it is small but make those improvements strategically so that they are part of the long term vision
- Set up partnerships with the Chamber, AJH, Audubon, philanthropies
- Closely monitor Boston's approach and copy and improve i.e. committing 10% of capital budget dedicated to resilience , having design standards