

## **Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC) December 20th 2018 Meeting**

**Attendees** Michael Morris, Jon-Eric White, Molly Ettenborough, Joe Teixeira, Bill Mullen, David Chatfield, Christopher LeClaire, Donna Holaday, Julia Godtfredsen, and John O'Connell,

Absent: Matthew Coogan, Lise Reid, Barry Connell, 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**

- Approval of November 29th minutes
- Review of outstanding action points from previous meetings
- Review of draft plan sections - Michael Morris
- Report from sub committee Flood Design Levels –Jon Eric White
- Review of Grants and funds progress - Julia Godtfredsen
- A.O.B.

### **Previous minutes and review of previous meeting action points**

Minutes from November 29th 2018 were approved.

The status of action items from previous meetings is:

- A link or a summary of the City Emergency Response Plan was requested. –  
The Fire Chief will meet Michael Morris and discuss the issue. – **Jan 15<sup>th</sup> Chris LeClaire**
- Sub committee report on options for design flood levels - sub committee Dec 20 Complete

### **Technical sub committee report on flood design levels**

A technical subcommittee consisting of Jon Eric White, Bill Mullen, John O'Connell, Michael Morris, and Diane Gagnon has developed report on recommendations for design flood levels for Waterfront West. Jon Eric White presented the report.

The tech sub committee met four times. They concentrated on a recommendation for Waterfront West.

They decide to use an approach of using FEMA base flood elevation plus projected sea level rise (SLR). The subcommittee reviewed various sea level rise models including NOAA, and Boston research Advisory group (BRAG). The sub committee decided to base the projections on the sea level rise by 2100, which implies a Waterfront West project life cycle of 81 years. The sub-committee reviewed various global emission scenarios and exceedance scenarios. The subcommittee members did not reach consensus on the scenarios, but reached an agreement on a recommendation on design flood elevations.

The sub committee report plus individual sub committee member inputs will be distributed to Resiliency Committee members. **27 December 2018 Jon Eric White**

Resiliency Committee members will review the report and committee members input and provide feed back to the sub-committee. **All - 11 January 2019**  
The sub committee will meet one more time to review input from the full committee and then submit final recommendations to the Mayor. **January 14 2019**  
**Jon Eric White.**

Implementation of the sub committee's recommendation regarding FEMA + SLR appears to be feasible through the Conservation Commission across areas of the City impacted by potential coastal flooding. However we will need to seek support from all of the stakeholders for the proposed levels, particularly as we extend the report recommendations to the whole city.

Coastal Storm Flowage Regulations covering all coastal areas of the city have been drafted. The recommendations will reviewed in light of the Technical subcommittee report. – **Julia Godtfredsen Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 2019.**

### **Resiliency Plan Write up**

It is targeted to have a presentation and discussion with the City Council in February/March 2019 and then the report will be finalized. At that time a presentation to the public will be considered.

There was no time to discuss the issue at this meeting and the vulnerability section will be issued prior to the next meeting for comments. **M Morris Jan 14<sup>th</sup>**

### **Grants and Funds**

The issue was not discussed at this meeting due to time constraints  
The various grants and funds for resiliency plan implementation are:

- MVP Implementation Grant \$122,000 WWTF. This money along with a 25% match from the City will be used to determine recommendations for protecting the WWTF from flooding heat and wind. Implementation is planned for Spring 2019
- Funds have been obtained from Mass DOT for installing a road bordering Bartlett Spring pond that will protect the water supply from Sea level rise and storm surge. The design is complete and construction will start in Spring 2019 once the bridge contractor has cleared the site and the City approves an order of conditions.
- National Fish and Wildlife Grant –An application had been made for PI dune and eco system protection but unfortunately was not successful.
- Environmental Bond Bill >\$1,000,000 for storm surge protection, drainage and sewer infrastructure upgrades and storm water retention. The Governor has signed the bill.  
No status change
- The Environmental Bond Bill also contained a provision *that not less than \$750,000 shall be expended for coastal shoreline [SEP]stabilization, [SEP]polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCB, removal and storm surge protection of the [SEP]Newburyport Clipper City Rail Trail for redesign and construction along the Merrimack river; [SEP]*No status change

### **Any Other Business**

- The Greater Newburyport Green Expo, will be held on April 11 2019 at the Newburyport Nock Middle School.
- The Fire Chief raised concerns regarding the ability of the City to respond to emergencies on Plum Island. The issue was expressed as of concern this winter season. It was agreed that this issue is complicated as it involves two municipalities (Newburyport and Newbury) and that each emergency has some unique qualities. This vulnerability will be included in the resiliency committee plan. – **M Morris January 17 2019**. There is no written emergency plan covering specific actions to be taken in weather emergencies. The Plum Island Beach Alliance does facilitate mitigation actions for weather emergencies impacting Plum Island and the City implements an emergency organization for every weather emergency. The issue will be discussed in the New Year at this committee .- **Chris LeClaire March 21 2019**

**Next Meeting:** Thursday January 17th 3:00 pm