

Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC) August 16

2018 Meeting

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

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.

Agenda

- Approval of July 19th minutes
- Review of outstanding action points from previous meetings
- Review of draft plan sections - Michael Morris
 - Overview/Introduction
 - Hazard assessment
 - Resiliency Plan Action Spreadsheet review - David Chatfield
 - Responsibilities
 - Priorities
 - suggested structural changes
 - Review of Grants and funds progress - Julia Godtfredsen
 - Any other business

Previous minutes and review of previous meeting action points

Minutes from August 16 2018 reviewed and approved.

There were comments regarding whether the mission of the group is to complete the Resiliency Plan and not go on to facilitate actions. This will be raised with the group's sponsor the Mayor – **D Chatfield Sept 5**

The status of action items from previous meetings is

- RP writing proposal due - M Morris Complete
- Resiliency account to be set up - **M Ettenborough Sept 5**
- Meetings to be added to City calendar and room booked **Julia Godtfredsen Sept 5**
- Contract in place for Resiliency Plan write up Molly Ettenborough Complete
- Funds to be identified for Little River flooding model. **Jon Eric White Sept 5**
- Identify website location for resiliency plan information. Molly Ettenborough Complete
- Add requests for communication coming from the “Listening Session” to the Storm Surge serve list. M Morris Complete

- Suggest structural changes to the Resiliency Plan Action Spreadsheet. Preference expressed to discuss as a group
- Changes to spreadsheet especially priorities. Preference expressed to discuss as a group
- Changes to spreadsheet responsibilities. The Mayor has reviewed and noted that responsibilities should be reduced for A Port. The mayor
Donna Holaday - Sept 5

Resiliency Plan Write up

Target will be a draft report by November 1.

A presentation and discussion will be held with the City Council in December and then the report will be finalized. At that time a presentation to the public will be considered.

The write up will use the outline developed by Jon Eric White and reviewed earlier by the Resiliency Committee.

- Review draft of Overview/Introduction

The overall reaction to this section was very positive. It was suggested that the set up of the Newburyport Resiliency Committee including mission statement and members should either be in the Overview and/or in the Executive Summary.

It was agreed that comments, corrections and additions would be sent to Mike electronically as suggested by Bill Mullen in his e-mail. All committee members will be copied in. **All - Sept 5.**

Mike Morris will act as his own gatekeeper and resolve conflicts by discussing with the group.

The section on demographics was discussed. It was agreed that this information was usually provided by the EPA and often required by the EPA and other agencies and therefore having it in the report would help in grant writing and other submissions. There was concern regarding race/ethnicity and on incomes. These points will be raised at the next committee meeting when the Mayor and Council President are in attendance. Notify the Mayor and Council President .
D Chatfield – Sept 5

Mike requested information regarding City efforts on sustainability to date. **M Ettenborough – Sept 5**

- Review Hazard Assessment section

The hazard assessment section is in progress. The breadth of the hazards was discussed and it was agreed that the plan would describe more hazards than just covered by the MVP. The write up of the

hazards would be sized according to relevance of the hazard to Newburyport..

Mike will check out the state plans for how they categorize hazards and determine if those categories would work for us. A link to the state documentation will be provided to Mike – **D Chatfield Aug 21**

It was agreed that the four main studies (Great Marsh, Riverine and Coastal flooding, MVP and Multi Hazard plan would be referenced but recommendations from these studies would not be in the body of the report but would be included as a spreadsheet appendix.

The issue of how the Resiliency Plan relates to existing City plans was discussed. The understanding was that the Resiliency Plan was a stand-alone plan. That it could be included in the local emergency plan as an appendix.

The next step will be to include committee member comments, corrections and additions on the Overview section and complete a first draft of the hazard section. **M Morris – Sept 20**

- **Review of draft Resiliency Plan Action Spreadsheet**

This agenda item was left for a subsequent meeting. The committee expressed a wish to review the spreadsheet as a group.

- **Grants and Funds**

The various grants and funds for resiliency Plan implementation were reviewed.

- 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. Jon Eric White reported progress on this project.
- The MVP grant application for Cashman Park was rejected.
- Newburyport transfer funds \$15,000 technical assistance. In place and underway with Mike Morris.
- National Fish and Wildlife Grant –An application has been made for PI dune and eco system protection. Julia Godtfredsen is taking the lead on this project along with Nancy London. The DCR will be involved. The project will include protective mobi mats and rope barriers along with

signage.

- 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.

A meeting was held with the State Rep James Kelcourse and it was suggested that the city put a one pager together regarding details of what the City wants to do with any funds made available. This will facilitate lobbying to get the funds released. An initial rough draft of a one pager was reviewed. The draft will be circulated for comments. **D**

Chatfield – Sept 5

- 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]Process for releasing these funds and what we need to provide will be investigated. **J Godtfredsen – Sept 12**

- The issue of obtaining further MVP grant funds was discussed. As a result of the discussion it was agreed that Kathleen Theoharides Asst. Sec. Climate Change will be contacted to determine the rules relating to MVP grants particularly timing of next round of funds, ability to have more than one grant in operation at a time etc. **Molly Ettenborough Sept 5.**

- It was agreed that we need to be ready for the next round of MVP grants. A draft one pager will be generated to outline submission projects for discussion at the next meeting. **J Godtfredsen – Sept 13**
- 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.

- Next Meeting : Thursday September 20th 3:00 pm

