

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

*3 PM September 15, 2021 Virtual Meeting*

RC Attendees: Jane Healey, Andrew Port, Julia Gadtredsen, Joe Teixeira, Brett LeFebvre, Sarah Tappan, Janet Daisley, Donna Holaday, Jon-Eric White, Rishi Nandi

Absent: Barry Connell, Molly Ettenborough

Guest Attendees: Charles Carrier, Rick Taintor, Donna Musumeci

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**

Desired Meeting Outcomes:

- Establish Committee guidelines and meeting norms
- Identify priority plan actions to target for the next 12-18 months
- Identify the skills, competencies and roles volunteers can play in moving these activities forward

#### **1. Updates**

##### **1.1. Newbury/Newburyport PI MVP Project report - Andy/Rishi -**

There have been no updates since the review feedback was given in July. The report not yet published.

##### **1.2. Multi Hazard Mitigation Planning - Julia**

Jennifer Hughes sent draft tables in the format required for the report. One table is the completed items from 2015 plan and the second table is Development Updates.

**ACTION ITEM:** Andy and Jon-Eric will send edits to tables by the end of this week.

Jennifer will incorporate these into her draft. The first listening session is still targeted for end of September, but may move to October.

##### **1.3. Communication Projects**

- Resiliency Brochure - Julia

Julia shared a preview of the brochure she has been developing with Bill Goff.

They chose to highlight 4 major risks facing Newburyport. Jon-Eric asked whether drought was sufficiently covered under severe temp change. Jon-Eric felt severe wind might be less critical than drought, Julia responded that the severe winds section covers storm hazard and that's why it was critical.

**ACTION ITEM:** Julia will mail out the text to group for feedback. Deadline end of next week (9/24) for feedback.

There was positive feedback from the group on the layout. Andy asked about timeframe. Julia responded that as soon as the final edits on the text are complete then can send for publishing.

- Storm Surge Speaker Series - Sarah  
Last presentation of this year's series, focusing on how cities fund Resiliency projects is scheduled for 9/28 at 7pm. All are encouraged to attend. The presentation on the Plum Island Sea Level Rise Fiscal implications will be postponed until the next series. Ellie Baker can't commit until the report is completed/approved.

- Mayor's Blog – HKS project - Andy  
**DECISION:** Drop this action item as the information is now stale.

#### 1.4. Infrastructure Projects - Jon Eric

- WWTF protection: The proposal was received from BSC group for the design of the East and West Perimeter flood control walls. Engineering sent comments back. Anticipate \$100-190K to complete the survey and design. Side walls are last part of the effort needed to shore up the WWTF. Identifying funding and construction will be targeted for FY23.
- Reservoir Protection -- Tighe and Bond delivered updated Water Shed Protection plan. It is available on the City of Newburyport Engineering web page.  
[https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf7106f/uploads/updated\\_surface\\_water\\_supply\\_watershed\\_protection\\_plan\\_by\\_tighe\\_and\\_bond\\_sept\\_2021.pdf](https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf7106f/uploads/updated_surface_water_supply_watershed_protection_plan_by_tighe_and_bond_sept_2021.pdf)
- National grid power substation protection -- no update. Jon-Eric suggests tabling this item for now, nothing planned by National Grid for 2-3 years at a minimum. They understand their flood risk. The Mayor noted that they are closing out the AUL (activity and use limitation) on the WWTF (handling the PCBs)
- Capital projects ready for submission - this was tabled as it is a longer discussion.

#### 2. Committee Governance - Jane

##### 2.1. Membership updates --

- Heather Lipp has moved out of state and has resigned.
- Janet Daisley was able to attend the meeting and she introduced herself. She works for the Conservation Law Foundation in Boston. She lives on Beck Street in Newburyport.
- Julia suggested adding Greg Earls to the committee as an advisor on building codes.

##### 2.2. Election – Chair, Vice Chair, Note Taker \

The following nominations were approved. Jane Healey Chair, Brett LeFabvre Vice Chair, Sarah Tappan, Note Taker

##### 2.3. Rules of the road – all voices/decision processes/voting/public communications

Jane wants to make sure we are all heard, particularly on zoom. In general want to avoid protracted email discussions. There was a brief discussion on how decisions were made in the past. In the past the decision making process was primarily focused on providing input to the Plan document. Going forward there will need to be decisions more like on a phased approach for Water protection or priorities for spending.

Jane gave the example of if there is a request to the committee to write a letter to support something. She would recommend a majority agreement before signing on behalf of RC.

Jane summarized the discussion by saying she will reach for consensus but minimally a majority agreement will be required for decisions.

### 3. Priority Implementation Actions for next 12-18 months

See the Zoom recording for slides presented.

Janet, Brett, Jane met with the staff last week to determine staff input for the committee for the next year.

Five categories of activities community education & communication; regulations working group (focus for next year would be to get group set up to discuss proposals prior to package being brought forward to council); water, infrastructure funding; and building resiliency into city operations.

Sarah asked if there was a budget for Communications and Education. The Mayor said there is currently a supplemental budget process underway to estimate budget requirements through June 30. There is some potential funding if we provide input by early October. Jon-Eric noted taht 3-4K will be needed fund MIMAP interactive layers. Budget is needed for printing of brochure.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jane to drive getting budget estimate to the Mayor in the next two weeks.

Brett asked if there are IT resources available to help? Andy said we can post to the City web-site - requests should be routed the Julia or Dianna. The mayor noted that they are working on bringing python system from Brown and Caldwell online for the CSO early alert notification system. Nick Federico, Storm water engineer, will be bringing that on-line. Will host through amazon cloud. Jennifer Hughes and Jerrard Whitten (exec director) IT wiz may be good resources--- **ACTION ITEM:** Brett to reach out to the Mayor about who to talk to about IT needs.

Julia and Andy would like to have a discussion on the server/website ideas as future agenda item. **ACTION ITEM:** Jane to include website/server discussions as part of the broader communication/education topic on future agenda.

Sarah asked if coordination with West Newbury should be another possible NRC action on the water infrastructure topic. Jon-Eric reported that he had a meeting today with Tom Cusick and the dept heads in DPS. Jon-Eric is encouraging more frequent internal discussions to decide how to prioritize and manage the output of the Tighe and Bond report.

How can committee help best? Tighe Bond was not tasked with telling us what to do. We need to think about the options presented in the plan. Temporary stone foundation is not yet permitted; Jan/Feb permit process; best case next year.

Grant availability should not drive projects. Jon-Eric has list of funding sources; has been working with Nancy London, the City's grant writer; Tighe and Bond report touched on funding sources as well. Nancy, Grant writer is a great resource; she helps all departments in the city.

Separate design funding vs infrastructure. Grants for design/feasibility are somewhat harder to secure. FEMA grants can be used towards a wide range including feasibility. Many of the projects are at to/ or close to the stage of needing feasibility/design funding.

3.1. Staff-identified priority actions for the next 12-18 months - Jane w/ staff

3.2. Additional areas of priority and interest of volunteers - all

4. Blue Sky Brainstorm: What ways can volunteers support these priorities (15 minutes) – all

5. Next Mtg.

Rishi - would like to help with funding; communication (public meetings); spread thin

Due to being over-time, most of these last topics were tabled. Jane requested that everyone email additional ideas/thoughts to her. ACTION ITEM: Jane will off-line try to figure out if there are smaller groups that can make progress prior to next meeting.

6. Final Word (5 minutes) - all

Jane expressed gratitude to city employees and volunteers.

Next meeting October 20, 2021 3pm