

Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC) September 20th
2018 Meeting

Attendees Michael Morris, David Chatfield, Jon-Eric White, Molly Ettenborough, Julia Godtfredsen, John O'Connell, Christopher LeClaire, Lise Reid
Barry Connell, Absent: 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. Further, the committee will advocate for and oversee implementation of the plan's recommendations

Agenda

- Approval of August 16th minutes
- Review of outstanding action points from previous meetings
- Review of draft plan sections - Michael Morris
- Resiliency Plan Action Spreadsheet review - David Chatfield
- Review of Grants and funds progress - Julia Godtfredsen
- Discussion of Waterfront West – David Chatfield
- Any other business

Previous minutes and review of previous meeting action points

Minutes from August 16 2018 approved.

The status of action items from previous meetings is

- Determine if there is an ongoing role for the Resiliency Committee. D Chatfield Complete
- Resiliency account to be set up - M Ettenborough Complete
- Meetings to be added to City calendar and room booked Julia Godtfredsen Complete
- Funds to be identified for Little River flooding model. Jon Eric White JEW stated that this study will be required as and when projects are approved for culverts impacted by the Little River. Financing will be done at that time.
- Assign RP action spreadsheet responsibilities D Holaday **Sept 5 Action modified**
- Resiliency Plan comments, corrections and additions for the Overview section would be sent to Mike Complete
- Notify the Mayor and Council President regarding the demographic discussion and gain their input. D Chatfield Complete
- Mike requested information regarding City efforts on sustainability to date. M Ettenborough Complete

- A link to the state CC plan documentation will be provided to Mike – D Chatfield Complete
- Include committee member comments, corrections and additions on the Overview section and complete a first draft of the hazard section. M Morris – Complete
- A draft one pager relating to input for the environmental Bill item regarding storm surge etc. will be circulated for comments. D Chatfield Complete
- Process for releasing the Environmental Bond Bill funds relating to the Clipper Trail will be investigated. J Godtfredsen – Reported that the next step is with the Mayor
- 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**. No reply from KH as yet
- A draft one pager will be generated to outline submission projects for the next MVP grant round. J Godtfredsen Complete

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.

Mike Morris presented the Overview and Introduction sections where he has incorporated input from committee members. He also presented the hazard assessment section. Items marked “green” indicate requested comments. Items marked “pink” indicates where information is requested. Information on distribution of electricity and gas will be requested from National Grid and the City electrician – **D Chatfield October 5th**. A link to hazardous material map to be provided. – **D Chatfield October 5th** A link or a summary of the City Emergency Response Plan was requested. – **Chief LeClaire**. Committee members are asked to send Mike Morris their feedback – **All October 5th**

The committee members thanked Mike Morris for the extremely professional document that he is developing.

Review of draft Resiliency Plan Action Spreadsheet

A revised action spreadsheet has been sent to the group. This has taken comments from committee members, deleted redundant items and consolidated others. The list has been reduced from 132 action items to 47 items. Further feedback was given to D Chatfield for inclusion. Further feedback on the revised spreadsheet should be sent to D Chatfield – **All Oct 9th**

The action spreadsheet will be revised based on input received by October 9th. – **D Chatfield Oct 11th**

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 as on track.
- 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. Julia Godtfredsen reported no change in status.
- 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.

This subject was discussed by the Mayor with the Lieutenant Governor earlier in September. Circulate the one pager on items to be included in the request for Environmental Bond Bill items for additional review. - **D**

Chatfield October 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]*The approach to releasing these funds for the Clipper City Rail Trail will be discussed with the Mayor. – **Julia Godtfredsen October 16th**

- The issue of obtaining further MVP grant funds was discussed. J Godtfredsen issued a draft list of potential projects for review. The list was discussed and will be issued for further review. **D Chatfield Sep 25th.**
- 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. Jon Eric reported that the design is done and construction will start in Spring 2019 once the bridge contractor has cleared the site and an order of conditions is approved by the City.

Discussion of Waterfront West

The Mayor requested that talking points be generated for a discussion that she will be having with the NED head.

The discussion started with the following list:

- design based on four foot of sea level rise. (Use the Woods Hole model) This needs to cover not only the buildings but also driveways walkways and bulkheads.
- design based on increasing storm surge and provide a commitment to providing adaptations to changing projections of storm surge
- car parking under buildings should not be sacrificial unless there is a procedure for clearing out cars in the event of a severe weather event
- all utilities to be built out of the SLR and storm surge reach
- supply utilities to be underground in easily accessible channels or or protected from storm damage in an alternative way
- all chemicals and hazardous supplies to be stored above the SLR + storm surge
- have a system for trash and recyclables that protects their storage from flooding events
- provide an emergency plan that includes the risks of hurricanes, flooding through extreme weather events, significant power interruptions.
- provision of emergency generation
- meet LEED building requirements

The discussion included that as a group we have not agreed a basis for setting a “safe” level of SLR or storm surge and that we need to identify a set of standards. We do have solid projections from our previous studies and that this data could be shared with NED. The level (based on the projections) that we could request design take into account for, could be anywhere from four to thirteen feet. There are state restrictions regarding the building code. There are the FEMA requirements but they are considered as inadequate in looking at increasing SLR and storm surge. It was emphasized that this project could model excellent environmental design and in addition protect the asset.

The car parking in a vulnerable area has the problem of contaminating the water and if relocated there needs to be identified space.

Chief LeClaire strongly emphasized the benefit of buildings having generators in the event of an emergency.

Concern was shown regarding the latest proposal and that it appears there is no plan to raise the sea wall.

A list of talking points regarding Waterfront West based on this discussion and input regarding CA 40 targets will be provided to the Mayor. – **M Ettenborough Sept 21.**

AOB

Molly Ettenborough gave an overview of the Global Climate Action Summit held in san Fransisco.

Next Meeting: Thursday October 18th 3:00 pm