

Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC)
April 21st, 2021 Meeting

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.

Attendees

Donna Holaday, David Chatfield, Jon Eric White, Andy Port, Joe Texiera, Molly Ettenborough, , Jane Healey, Brett Lefebvre, Heather Lipp, Rishi Nandi, Sarah Tappan, Harvard Kennedy School Project team members

Absent: Barry Connell, Chris LeClaire, Julia Godtfredson and Janet Daisley

Agenda

1. Previous meeting action points
 - a. Emergency vulnerability of Plum Island C LeClaire and Julia Godtfredsen postponed

2. Member Introductions

The Mayor recently invited the following people to become Resiliency Committee members: Janet Daisley, Jane Healey, Brett Lefebvre, Heather Lipp, Rishi Nandi, Sarah Tappan. The newly appointed Resiliency Committee members introduced themselves. The new members bring a breadth of experience with them. The existing committee members also gave a brief introduction. A Resiliency committee familiarization session was offered by David Chatfield for new members. Times to be arranged with completion before the next meeting. **D Chatfield May 19**

3. Resiliency Plan Roll Out – David Chatfield

Notes from March 18th meeting:

- a. *Feedback on Feb 18 Community presentation. Mainly positive feedback. Some comments that the presentation concentrated on examples of flooding and not on the implementation plans.*
- b. *Feedback on EDAC presentation. Presentation made and generally positive feedback.*
- c. *Rotary presentation given by Bill Clary of Storm Surge, again generally positive feedback.*
- d. *Proposed Future roll out groups.*

City Employees, Chamber, Industrial Park members, Downtown members, Realtors

It was noted that there has been a high number of letters to the Daily News referring to the resiliency plan. This high visibility has been assisted by the efforts of Storm Surge.

4. Communication Enhancements

- a. Resiliency Brochure – Julia Godtfredson, Molly Ettenborough and Andy Port have been working on a tri fold brochure regarding the Resiliency plan. Progress on the development of the tri fold brochure will be presented at the next meeting
- b. Storm Surge Speaker Series Plans – Sarah Tappan presented the development of a monthly speaker series organized by Storm Surge that will be tied into elements of the resiliency plan. The sessions will run from May to November on the last Tuesday of the month and will be a mixture of outdoor and indoor events. The Storm Surge group working on this is headed by Sheila Taintor. City employees have been involved including Lise Reid and Jon Eric White. There will be seven sessions covering:

- The reservoir at risk
- Neighborhoods at risk
- Drought
- Zoning
- Plum Island MVP project Status
- Funding resiliency projects
- Summary of progress on the Resiliency plan

. A dry run is planned for May 8th. Resiliency committee members were asked to support the series by attendance, and/or set up and manning.

5. Infrastructure Updates

- a. WWTP protection status was outlined by Jon Eric White. The project has been funded partially by an MVP grant. This grant is the largest MVP action grant awarded by the State to date. The work is projected to be completed by this June. The protection of the WWTP should be good for several decades. The protection still has needs for side wall protection.

- b. Reservoir Protection – was outlined by Jon Eric White. The current project includes the updating of the 2004 water protection plan to include climate change impacts. Various aspects will be reviewed with the Conservation Commission. One identified project is the installation of a pipeline that will allow the City to mix and match on the reservoir sources during times when those sources have been compromised.

The dam needs to be raised as it is below current 100 year FEMA flood levels. This project could include a surge gate to protect the reservoir from river incursions. In the case of an imminent river incursion a plan has been developed for a 10 foot wide foundation to be put on the reservoir side of the junction with the river to allow for the temporary emergency use of sandbags to prevent river incursion.

- c. Plum Island protection – The mayor outlined the measures that have been taken to protect the north end of the island. This has involved working with local state legislators, the MRBA, USACE, and our congressmen amongst others.

- d. Review National Grid infrastructure change documentation was not reviewed at this meeting but will be added to next month's agenda - **Jon Eric White May 19**

6. Regulatory & Administrative Updates

- a. Zoning changes have been investigated. The status will be reviewed at future meetings – Andy Port

7. HKS project presentation

The HKS project team gave a truncated presentation regarding their project. The full presentation will be sent out with the minutes. The team have been reviewing frameworks for prioritizing climate resiliency projects and looking at how these projects can be financed. The team members have visited Newburyport and visited vulnerable areas with the mayor. They have spent time on the State plans on resiliency particularly the Resilient MA team development of a prioritization tool that is first in the nation. This tool will be open for public comment shortly. It was agreed that this is something that the Resiliency committee should get familiar with. Rishi Nandi volunteered to become familiar with the RMA tool. **Rishi Nandi May 19**

8. Organization

- a. Frequency and timing of RC meetings

The Mayor suggested that a monthly meeting is required. It was agreed that 3 PM start works and Molly will discuss with various City employees to determine what day works best to fit in with the other schedule City meetings. **Molly Ettenborough May 19**

- b. NHS student participation

Notes from March 18th meeting:

In addition to the regular membership the High School has put forward four student names who are interested in the topic. It is recommended that all four be invited to participate in resiliency committee work. It is suggested that the students have an opportunity to attend the resiliency committee meetings. In addition, we would request that the students review the plan and work on some selected topics.

A meeting will be set with the Environmental Club teacher liaison to see what works for these students. – **David Chatfield & Heather Lipp. May 6.**

- c. Discussion on approach to Resiliency Plan Actions.

Notes from March 18th meeting: It was agreed that the “new “ resiliency committee” be briefed on the complete spreadsheet of recommended actions and that they then decide on an approach to the issue. MVP action grants were discussed and it was agreed that having projects ready to go forward is desirable. This also gives us the opportunity to invite MVP coordinators to discuss the projects before an application is made.

It was agreed that this will be an agenda item for the next meeting. At that time the HKS project report will have been issued and the committee will be more familiar with the new State RMA tool.

9. AOB none

Next Committee Meeting: Thursday May 19, 2021 at 3 pm via zoom