

Resiliency Meeting Minutes, 05/19/2021

Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC)

3 PM May 19, 2021 Virtual Meeting

Newburyport Resiliency Committee Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89178610107>

Or Via Phone (audio only): +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 891 7861 0107

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, Andrew Port, Barry Connell, David Chatfield, Jon-Eric White, Julia Godtfredsen, Brett Lefebvre, Jane Healey, Heather Lipp, Sarah Tappan

Absent: Chris LeClaire, Rishi Nandi, Molly Ettenborough, Joe Teixeira, Janet Daisley

Other attendees: Stewart Lytle (reporter, The Town Common)

1. Newbury/Newburyport PI MVP Presentation Upcoming Schedule –

Julia Godtfredsen presented the details of 2 public meetings resulting from a MVP action grant funded project. The project is a collaborative effort among both communities to develop new information in support of future decision-making efforts. This new information is an analysis and exploration of the fiscal and economic impacts to the two communities of sea level rise on Plum Island and concentrates on long term impacts.

The first meeting will be held on Monday May 24th and will be focused on the data related to sea level rise and will include the latest estimates and maps.

The second meeting will be on a fiscal analysis and scenarios related to sea level rise and the economic impact to Newbury and Newburyport.

The website associated with this project is <https://www.plumislandsealevelrise.com>. It was noted that the website has a very good resource library relevant to Newburyport and climate change.

The updated project maps will be useful for the committee to consider. It appears that the project has slightly higher projected sea level rises than assumed in the Newburyport Resiliency Plan. Compare SLR assumptions between the MVP project and the Resiliency Plan. **Jon Eric White 2 June**

Andy is asking for the GIS analysis from the MVP grant consultants, which can be given to the engineering group for comparison.

Note that Fiscal impact discussion will provide a good framework for consideration by the committee for Newburyport as a whole.

The issue of how is this being promoted to people on the island and how can we maximize attendance on PI. It has been posted on city calendar. email blasts to MRBA, Ward Council, all boards tied to planning on the Island. Newbury has done the same. Senator Tarr pushed the invite out to the MRBA list. Storm Surge have notified their mailing list and other groups such as CAP have been notified. It is expected that the Ward 1 councilor has communicated to his constituents

1. Update on Multi Hazard Mitigation Planning

Julia Godtfredsen updated the committee regarding the Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan. Historically NBPT has been part of a Regional Multi-Hazard Mitigation plan. There is a need for an updated plan to support an application for FEMA grants. Jenifer Hughes (MVPC) will assist Newburyport to develop a stand alone multi hazard mitigation plan. A small team had a meeting to plan the updating process with initial updates targeted for June 4th. The team consists of Andy, Julia, Molly, Jon Eric and Jane.

3. Communication Projects

a. Resiliency Brochure

Julia Godtfredsen presented the progress that has been made on a Storyboard 4-fold brochure. The project has been assisted by Bill Goff of Mechanica. The format has been drafted and graphics have been developed. This is similar to a brochure that had previously developed to cover the PI issues. The information contained in the brochure has been developed directly from the Resiliency Plan.

Discussion points included:

- Final size of the brochure
- Need for an adequate font size
- When to get full resiliency Committee member input.
- Identification of the intended audience. The expectation is the expected audience is a wide group including all residents, city staff, policy makers, etc.
- In addition to having the brochure available it was stressed that targeting specific audiences and developing a specific distribution plan is very effective. Note the PI brochure was distributed with the tax bill.

b. Update Storm Surge Speaker Series Plans

Sarah Tappan provided an update on the Storm Surge Speaker Series which has been developed to support the various Resiliency Plan action areas.

The first presentation is next Tuesday night May 25th. The talk will cover Risks to Reservoirs and Merrimack. In addition to John Macone will have a 3 person panel for the Q/A portion. Logistics are going well and Lisë Reid has been a great help.

c. Further Resiliency Plan Communication Sessions

David met with Katy O'Conner Ives who is the new Greater Newburyport Chamber President, to brief her on the resiliency committee plan and offered to do presentation sessions tailored to specific chamber groups. He also provided her with links to resources relating to climate change and Newburyport.

The Mayor sent the plan link to Climate Mayors group. Has not heard back. Expect to get invitation present to group at future event. .

3. Infrastructure Projects

a. WWTP protection

Expected date for completion of the WWTF protection/ clipper trail is within a week. There will be a soft opening before Memorial Day weekend and a celebratory opening with a New Orleans type brass band, ribbon cutting etc. at 4pm on June 9.

Jon-Eric - has received a design proposal for side walls and it is under review. It was discussed that a place holder be put in this year's Capital Improvement Plan. **Andy Port & Jon Eric White 16 Jun**

b. Reservoir Protection

A short term project to lay foundation for sandbags at the lower artichoke dam for short-term mitigation in the event of a storm is planned.

Dam raising/replacement will be a long-term effort.

Indian Hill - Artichoke watershed master plan was updated by consultants to include resiliency items.

Strong need to have resiliency and flexibility of combining water sources from Indian Hill to lower and upper artichoke. Primary need is due to heat and risk of algae blooms. Jon Eric has completed a CFP to start the design.

c. Plum Island infrastructure protection

Work continues on the short term protection of the North point MEPA review was just finished and their restrictions will be rolled into the order of conditions. Concerns with the water quality permit have been addressed and submitted for review yesterday. Still working on 8-9 other permits but appears to be moving forward. Goal to put out-to-bid in Sept and finish after the first of the year.

d. Review National Grid infrastructure change documentation

To be addressed at the next meeting. **Jon Eric White 16 June**

e. Identification of Capital projects to be ready for grant opportunities

Biggest work item to-date has been getting the information into the Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs). Two main projects, the lower artichoke demand the Indian Hill pipe.

Funding for next year is going forward. Waiting for next round of stimulus and infrastructure plan money. Expect ability to use stimulus money partially for water and sewer. Congressman Moulton put in earmark for waterfront bulkhead. Mayor has call with Senator Warren and Markie's staffs today for Senate earmarks, covering money for PI spur, and investigate weir and jetty and the DCR contracted sediment plan. The goal is to add another layer of protection to PI. Requested costs from Army Corp for design.

4. Regulatory & Administrative Updates

a. Zoning – Andy Port

No proposed Zoning changes. There are some discussions about PI zoning changes but only in the info gathering stage. Reviewing data on growth since PI overlay district was put in place. Need to minimize growth in hazard prone areas. Planning board looking at site plan standards.

b. Approach to CRS – Postponed to next meeting. David Chatfield 16 June

5. Organization

a. Committee Members

The permanent Resiliency Committee city employee members are to be confirmed. **Andy Port 16 June**

b. Frequency and timing of RC meetings

Discussed but not decided. To be discussed at the next meeting

c. NHS student participation - Did not discuss.

d. Discussion on approach to Resiliency Plan Actions.

Andy proposed that we walk through Resiliency Plan Actions document at next meeting.

6. Previous meeting action points

a. Emergency vulnerability of Plum Island C LeClaire and Julia Godtfredsen - Julia didn't have anything to add beyond what Mayor is doing to work the hot-spot at reservation terrace . The item has been open for a long time and will now be dropped.

7. AOB

Sarah Tappan presented a draft summary of the Harvard/JFK student project regarding was provided.

Proposal that it be communicated as Mayors blog or Press Release.

Draft will be reviewed with the Mayor. **Andy Port - 2 June**

Next Committee Meeting: 6/16/2021 3pm