

Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC)
3 PM June 16, 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: Andrew Port, Barry Connell, David Chatfield, Julia Godtfredsen, Brett Lefebvre, Jane Healey, Sarah Tappan, Rishi Nandi, Joe Teixeira,
Absent: Chris LeClaire, Donna Holaday, Molly Ettenborough, Janet Daisley, Jon-Eric White, Heather Lipp

1. Previous Meeting Action Points
 - 1.1 Comparison of sea levels used in the PI MVP project and the levels used in the Resiliency Plan – **Jon Eric White 2 June** deferred Jon-Eric absent
 - 1.2 A project to cover the completion of berms to protect the WWTF has been put into the City capital Investment Plan COMPLETE.
 - 1.3 Review National Grid infrastructure change documentation. To be addressed at the 16 June meeting. **Jon Eric White 16 June** deferred Jon-Eric absent
 - 1.4 The permanent Resiliency Committee city employee members were confirmed as: Andrew Port, Julia Godtfredsen, Molly Ettenborough, and Jon-Eric White. Other city employees can be called on as resources.
2. Newbury/Newburyport PI MVP Project

Andy Port reported that two public meetings covering sea level rise impacts and an economic analysis held and were recorded. The project consultants will maintain website for the rest of the year. NBPT will migrate materials to city website.

The two public meeting recordings are already posted on city website. The expectation is that the report will be issued in July complete with the maps and financial analysis. The Plum island access road will be highlighted as the primary issues. An estimate of cost to raise the access road was not developed and a guesstimate for the cost was used.

Rishi Nandi has been a member of the project steering group. His view was that the study provides a high level assessment of the budgetary challenge. No one has engineered a solution for the road improvements, so no real cost estimates. The benefit of the report is that it can be used as a framework for approaching other city infrastructure projects.

Report findings will likely argue that more funding is needed to provide a more detailed analysis of PI turnpike costs. The raising of the access road faces issues over and above the cost such as the environmental impact and the accessibility to Plum Island during construction.

It was agreed that there is a continuing need to coordinate between Newbury and Newburyport on PI issues. Plum Island has a very active and effective lobbying group (MRBA) that concentrate on short-term protection. The MRBA is run very well by State senator Tarr.

On longer term approaches as detailed in the Resiliency plan there needs to be a more regular connection with Newbury. During the development of the plan Newbury had a representative on our resiliency committee and we had members who attended their equivalent. It was discussed that a new PI working group be established with membership being drawn from members with appropriate experience and skill sets. It was noted that the intermunicipal agreement between the City and Newbury is due to be updated in 2025.

Andy will follow up with the Mayor for guidance on setting up a PI Group. **Andy Port July 14**

Rishi Nandi incumbent on the PI project committee outlined some next steps and how to move the recommendations of the study further. The discussion included the following points:

- Establishing a joint sub committee for zoning on Plum Island as there are disconnects between the two administrations
- Strengthen our connections with other partners such as The Wildlife Refuge and the Audubon. Federal funds maybe available for access improvements through the refuge and the Audubon has work going on regarding the health of the marsh. Plum Island is a regional asset not just for commercial and homeowner's interests.
- Need to review the Newburyport side of the turnpike for flooding issues and seek hydrological studies.
- Need to understand all available funding sources which may require consulting support.
- Need to assess RMA standards
- Need to assess what coverage do we have for storm damage to Plum Island. There is the sewer and water settlement fund but it is limited and is getting used already.

It was agreed that a review of RMA standards would be on the agenda possibly at the next meeting or the one after that. **Rishi Nandi July 21 or August 18.**

3. Update on Multi Hazard Mitigation Planning

Julia Godtfredsen updated the committee regarding the update of the Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan. A small team had a meeting to plan the updating process with initial updates targeted for June 4th. Comments have been received from most members of the subcommittee. All of the Resiliency Plan actions have been formatted in an excel spreadsheet consistent with the MHMP format and the wording of each action is exactly the same as in the resiliency plan. It is expected that the MHMP will remain as the holding point for the Resiliency Plan actions. The spreadsheet version can be the basis for the Resiliency Committee to track progress.

Julia was asked to consider how to include the existing MHMP action points. This could be in the same table as the resiliency plan actions or in a separate table.

The excel spreadsheet will be circulated to the resiliency committee members. A first stab at responsibilities has been made to prompt discussion. David put down a first stab at responsible person for each action. The DRAFT spreadsheet will be circulated so that the responsibility discussion can begin.

David Chatfield June 18.

Volunteers are asked to express an interest in volunteering to support specific action points. It was agreed that the volunteer names would not be added to the document for the MHMP update but would be kept in the Resiliency committee version of the spreadsheet. Volunteers to express interest in supporting specific actions. **Volunteers July 14**

An exact timeframe has not yet been established with Jennifer Hughes the consultant assisting us with this project on when she needs it.

4. Communication

- a. Resiliency Brochure Julia -- No update
- b. Storm Surge Speaker Series – Sarah
 - o 5/25 event was successful with the exception of the video projector not working.
 - o 85+ attendees
 - o Positive feedback from attendees day of event and post-event survey.
 - o Following up on suggestions for improvement at the next event.
 - o Planning in progress for 6/29 event which will focus on flooding and drought. Two speakers, Dr Stephen Young from Salem State and Wayne Castonguay from Ipswich River Watershed Association. Current and former Resiliency committee members, Jon-Eric White and Bill Mullen will join for the Q/A.
 - o The first 2 presentation are setting the stage for the 7/27 event which will feature Jon-Eric and focus on the projects addressing the risks outlined in the resiliency plan.
 - o Aug - Rick Taintor, zoning, Sept - PI, Oct - Funding Resiliency
- c. Mayor's Blog – article on HKS project is with the Mayor. Follow up with the mayor on publishing. **Andy Port July 30**

5. Infrastructure Updates – Jon Eric -- Carry forward to next agenda

6. Regulatory & Administrative

- a. Community Rating System approach
Implementation of FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) has been recommended a number of times. It is suggested that the City review the requirements of CRS along with the Gap Analysis that has been carried out. The review should identify and implement the best practices that have value to the City. It is suggested that the City not plan for certification to the CRS standard. Decide how the City wants to approach CRS. **Andy Port July 21.**

7. Organization

- a. The Resiliency Committee is confirmed as: Donna Holaday, Andrew Port, Barry Connell, David Chatfield, Julia Godtfredsen, Brett Lefebvre, Jane Healey, Sarah Tappan, Rishi Nandi, Joe Teixeira, Molly Ettenborough, Janet Daisley, Jon-Eric White and Heather Lipp
- b. NHS student participation- Waiting on a response from NHS
- c. It was agreed to meet monthly on the third Wednesday of the month

8. AOB

- a. Resiliency Standards to be included in Site Plan Review (SPR). There is a Planning Board meeting tonight which will include site plan review and how resiliency standards could be incorporated. Rishi continues to work on a presentation for committee on standard. Rishi offered to generate a list of standards that could be considered for incorporating in the SPR. Rishi Nandi July 21

- b. Sarah asked if there had been any prior review/discussion on the proposed declaration of climate emergency that is being proposed by the extinction rebellion group. She agreed to forward the draft resolution for discussion/comments. **Sarah Tappan July 30**

Next Meeting: Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 3 PM