

Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC) November 29th 2018 Meeting

Attendees Michael Morris, Jon-Eric White, Molly Ettenborough, Joe Teixeira, Bill Mullen, David Chatfield, Christopher LeClaire, Donna Holaday and Matthew Coogan
Absent: Julia Godtfredsen, John O'Connell, Lise Reid, Barry Connell, and Chris Boelke

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 October 18th minutes
- Review of outstanding action points from previous meetings
- Review of draft plan sections - Michael Morris
- Review of Grants and funds progress - Julia Godtfredsen
- Report from sub committee re: SLR & SS & Waterfront West
- Any other business

Previous minutes and review of previous meeting action points

Minutes from October 18th 2018 were approved.

The status of action items from previous meetings is:

- A link or a summary of the City Emergency Response Plan was requested.
 - Still to be done - **Chief LeClaire Dec 20.**
- Barry will be with Ngrid next week and will check on this.
A meeting with National Grid was held. -
- sub committee report on options for design flood levels for Waterfront West -
The subcommittee made a verbal report to the committee. **Complete**

Resiliency Plan Write up

The vulnerability section will be ready for review by **Dec 20th M Morris**. The target date for a draft report is **January 15th M Morris**. A presentation and discussion will be held with the City Council in February 2019 and then the report will be finalized. At that time a presentation to the public will be considered.

Grants and Funds

The various grants and funds for resiliency plan implementation were reviewed.

- MVP Implementation Grant \$122,000 WWTF . Target completion date is June 2019. The contractor is Du Berry and the project is on schedule.

- National Fish and Wildlife Grant –An application has been made for PI dune and eco system protection. Need an update. – **Julia Godtfredsen Dec 3.**
- Environmental Bond Bill >\$1,000,000 for storm surge protection, drainage and sewer infrastructure upgrades and storm water retention. Potential projects are:

- Implement the recommendations resulting from the 2018 study to identify improvements that will enhance the resilience (protect and flood proof) of the WWTF to the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge.
- Flood proof the City sewage pump stations.
- Install roadway improvements including drainage capacity at Merrimac Street in area of Merson USA and pump station.
- Evaluate and correct drainage capacity structural problem at Market Square.
- Replace culvert Parker/Scotland road at city line with additional capacity as recommended in Malcolm Hoyt road drainage improvement flood study 2011. Use Little River hydraulic model to validate.
- Carry out an engineering study of the Lower Artichoke Reservoir Dam to provide options to improve the protection of the public water supply from salt water incursion arising from sea level rise and storm surge.

The Mayor reported that the release of will require continued interaction to obtain approval. – **Donna Holaday ongoing**

- 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 Mayor sent a letter to request the release of funds but will require further interaction with state government. - **Donna Holaday ongoing**

- There has been no notice of the next round of MVP implementation grants.
- 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.
- FEMA grants will not be pursued at this time as the application requires too much resource.
- EDA funds. The Mayor identified that EDA grants maybe applicable for some of our projects. This will be investigated. – **Julia Godtfredsen December 20.**

Recommendations on assumed SLR & SS

A sub committee consisting of Jon Eric White, Mike Morris, John O Connell, Joe Teixeira met three times to discuss Sea level rise, storm surge and recommendations for the Waterfront West project.

Issues included which model to use as current models do not match Newburyport's complex position regarding SLR, river flooding, wave action etc. It is possible that the next iteration by the Woods Hole Group incorporating inland as well as coastal flooding, will be a more appropriate model and this is expected in January.

The next issue is the climate scenario that we should use. There are various scenarios depending on the effectiveness global efforts to curb temperature rise.

The sub committee discussed project life and it was agreed that most buildings should have a project life of ~100 years if not more and therefore design should either take into account projected flood levels or have a plan to adapt at various set points.

New Hampshire has issued guidance for municipalities to adapt to climate change and flooding. Massachusetts has not issued any guidance in this area. The subcommittee reviewed different approaches. For planning purposes it maybe that an approach of "FEMA + SLR" could be the practical approach along with criteria for choosing project life.

This approach could be used for Waterfront West. The subcommittee will meet again and develop a recommendation for FEMA + SLR and project life. – **December 20, subcommittee**

Other discussion included the impact of fill, phased approach to flood protection, flood protection of parking, public space and marina access.

Any Other Business

Green Expo: Preparations for the expo for April 11 from 4-8pm. The Resiliency Committee may be asked to present its plan and also host a table for public informational purposes.

Website links: The location of Resiliency information on the website was reviewed. It was agreed that any committee member wanting to have material put onto the Resiliency pages should circulate a note to committee members and if there are no objections Molly Ettenborough will put onto the site.

Next Meeting: Thursday December 20th 3:00 pm