

**Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC)**  
**3 PM March 15, 2023 Virtual Meeting Notes**

**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.

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NRC Attendees: Jane Healey (chair), Brett Lefabvre (co-chair), Sarah Tappan (note taker), Samantha Burke, Jon Eric White, Joe Teixeira, Molly Ettenborough, Andrew Port, Julia Godtfredsen,

Absent: Connie Preston, Barry Connell,  
Other Attendees: none

**Key Accomplishments:**

- FLAP Grant for PI Turnpike Feasibility Study – Federal Highway Grant for \$175K awarded.

**AGENDA**

- Public Comments - none
- Approval of 2/15/23 mtg notes – Approved - Sarah will request that they be posted.
- Discussion:
  - Climate Awareness Sculpture – Andy had sent information on a sculpture showing the future height of sea level rise. Andy had seen a picture of a climate sculpture that he thought might be a helpful addition in market landing park or another location. If in Market Landing Park, could include a panel describing the sculpture and other resiliency improvements tied to the park and bulkhead. Good public education opportunity.
    - Next step would be to confer with the Mayor's office to see if they are on the same page, and then initiate discussions with other groups to see if there is support for specific locations and a design.
    - Could consider a community art contest to design an installation.
    - Discussed whether to include it as part of the MVP Grant; Maybe the initial grant could focus on design, feasibility and location planning, educational text.
    - Action Item: Andy/Julia - will discuss with the Mayor office. If part of Market Landing Park, Andy could roll it into his planning.
    - Other ideas mentioned: mural on side of building indicating future SLR. Located in Cashman, Joppa Park, on Rail-trail or PI Turnpike, interpretive sign at Audubon center, climate resiliency benefits of barrier island. Signs can include QR code for more info.
    - To be included in MVP Grant would need a proposal by April 3. Jane, Julia and Sarah will discuss further.

- FLAP Grant Feasibility Study for raising PI Turnpike to maintain access to Plum Island Wildlife Reservation – Federal Highway Grant for \$175K awarded to National Fish and Wildlife, Newburyport and Newbury. Timeframe tbd. Whether or not Sunset Blvd is included is TBD. Believe Newbury will drive the RFP. Kristen Grubbs is new assistant planner in Newbury.
- Letter of Support for Indian Hill Pipeline– Letter was requested from the Mayor’s office. The Mayor's office drafted and distributed earlier today. Molly will review after the meeting. Everyone else agrees with the draft as written. Jane will sign and send later today.
- Committee Updates
  - CommEdu
    - Storm Surge - The Story of Plastic showing 4/20 (Sarah) - Tickets are available, going quickly.
    - Story Maps (Brett/Sarah) -
      - Plum Island StoryMap
        - We received photos from several committee members, thank you, they will be a great help.
        - We’re just getting started with the requirements for the StoryMap. We should be able to provide more information at the next meeting.
  - We have two StoryMaps live on the city’s website but we’re not getting much traffic as we reported at our last meeting. We contacted the city’s IT Director for analytics about Resiliency page hits on the city's website but we haven’t heard back yet. We are also waiting to hear about city website training for volunteers.
  - To promote usage of the StoryMaps we are working on and considering the following actions:
    - Add StoryMap links on the Energy Advisory Committee’s Mass Energize website coming in April.
    - News bulletin for e-alerts sent from the city’s website
    - Try to get StoryMap promo info and links in the Mayor’s blog and the Mayor’s corner
    - Post StoryMap info and links on the news/announcement section of the city website.
    - Daily News article
  - We’ve added StoryMaps to the city’s conservation commission page and the DPS engineering division page
    - <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/conservation-commission>
    - <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/department-of-public-services/engineering-division>
  - 
  - City Website Overhaul (Molly) – Andrew Levine is the contact for volunteer training. No date has been set yet.

- Regs Working Group
  - MIMAP floodplain mapping/Resiliency Questionnaire (Jon-Eric/Jane) – Sometime this week, Nick will work on the changes from the list generated by the Regs working group and Rick Taintor’s comments, then Jon-Eric will send changes to MVPC. Once incorporated, the Regs working group can review again.
- Finance & Funding
  - Grants - MVP, Flap, other (Julia/Sarah)
    - MVP Grant:
      - Time frame
        - Applications from community partner groups have been requested, the deadline is April 3.
        - Pre-Request For Responses (RFR) Webinar was earlier this week and Jane & Sarah attended.
        - Application deadline is early May
        - Award notification August
        - Grant timeframe Sept 2023- June 2025
      - 75% state, 25% match
        - 25% match may be cash or in-kind contributions or a combination of the two provided by the Applicant and direct project partners.
        - Match can not be from state funds.
        - Application includes statement of support from City for the match
      - Funds reimbursed monthly based on completed deliverables.
      - Grant main components:
        - Partnering with 20+ local non-profits, schools, and service organizations to fund projects that relate to climate resiliency. Partners applications are due 4/3.
        - Community education workshops to raise awareness and identify measurable actions associated with Newburyport’s Resiliency plans. Ideally participants will leave feeling engaged and empowered when it comes to resilience and our city.
        - Advocacy workshop(s) for key city staff and other city leaders, including members of the city council and boards and commissions. This will include basics of climate change and climate justice, and ideally a brainstorming of how to integrate resilience into all aspects of the city’s operations.
        - Greater Newburyport Green Expo (FY2025) - capstone project

- Next steps - Will finalize the process to review community applications. Julia, Molly, Andy and others expressed interest in participating, especially if it can be done electronically.
  - FLAP - see discussion above
  - FEMA grant - Waiting to hear back from FEMA on buyout grants.
- Other Business
  - Molly got an email with a vendor promoting solar panels on the artichoke reservoirs. Kate Mallory proposed as part of her capstone project. Would keep the water body cooler, preventing algae blooms and generating electricity. Molly will connect with Jon Eric and Tom Cusick and start a conversation.
  - NBPT Earth Port Film Festival requested support from the committee to staff a table at opening reception (April 23, 5:30 pm); distribute brochures; have story maps for infrastructure projects.
- City Project Updates
  - Lower Artichoke Dam Reconstruction Project (Jon-Eric) – Expect meetings w/regulatory agencies to be completed this month. Proposing 10 ft earthen dam; 6 ft water elevation increase.
  - Indian Hill Raw Water Line and Pump Station (Jon-Eric) - still in design
  - Water Supply Protection and Treatment Projects: (Jon-Eric)
    - Amesbury Interconnect – emergency and permanent, peer review for interconnect hydraulics. There is no update on the Memorandum of Understanding.
    - WTP Upgrades, Tom is putting together a proposal for upgrades including PFAS and treatment options.
    - watershed management - Jon-Eric reviewed the draft report and will be setting up a meeting to provide feedback to the consultant.
  - WWTP Flood Protection - sidewalks (Jon-Eric) - no change
  - Central Waterfront Bulkhead Renovations (Andy) - finalizing bid package for late fall.
  - Central Waterfront Park (Andy) - Bid responses are due on March 22; applying for grants to cover extra amenities. MEPA process completed.
  - PI / Reservation Terrace status (Julia) - Dredge project extended to the end of April.
  - CSO monitoring and communication alert system/app (Mayor's office) - permanent signs with QR codes were announced.

**Next Meeting:** tentative - 4/26 3-4pm in person. Julia will check on Conference room availability.