

**Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC) Notes**  
**3 PM May 17, 2023**  
**City Hall, 2nd flr Conference Room**

**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), Joe Teixeira, Connie Preston, Barry Connell, Molly Ettenborough, Andrew Port, Julia Godtfredsen, Jon Eric White, Kristen Grubbs (Newbury Representative)

Absent: Samantha Burke

- Public Comments - none
- Approval of 4/26/23 mtg notes - approved with correction.
- Welcome - Kristen Grubbs, Newbury Asst. Planner

It has been a long-term goal of the Resiliency committee to be able to collaborate more with Newbury and today we welcomed Kristen Grubbs as the committee's representative from Newbury. Kristen started as assistant planner for Newbury in late January. She joined Martha Taylor, director of planning, increasing the capacity of Newbury to do more planning. Kristen previously worked as Coastal Project Manager for the Trustee's of the Reservations, working with ecology and coasts team on resiliency projects as well as across the state. Prior to that she was the town planner in Ipswich. She was involved in the MVP planning for Ipswich. She is a resident of Newbury and formerly worked on the Newbury planning board. She has a background in resiliency and community planning. She is the Newbury representative on the 8 towns and the great marsh committee. She has worked with the stormwater committee with John O'Connell. She has been appointed to be the representative from Newbury on the Resiliency committee. She worked with Newburyport on the Great Marsh adaptation plan in 2015. There are opportunities to collaborate between the two towns. The FLAP grant will be the first project to partner on.

- Committee Updates
  - CommEdu
    - Storm Surge has two upcoming presentations
      - Laura Ludwig, Center of Coastal Studies, *Marine Debris Removal in New England*, 5/24 7 pm @ the Senior Center
      - Ross Hopping, Trustees of the Reservations, *Saving the Great Marsh*, 6/14 7 pm @ the Senior Center
    - City web page permissions & analytics - Brett noted that there was a spike in visits to the project's story map page in mid-late April with 63 users, 2 minutes

19 seconds average engagement time. Since the initial burst, the hit rate has dropped off. Will need to re-advertise after the next set of updates. The resiliency projects in the draft Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), to discuss potential new items for the project's story map.

- Harbormaster solar panel - agreed to draft as administration proposed project (wait a month until CIP is approved to publish); it will be clear in the writeup that this is not funded yet.
  - Watershed Protection - Woodard & Curran consultants are updating the plan and proposed actions to address water supply capacity and quality resiliency concerns. Likely focus will be on removing pollutants from the watershed (failed septic systems, lawn nutrients, farms), also Land-use and Regulatory changes.
  - Water-treatment sidewalls (already on storymap), the existing writeup needs to be updated so that the timeframe matches the CIP.
  - Water Street lift station - project to move facility away from waters edge. Needs to be added to the story map. Not too far along in planning or land access but hoping to track to an FY2024 schedule. Andy will be the planning office contact for this project.
- Plum Island brochure storymap - Brett looked at google earth historic images to see if they could be used to show the erosion over time but that turned out to be complex for a number of reasons. Julia pointed out the complexities of trying to predict the erosion on the island. We will loop Kristen in on the review of this one.
  - Julia noted that she is trying to update a 2017 Beach access map and dune protection fact sheet, created with NWF, and we could use that as the source for a web page. Brett suggested potentially overlaying on google earth image.

**Action Item:** Communications sub-committee will meet to discuss StoryMap pages and will connect with Julia on PI StoryMap.

- Regs Working Group
  - MIMAP floodplain mapping/Resiliency Questionnaire (Jon-Eric/Jane) – Fairly confident that next month will have a draft on the Resiliency Questionnaire. No update on the MIMAP floodplain maps this month.
- Finance & Funding
  - MVP Action grant application - *Climate Resilient Newburyport: Community Activation Project:*
    - *Application submitted May 4.*
    - *Award notifications will be in August.*
    - *Grant timeframe Sept 2023 - June 2025.*
    - *Funded 75% from state, 25% from city in-kind match*
    - *Funds reimbursed monthly based on completed deliverables.*
    - *Application included:*
      - *26 climate resiliency projects by local non-profits, schools, and service organizations.*
      - *Four Community Forums for Action to raise awareness and identify measurable actions associated with Newburyport's*

*Resiliency plans. Goal to engage and empower participants when it comes to resilience and our city.*

- *Leadership Climate Dialogue 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 how to integrate resilience into all aspects of the city's operations.*
- *Greater Newburyport Green Expo (FY2025) - capstone project*

**Action Item:** Sarah to send a pointer to the final application to the resiliency committee. (done)

- Grants -other - Julia noted we are still waiting to hear on FEMA BRIC grant (response due Spring/Summer); 3 homeowners are part of the application. Will require city council support for the matching funds.

- City Project Updates

- Lower Artichoke Dam Reconstruction Project (Jon-Eric) – Consultant has been working for 5 months to get MA DEP, Office of Dam Safety, and the MA public waterfront act (Chapter 91) regulators into a meeting to discuss potential designs. Jon-Eric noted that Newport RI is the only other New England municipality with a coastal reservoir at risk from SLR. ([Fuss and O'Neill, Eason Pond Reservoirs](#)).

The chapter 91 permit for the Emergency pad was approved. Tighe & Bond is creating the construction documents so that it can be put out to bid before Fall.

- Indian Hill Raw Water Line and Pump Station - Internal discussions (with AECOM) are continuing on the options for locating the water transmission pipeline.
- Water Supply Protection and Treatment Projects: Amesbury Interconnect – emergency and permanent, WTP Upgrades, watershed management (Jon-Eric) - Amesbury Interconnect is still in peer review for hydraulic models.
- WWTP Flood Protection sidewalls –Still in design phase, funding is a FY25 target in the Draft CIP. Conceptual designs will be available soon. Will include perimeter berm and potentially concrete solution.
- Central Waterfront Bulkhead Renovations– Still tracking for construction in the winter season.
- Central Waterfront Park - bid deadline was extended to next Thursday. Culvert under the park will be part of the bid. Middle of the season into the early part of next Spring for construction. Stakeholder groups will be brought together to coordinate work during the summer season and coordination with the bulkhead work. Culvert work does not include installation of check-valves to avoid flooding in downtown. Work being done now would not preclude doing this work in the future.
- PI / Reservation Terrace status (Julia) - Reservation terrace; boardwalk was discussed. DCR issued emergency certification today to remove the shelter at the end of the boardwalk. The Conservation commission approved last night. Will stop the boardwalk further back. Discussions on-going with DCR on developing a sand path covered with mobi-mats down to the beach. Will also remove some of the hazard material (metal) by

the old foundation at the same time. DCR owns the area from the beach to the jetty. Andy will raise this at the next MRBA mtg as well.

- CSO monitoring and communication alert system/app (Mayor's office) - no update.
- Newbury
  - FLAP Grant for PI Turnpike Feasibility Study – We have submitted paperwork to get the grant started; clock has not yet started at this point. Jon-Eric is starting work on an RFP. Project is funded for FY 23-24 (Fed FY calendar, starts 9/1); Grant award was 175K for the study; Federal Project initiated by the refuge with the goal is to improve pedestrian access and reduce the vehicle backed up at gate. Study will include Sunset drive.
  - Other opportunities
- New Business
  - Lower artichoke/Solar panels - Agreement that the committee is in favor of investigating this. Molly will ask the company that sent the email to do an investigation. Are there any other examples in MA?

**Next Meeting:** June 21st, 3 - 4:30pm