

## **Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC)**

**3:15 PM Aug 23, 2023**

### **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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#### **Attendees:**

NRC Attendees: Andrew Port, Jane Healey (chair), Sarah Tappan (note taker), Jon Eric White, Julia Godtfredsen, Molly Ettenborough

Other Attendees: Sean Reardon

Absent: Kristen Grubbs (Newbury Representative), Connie Preston, Barry Connell, Samantha Burke, Joe Teixeira,

- Public Comments - none
- Approval of 7/19/23 mtg notes Approved by attendees in person - ACTION ITEMS: Jane will solicit email approval since we didn't have the full group in attendance. Sarah will request the notes be posted.
- Committee Updates
  - CommEdu
    - Storm Surge - SLR public education project - Earth month 2024
      - Proposing to paint SLR indicators on poles near public boat launch in cashman park. Also propose chalk lines on fields to indicate SLR inundation in the future.
      - Discussion on the chalk line proposal and suggestions will be incorporated into the planning.
    - Storm Surge Speaker Series
      - Sept 27: Tom Cusick - Water Supply projects update (not confirmed) - Tom hopes to be able to give an answer by Friday.
      - October 25: Julie Wormser Mystic River Watershed Association, Senior Policy Advisor and co-founder of Resilient Mystic Collaborative, partnership of 20 cities and towns in the watershed area working together to address stormwater flooding, water quality, and infrastructure resilience.
      - November: Film Deep Rising (documentary on deep sea drilling)
  - Regs Working Group
    - MC-FRM floodplain mapping/Resiliency Questionnaire (Jon-Eric/Jane)  
Good progress on the questionnaire. Next step will be to build the final format of the questionnaire and get feedback from potential users.
    - Question whether the new park elevation would be incorporated into the floodplain mapping layer. ACTION ITEM: Andy will provide the grading plan from Sasaki so it can be incorporated.

- Question on the extra foot in the proposed 9.4 floodplain levels. Jane confirmed that it was for 1 foot of standing water. Shin high water nuisance flooding.
  - Molly noted a standing water issue at Savory Lane.
- Finance & Funding - Grants -MVP Action, NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge, other (Julia)
- MVP Action Grant
 

MVP action grant was reviewed. Information is under a news embargo until announced by the Governor. Julia noted that the contract was signed by the Mayor today. It will be returned tomorrow. Once the State signs and returns, the project can start.

Project funding of \$191,377 is divided over FY24 and FY25 with bulk in FY24. Any funds not spent in FY24 are forfeited, they do not roll over to the next FY.

Grant components include partnering with 26 local non-profits, schools, and service organizations to fund projects that relate to climate resiliency. Community education workshops to raise awareness and identify measurable actions associated with Newburyport's Resiliency plans. 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. A Greater Newburyport Green Expo in FY2025 as a capstone project.

Next steps: September's focus = Planning and outreach.

An Initial press release has been drafted. There will be a Kick off meeting with city staff and MVP team. We will host a community partner kickoff meeting. We will be looking to hire a project manager, an administrative resource and community liaisons as well as the vendors for marketing and training activities. We will draft a time tracking process for city employees and project team as part of the in-kind hours. We will also be defining the objectives for the community forums and leadership dialogs

ACTION ITEMS: Andy will forward an example scope of work he has used previously  
 Jane will forward the Community Forums and Leadership Dialogues descriptions.  
 Resiliency committee to provide input and ideas for these deliverables.

- FEMA buyouts - FEMA has submitted a request for more info and a site visit in September. Site visit is a good sign according to MEMA. Buyout includes potentially 3 homes on PI
- City Project Updates
  - Water Supply Resilience Projects:
 

The Mayor has approved the concept that we hire an owner's project manager (OPM) for the water projects, likely an external contractor. This person will look across all of the water supply resilience projects working with the outside consultants and managing tradeoff discussions.
  - Lower Artichoke Dam Reconstruction Project (Jon-Eric)
    - Emergency pad - Tighe & Bond has completed construction documents; expect bid opening in mid-Sept.

- Dam project - Meeting with MA DEP, Office of Dam Safety, and the MA public waterfront act (Chapter 91) regulators was successful, they all are supportive of the idea of raising the dam as long as we have a game plan to mitigate the loss of wetlands.
    - Indian Hill Raw Water Line and Pump Station (Jon-Eric)
  - Water Supply Protection and Treatment Projects (Jon-Eric)
    - Amesbury Interconnect - still waiting on the IMA. Funding was approved at city council.
    - WTP Upgrades - no update
    - Watershed management - Woodard & Curran updated plan, no update.
  - WWTP Flood Protection - sidewalks (Jon-Eric) - Conceptual designs will be available soon. Will include perimeter berm and potentially concrete solution. Target FY25.
  - PI Turnpike Feasibility Study (Jon-Eric/Julia)
    - FLAP Grant - Newbury has agreed to take a larger role in managing the project. There is a meeting being scheduled with Parker River (Matt and Ella) to discuss the scope. Andy suggested that the study should also include the portion of the PI turnpike Sunset Blvd towards the ocean.
  - Central Waterfront Bulkhead Renovations (Andy) - Still tracking for construction in the winter season.
  - Central Waterfront Park (Andy) - construction has started; Resiliency components are in the contract.
  - Water Street lift station (Andy) - no change
  - PI / Reservation Terrace status (Julia) - no change
  - CSO monitoring and communication alert system/app (Mayor's office)
- Other Business
    - Agenda item for next meeting - Committee to discuss the next set of priorities for the committee as well as how to continue to work with the Energy advisory committee.

**Next Meeting:** September 20th, 3 - 4:30pm