

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting 11/8/2023, 5:00 pm

1910 Building, Town Offices & via Zoom

Present at 1910 Building: Chip Wallace, Elisa Grammer, Rick Parker. Nancy Pau and DPW Project Manager Christine Wallace participated by zoom. Jane Healey and Sarah Tappan of Newburyport's Resiliency Committee joined in person.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84802422238>

Coordination with the Newburyport Resiliency Committee

The group briefly discussed MVP 2.0, another MVP process intended to expand outreach to under-represented communities and to renew planning priorities. Communities with older MVP planning processes will be required to go through MVP 2.0 to maintain MVP Community status and MVP 2.0 will become a prerequisite for getting an action grant.

Newburyport Resiliency Committee (NRC) member Sarah Tappan described Newburyport's [community outreach action grant](#), which includes an award of almost \$200K. They have 26 projects that will extend to FY 25. They estimate they will reach about 18,000 people with participants including diverse groups like the Coastal Trails Alliance, the Museum of Old Newbury, the Choral Society, and many youth groups. They will have a number of sessions and a regional Newburyport Green Expo will be among the capstone projects.

CCRC members described West Newbury's MVP action grant concerning Merrimack River flooding on River Road and neighboring streets. They also described the planned event for November 9.

The group discussed potential benefits of coordination and improved communications. NRC Chair Jane Healey said that the Newburyport Resiliency Committee meets on Zoom and physically at City Hall at 3 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. *It was agreed that Rick Parker and Chip Wallace will attend when they can. The CCRC will include Ms. Healey and Ms. Tappen on meeting notices.*

Ms. Tappen described a story map program that is available from the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission as a \$100 license. She said that it is easy to use and allows users to develop geo-located stories. This could be used for River Road hotspots, Historical Commission historic sites survey projects, the Main Street improvement project, and much more. *It was agreed that Ms. Wallace will see if the Town could get this.*

November 9 forum

Ms. Wallace and Ms. Grammer provided an update on plans for the Town Forum scheduled for the following evening. It was noted that the two signs explaining the project would be installed on November 9. The group discussed the consultants' slide presentation, which had been revised so that it did not appear that the project was occurring in Maine, but rather that GMRI's work in Maine would be an example of work that would be done here.

The Committee discussed an issue recently raised by Leila Pike of GEI that the model the MVP state officials advised us to use appears to focus on sea level rise and coastal storms but does not include river flows, which are a large factor in bank erosion. GEI had initially proposed to do modeling for this but on advice from the MVP officials, this was removed and the MORIS/MC-FRM model was planned to be used instead.

It was decided that the project should:

- 1) *Confirm whether or not or to what degree MORIS/MC-FRM covers river velocity & volume*
- 2) *Determine whether MA CZM has helpful information*
- 3) *Ensure that GEI will consider fetch (the area of water surface over which wind blows in an essentially constant direction, thus generating waves) in assessing the vulnerability of the shoreline*
- 4) *Investigate to see whether USGS or other sources have useful information*
- 5) *Consult with our MVP representative Michelle Rowden about this*

Ms. Pike indicated that the GEI study will include data about sea level rise and coastal storms as well as overland flooding.

December 7 virtual event

Ms. Grammer noted that the materials the consultants prepared for the November 9 session have this description of the December event:

Community Presentation on Sea Level Rise ~ December 7th, 6-7:30 (virtual)
How will rising seas and extreme weather impact your community? Join us for a virtual presentation and discussion to share what you value about your community, look at past flood events, examine local climate data, and look forward to possible adaptation options.

It was agreed that the Town will want to see the presentation beforehand. The Committee will pencil in December 5 as a meeting date to review this if need be.

Drone event

Ms. Wallace and Ms. Grammer said that Ms. Pike had initially planned to have the drone event in the last week of November, but that would not work because the timing of low tides in that period was when it was dark outside. Dates on and after December 1 offer better low tide hours.

Ms. Pau said that duck hunting may be taking place now and advised that we should check whether duck hunting could affect the drone operation.

Citizen Science

Ms. Grammer reported that Ms. Bowness of GMRI had sent an email saying that in mid-December the citizen science signs would go up, GMRI would provide a blurb about them for the CCRC website, and the river-pertinent prompts online would be ready. It was noted that at the CCRC's October 24 meeting we discussed the need to identify a shoreline not coastline and to address questions like overland flow, river velocity and volume, and debris in the river.

The Committee will want to review the questions in the prompts for those submitting data. Ms. Pau said that she would like to have consultant Geoff Wilson look at the questions and consider queries that might be helpful in his potential contributions concerning riverbank stabilization methods.

Change in ARC GIS story map due date

Ms. Grammer reported that the consultants propose to change the due date for the ARC GIS story map from March 31 as stated in Attachment B of the grant to May. She expressed concern that May and June will be extremely hectic, since the draft of the final report, the final report, the shoreline solutions, general options over time, the community site walk, and the community meeting about the report will be due in those months—and then the project ends in June.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of October 11 and October 24, as amended.

Other Business

Next Meeting: Penciled in for *December 5*

Adjournment

6:34 pm

Meeting materials

- a .pdf version of the slide show to run on the large portable monitor (the PowerPoint is too large to be emailed)
- the CCRC flyer as a handout for the CCRC table
- an updated version of the spreadsheet with events, tasks & deliverables by month—note that some uncertain dates are highlighted in yellow cells
- Michelle Greene's left over postcards for the CCRC table
- a sign up sheet for the Climate@WNewbury.org email list, for the CCRC table