

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting minutes 4/14/2021, 7 pm Via GoToMeeting

Present: Liz Callahan, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace, Wendy Reed, Rick Parker, Tom Craig.

Action grant

Rick Parker noted that he did not see how, given the Town's pace of approvals and the prerequisites for Town approvals not yet in place, the Committee could meet the May 7, 2021 deadline for Action Grants. *All agreed that meeting the deadline appears infeasible given the requirements that would need to be met—and that the Committee remains strongly committed to following through with the Invasive Plants proposal and study of River Road contemplated for an Action Grant and to building on the work Nancy Pau has done.*

The Committee also 1) scheduled a tentative meeting on April 19th in the event Ms. Pau or Patricia Reeser, who were unable to attend this meeting, wished to share additional thoughts on this matter and 2) determined to notify Michelle Rowden, our state climate change municipal vulnerability representative, that we would not be submitting a grant in this round.

Committee members discussed the possibility of seeking other grants, perhaps for more discrete items such as work on the culvert and restoration of the stream at the west end of River Road near the hay field. Liz Callahan noted that the Division of Ecological Restoration may be a resource for this.

Changing from Working Group to Town Committee status

Mr. Parker reported that the Select Board approved the name change for this committee from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Working Group to the Climate Change Resiliency Committee. The Select Board also approved the following:

The new Climate Change Resiliency Committee will focus on fortifying West Newbury against, preparing for, and helping to recover from adverse effects of climate change.

Mission Statement - The Climate Change Resiliency Committee's mission is to promote West Newbury's resilience to climate change, addressing preparation for threats, the ability to absorb impacts, and to recover and adapt after disruptive events. This will be accomplished through action and public education. Working with other affected Town departments, boards and committees, the Committee will build on the Town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Community status to address our climate change vulnerabilities and take on action items identified in the Massachusetts MVP process completed in 2020. The Committee will seek members on and coordination with boards/commissions/committees such as Open Space, Conservation, Energy and Sustainability, Planning, Aging, Capital Improvements and Water and will seek to coordinate with the Department of Public Works and all other Town departments or organizations affected by climate change.

The Committee will have no more than 9 voting members and a simple majority of existing membership as a quorum. Member reappointment will be annually at the beginning of each fiscal year.

The Committee agreed that Elisa Grammer should make corresponding changes to the Committee's webpage.

Mr. Parker also noted that Committee members' initial terms will be to 2022 and that committee membership will be official after a member is sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Green Fair

The Committee agreed to target September 25 or October 2, 2021 as the Green Fair date at the Annex. Ms. Reed will determine if the Annex would be available on those dates. The Committee determined that at the next regular meeting, members should be prepared to

--select a theme for the fair

--determine tasks and deadlines

--allocate responsibilities among the members

Other matters: Massachusetts Climate Change Legislation

Mr. Parker noted that governor recently signed into law a roadmap for addressing climate change. He suggested that the group look at this to try to enable the Town and townspeople to adapt in the most cost effective way. Early adoption may save money and provide opportunities, such as through additional solar installations on Town land, to help pay for the cost of adapting to the new requirements. *After discussion, it was decided that this is a topic that concerns climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gases) more than resiliency and that the Energy and Sustainability Committee will include on its website a summary of the new legislation and prepare an announcement and email blast to educate the Town about this.*

Approval of minutes

By unanimous roll call vote, the Committee approved the minutes of its March 10, 2021 meeting.

Adjournment

8:06 pm

Respectfully submitted, Elisa Grammer

Meeting materials

Information from Nancy Pau concerning Action Grant applications

Information from Rick Parker regarding Committee name and mission statement changes