

**Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting minutes 5/12/2021, 7 pm
Via GoToMeeting**

Present: Liz Callahan, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace, Rick Parker, Nancy Pau, Patricia Reeser

Annual Report due 6/30/2021

Elisa Grammer pointed out that to retain MVP status, the Committee needs to submit an Annual Report to the state no later than June 30, 2021. *After discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Grammer will send committee members a draft submission next week, and individual comments will be submitted to her. A combined draft will be prepared prior to the June meeting, in which committee members can reconcile comments and vote on a final version.*

Interns—update

Mr. Parker noted that the FinCom booklet for Town Meeting makes the point that the proposal (STM Article 15) did not include a well-defined program for supervising interns to be used to identify and map invasive species in Town. The concern is that this may be setting some precedent and there is feeling that we need to get it right. Other information needed includes the deliverables to the municipality and the residents. For these reasons, he suggested recommended taking no action on this article at Spring Town Meeting. Nancy Pau noted that because of timing issues, the position(s) had not been advertised.

It was agreed that this article should be tabled and raised at Fall Town Meeting. In the interim, specifics concerning 1) intern supervision, 2) deliverables, 3) position advertising would be nailed down, so that the project could occur through FY23.

Action grant, other grants

The Committee discussed a plan of action to get the Town on board in advance of the due date for grant submissions. *It was agreed that the Committee would like to pursue action grants next year.* Also, Living Shoreline/Coastal Resiliency and other grants may be available next spring.

As to developing a project timeline, the Committee could work backward from May 1, the approximate due date for action grants. Ms. Callahan suggested that it would take a month or so to meet with the Town Manager and obtain Select Board approval. Mr. Parker suggested that the Committee 1) establish a no-quorum subcommittee to work on the grant application, 2) assume use of the same application form & use all the materials already developed as a basis, and 3) have this together early next year. Ms. Grammer said that in getting the Town to go along with a grant, we will need to show 1) the administrative duties and who will do them, 2) how real is the money? (matching \$ requirements, timing of funding, etc), 3) what current and/or lasting changes in the way the Town does things will result?

It was agreed that Mr. Parker will contact GEI, and Ms. Pau will contact Geoff Wilson (both having been contacted about a grant proposal), to give them a status update.

Ms. Pau noted that the Committee can work on educating the Town about the issue areas identified for potential grants. That process is underway with the invasive plant project. With respect to River Road, she suggested

- The Climate Café students are planning to work on interviews with people who have compelling stories related to climate change—perhaps they could look at River Road
- Another site visit, as was done with Geoff Wilson, could be held for key folks in Town
- Perhaps yet another walk with River Road residents could be helpful
- Consideration of data mining—maps & aerial photos showing changes to the road & uses of the adjacent area (farming, woodlands, etc), stories of flooding and erosion impacts over time, etc.

Changing from Working Group to Town Committee status

Ms. Grammer asked members to look at the committee webpage in case changes should be made, and to go to the Town Clerk to be sworn in to the committee. *She agreed to be the temporary chair and clerk. The group agreed to seek additional members.* Jack Duggin was named as a possible candidate.

Updates on MVP identified issues

Invasive plants

Mr. Parker said that he would be attending the webinar on Japanese knotweed and hoped that someone from the Department of Public Works would also attend. Ms. Pau said that New Hampshire has a comprehensive, cross-cutting program for knotweed, including certain blanket permits. Perhaps someone from that program could come speak.

Minutes

By unanimous roll call vote, the Committee approved the minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting.

Other matters

On May 25, 2021, 7 pm, Newburyport's Storm Surge group will hold a program on climate change risks to the Artichoke Reservoir. Sign up here:

https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/kU1nB76nj_roJkQuIGvfw

Adjournment

8:09 pm

Respectfully submitted, Elisa Grammer

Meeting materials

MA State MVP Annual Report Form Due 6/30/2021