

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting minutes 2/9/2022, 7 pm

Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting

Present: Liz Callahan, Nancy Pau, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace, Rick Parker. Also present: River Road resident Michael Dacy. (It was reported that KC Swallow of River Road will not be actively participating but would like to stay abreast of Committee activities.)

Recap of discussion with Select Board

Mr. Parker said that the discussion of the action grant proposal went well at the Select Board, which had no significant comments. A concern is that the Town lacks good documentation of current stormwater drainage and obtaining “as built” information about stormwater infrastructure is an important step. Ms. Pau noted that the Merrimack River Watershed Council and GEI may be able to work on this. *Ms. Pau will loop back with the Department of Public Works Director and the Town Manager to be sure we know what they are looking for.*

Mr. Parker will provide a map to Ms. Pau and Mr. Dacy of what is and is not in the MS-4 area to be help them obtain cost estimates.

Follow-up items from Letter of Intent and preparing application for MVP grant

The Committee reviewed and discussed proposals in the Letter of Intent. Ms. Callahan noted that it might be good to narrow the focus and that we need to obtain cost estimates for each item. *Pending input from the state on the Letter of Interest, it was decided to retain all the items, except that*

- *Rain gardens are a lower priority, since the Town Manager has noted that they can be very costly, and they are suited to particular areas*
- *Green landscapes are a lower priority because of the Town Manager’s concern about using Town funds to promote landscaping on private land—although Ms. Pau noted that North Shore Greenscapes (which the Town already belongs to) can provide outreach and education*
- *Rain barrels & composting units are a lower priority because the Town would be given administrative responsibilities and a prior campaign of this nature was not highly successful.*
- *With respect to the River Road hydrological assessment, GEI will be asked to provide a baseline assessment that will be provided to the Town and Geoff Wilson—Becky McKnight may do a workshop, but not the technical work.*
- *Concerns were raised regarding a hydraulic model that would consider sea level rise, etc. This is a big-ticket item. Mr. Parker noted that it makes sense to do this on a statewide basis. Ms. Pau said that such models may need to be refined to understand more local impacts. The Committee agreed that we would see what feedback on this is received from the state.*
- *In considering using Mr. Wilson or GEI for design of living shoreline solutions, it was noted that Mr. Wilson is waiving fees, so both could be used.*
- *Ms. Pau noted that use of interns requires more thought about who will supervise and manage this. She suggested that we could provide Merrimack River Watershed Counsel with funds so that the*

interns would be under their purview and work in West Newbury. Ms. Grammer said that with grant money that West Newbury is responsible for accounting for and reporting on, if this approach were used it would be a good idea to have a very clear idea at the outset about reporting expenditures and taking steps so that accounting and reporting requirements can be met.

Other items

Ms. Pau reported that the Army Corps of Engineers has a Silver Jacket program in which it works with each state and FEMA to help towns address erosion and flooding. The program requires a state participant and seems not to be active in Massachusetts, but Ms. Pau will follow up on this.

Approve Minutes

The Committee unanimously accepted the minutes of January 12, Mr. Davy, not present, abstaining.

Next Meeting

March 9, 2022

Adjournment

8:40 pm

Meeting materials

Letter of Interest provided to the state