

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting minutes 3/10/2022, 7 pm

Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting

Present: Liz Callahan, Nancy Pau, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace, Rick Parker. Also present: Conservation Commission and Capital Improvements Committee member Judith Mizner.

Recap of discussion with State MVP Program on West Newbury's Letter of Intent

The Committee reviewed the notes Rick Parker and Elisa Grammer provided regarding their discussion with state MVP representative Michelle Rowden about West Newbury's letter of intent to submit an action grant proposal. Among other things, Ms. Rowden noted that sea level rise will adversely affect River Road and the area by the high school, suggesting that outreach begin to inform residents about this. She also stressed the need to write the proposal in a way that aligns with the scoring criteria, and noted that letters of support were necessary—particularly with respect to the high school, whose property West Newbury does not own.

Webinar & RMA Tool

Ms. Grammer also described the webinar about the 2022 grant round, whose slides and notes she had shared, but which none of the other committee members had seen. She noted that budgeting and project completion is important: funds are reimbursed when a deliverable is completed, so defining completion should be done with funding in mind. Also, projects can be one or two fiscal years but funding from FY1 cannot roll over to FY2.

Ms. Grammer said that projects involving physical assets must go through an online [RMA Climate Resilience Design Standards tool](#). She said she had experimented with this and the tool's conclusion included the following information with respect to River Road sea level rise/storm surge:

This project received a "High Exposure" because of the following:

- Located within the predicted mean high water shoreline by 2030
- Exposed to the 1% annual coastal flood event as early as 2030
- Historic coastal flooding at project site

Ms. Grammer repeatedly suggested that the committee members should read the materials she sent and experiment with the RMA tool themselves, noting that it would be more productive to discuss this when everyone is familiar with the basic guidelines for the MVP grant. *The committee members agreed to review these materials.*

Ms. Pau suggested that we should get help interpreting this data and noted that the exercise Ms. Rowden referenced in which sea level rise predictions for Plum Island were discussed was very controversial and did not go over well with the public.

The committee generally agreed that we need to obtain assistance in 1) understanding what this data actually means and 2) successfully communicating this with Town officials and the community overall.

Mr. Parker will ask GEI about this and Ms. Pau will ask CZM.

Mr. Parker said that Town officials are incredibly busy, but observed that people need to know about this. He suggested raising this at a Select Board meeting where staff including the Department of Public Works, the Town Manager and others affected could attend.

Ms. Pau noted that we also need to consult with Town officials about their desires with respect to a storm water management assessment. *Mr. Parker will inquire about this.*
Once we get application, divide up the work

Discussion of next steps/schedule for submitting MVP grant

Ms. Grammer said that as described in the materials she sent out, the RFP will be issued in mid-March, responses will be due in May, and grants will be issued in August.

It was agreed that once we get the application, we will divide up the work on the response. Ms. Callahan will develop a task list, circulate it, and we will meet to address this.

Other items

Approve Minutes

The Committee unanimously accepted the minutes of February 9, 2022.

Next Meeting

Adjournment

8:43 pm

Meeting materials

Notes of conversation with state MVP re West Newbury proposal

Slides & notes from MVP webinar

Information about trial experiment with RMAT tool