

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting minutes 11/9/2022, 5:30 pm

1910 Building, Town Offices, 1st Floor Hearing Room

Present: Liz Callahan, Michael Dacy, Nancy Pau, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace, Rick Parker.

Next steps for MVP Action Grant

The Committee discussed how to proceed now that the Fall Town Meeting approved \$50K in matching funds for a potential \$200K grant to study River Road's challenges resulting from climate change.

It was decided that

- 1) *Rick Parker will reach out to Department of Public Works Director Wayne Amaral about procedures for selection of and contracting with a consultant (the agreed preferred consultant being GEI)*
- 2) *Nancy Pau will be in contact with corporately-funded consultant Geoff Wilson, who specializes in natural solutions and has consulted about River Road before*
- 3) *Elisa Grammer will re-circulate to the Committee the state's prior action grant application materials, with the idea that at the next Committee meeting, the group will apportion responsibility for items easily done in advance (such as community outreach/ letters of support) and items needing third-party support, such as the [RMA tool](#) and the budget submission*
- 4) *The Committee will meet on December 7 to work on getting a draft action grant application in process as soon as possible, allocating tasks to be done*

The Committee further reviewed GEI's August 2022 proposal for a study of River Road.

It was decided that it should be very clear that the study scope will include

- 1) *Evaluation of all water runoff outflow at River Road, including but not limited to pipes and culvert and seepage under the road, etc*
- 2) *Consideration, in the shoreline study, of underwater aquatic plants, such as eelgrass or other plants that provide beneficial habitat and slow wave action*

Mr. Parker proposed that the study also include forecast salinity of the Merrimack. Mr. Wallace was not sure that this is necessary, Ms. Grammer noted that salinity will be highly variable, depending on water flows coming from upstream and tidal incursions, and Ms. Pau said that over time, plants will adapt to increasingly brackish water.

The Committee also discussed further community outreach. Ms. Pau discussed high school students' Climate Cafes and new riverboat tours along the Merrimack.

Other items

By unanimous vote, the Commission approved the draft Committee annual report for FY 2022.

Ms. Pau noted that as concerns water supplies, Haverhill is exploring water resources under the Merrimack River, which hold promise to the least environmentally damaging.

Approve Minutes

The Committee unanimously accepted the minutes of 4/13/2022 and 8/19/2022 as amended

Next Meeting

December 7, 2022, 5:30 pm

Adjournment

6:53 pm

Meeting materials

Draft Annual Report

GEI proposal