

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting minutes 6/9/2021, 7 pm Via GoToMeeting

Present: Liz Callahan, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace, Patricia Reeser, Rick Parker, Tom Craig.

Annual Report due 6/30/2021

Ms. Grammer had circulated a revised version of the Annual Report incorporating Ms. Callahan's comments and making further edits. Ms. Pau went through her recently submitted suggestions. The group made and agreed to final changes.

By unanimous roll call vote the Commission approved the revised Annual Report and authorized Ms. Grammer to submit it.

Action grant, other grants

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--Invasive plants

Regarding tasks to be accomplished in order to have an article to fund interns to manage invasive plants at Fall Town Meeting, Ms. Pau said that it is a question of what the Town is comfortable with—volunteers could serve as supervisors. Mr. Parker said that there needs to be clarity about who would be the lead supervisor for interns and whether that person would be available and can be counted on when needed. He noted that the Conservation Commission is in the process of finding a new Conservation Agent and the job description includes supervising seasonal interns. Mr. Parker said that the Town will need to hire that person soon, so the Conservation Agent should be in place before Town Meeting. There will need to be a presentation to the Finance Committee for the warrant article about funding interns.

It was generally agreed that the Committee should 1) find out whether Conservation Agent compensation for intern supervision will come from the Agent's salary or from the funds in the proposed warrant article, and 2) the Committee will use a 2-person non-quorum subcommittee, consisting of Ms. Pau and Mr. Parker, to work on the warrant article for interns to be presented at Fall Town Meeting.

--River Road

Regarding tasks to be accomplished to get Town approval for a grant to study preservation of River Road from flooding and erosion, *the following action items were agreed upon*

- *Ms. Pau will reach out to consultant Geoff Wilson (who earlier took some Committee members on a walk of parts of River Road) to try to schedule a tour with Town officials*

- *Ms. Pau will consult with Hannah Grinnell and the Climate Change Café group to interview and engage River Road residents in understanding and documenting flooding/erosion issues and concerns.*
- *Regarding the potential for grant support to restore the stream with hanging culverts at the western end of River Road, Ms. Grammer will look into the history of potential shad spawning there.*
- *Ms. Grammer will contact MVP counterparts from Groveland and Merrimac to determine if a regional effort would be feasible*
- *Ms. Grammer will provide, in these minutes, the criteria she discussed that the Town will want addressed before supporting a grant request, viz:*
 - *Administrative burdens: 1) what are all the administrative requirements (e.g., reporting, accounting, recordkeeping, etc) associated with this grant and 2) who will be performing each task (Town staff, volunteers, etc)*
 - *Financial implications: 1) is grant money fully funded, 2) when does grant money come in, 3) what are FY deadlines, 4) what are matching requirements and how will they be met, etc*
 - *Operational/ business requirements: 1) what are all the operational or business requirements (e.g., procurement requirements, ongoing maintenance, restrictions on future use of grant-associated item(s), etc), 2) what are the costs of these requirements, and 3) who will manage these requirements?*
- *Ms. Pau will work on an outline addressing these threshold criteria in terms of MVP Action Grants*

Changing from Working Group to Town Committee status

Ms. Grammer asked committee members to 1) review the [Climate Change Resiliency Committee website](#) to see if any changes are warranted, 2) remember to be sworn into the committee by the Town Clerk, and 3) consider who should be the chair & clerk for the next FY

Updates on MVP identified issues

Composting

Ms. Grammer noted that former committee member/ current Select Board member Wendy Reed provided, for potential discussion at this meeting information about [Hamilton's decision to mandate food waste composting](#). Ms. Pau noted that there had been contact with the School Committee about seeking funding for a pilot project for the schools to compost food waste. Mr. Parker said that a key concern for the schools is staying within budgetary limitations. They may be willing to engage on this is they know that the project would be cost neutral. Ms. Pau observed that they are paying costs for trash hauling. *It was agreed that this is a potential item to be pursued.*

Other matters

Ms. Pau alerted the committee that black swallow wort, an invasive vine-type plant related to milkweed has been identified in West Newbury. It readily takes over fields, crowding out native plants. Ms. Pau said that she has prepared a pamphlet and can develop text for the committee's webpage. *It was agreed that Ms. Grammer will make Ms. Pau's alert about black swallow wort into an announcement on the committee webpage and will ask that the Town do an announcement and email*

Approval of minutes

By unanimous roll call vote, the committee approved the minutes of May 12, 2021.

Meeting materials

Draft MVP Annual Report