

## Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting minutes 5/10/2023, 5:30 pm

### 1910 Building, Town Offices, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Hearing Room

Present: Mike Dacey, Chip Wallace, Elisa Grammer, Nancy Pau, Rick Parker, DPW Project Manager Christine Wallace

#### Action Grant application status

Christine Wallace explained that notwithstanding state MVP computer glitches in receiving grant applications, she has confirmed that our application was successfully filed. Determinations whether grants are awarded will likely occur in August. It may be that the grant will be awarded at the end of August with the expectation that we spring into action in September.

*We should update the project website to include a link to the completed grant application.*

#### Action Grant Timeline & non-GEI tasks

##### Committee Task Assignments

*The Committee agreed to assign CCRC point persons for various outreach tasks as follows:*

TASK	LEAD	START	END	CCRC TASKS	CCRC POINT PERSON(S)	
FY 2024-2025						
Task 1.1 - Internal Kick-off Meeting with Town, EEA, and Consultant (GEI Task 1.1)	PM, GEI/GMRI	SEP 2023	SEP 2023	Participate	All	
Task 1.2 - Monthly Progress Reports FY24	PM	SEP 2023	JUN 2024	Compile & submit to MVP	C Wallace	Each point person contributes report of event to PM
Task 1.3 - Monthly Coordination at Climate Change Resiliency Committee Meetings (CCRC)	PM	SEP 2023	JUN 2024	Committee meetings	All	
Task 2B.1 - Kayaking Tour of Merrimack River	CCRC	SEP 2023	OCT 2023	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	R Parker	
Task 2B.3 - Resiliency Committee Members to Offer River Tour of River Road Section with Interpretive Tour	CCRC	SEP 2023	OCT 2023	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	N Pau	
Task 2C.1 - G.A.R. Library Read Up A Storm Kickoff Event	LIBRARY	OCT 2023	OCT 2023	Coordinate, Report to PM	E Grammer	
Task 2A.1 - Initial Community Engagement: Print and Digital Media	GEI/GMRI	SEP 2023	DEC 2023	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	C Wallace	

Development (GEI Task 1.2)						
Task 2A.2 - Initial Community Engagement: Community Engagement Kickoff (GEI Task 1.3)	<b>GEI/GMRI</b>	SEP 2023	DEC 2023	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	C Wallace	
Task 2A.3 - Drone Public Event (included in Task 3.2 below, GEI Task 2.2)	<b>GEI</b>	SEP 2023	JAN 2024	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	M Dacy	C Wallace
Task 3.1 - Existing Conditions of Shoreline Evaluation (GEI Task 2.1)	<b>GEI</b>	SEP 2023	JAN 2024			
Task 3.2 - Drone Survey, including Drone Public Event (GEI Task 2.2)	<b>GEI</b>	SEP 2023	JAN 2024			
Task 4.1 Existing Conditions of Culverts Survey (GEI Task 3)	<b>GEI</b>	SEP 2023	JAN 2024			
Task 2A.4 - Community Education Event (GEI Task 4.1)	<b>GEI/GMRI</b>	JAN 2024	MAR 2024	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	C Wallace	
Task 2A.5 - Planning Forward Event (GEI Task 4.2)	<b>GEI/GMRI</b>	JAN 2024	MAR 2024	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	C Wallace	
Task 2A.6 - Local Official MC-FRM Training (GEI Task 4.3)	<b>GEI/GMRI</b>	JAN 2024	MAR 2024	?	C Wallace	
Task 2C.2 - G.A.R. Library Event/Talk with Corresponding Children's Storytime/Craft	<b>LIBRARY</b>	JAN 2024	APR 2024	Coordinate, Report to PM	E Grammer	
Task 2B.2 - Host Climate Cafe by Local Youth	<b>CCRC</b>	DEC 2023	MAY 2024	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	N Pau	
Task 2B.4 - "Field Trips" Guided Walks/Tours Related to the River	<b>CCRC (&amp; Library)</b>	APR 2024	MAY 2024	Logistics, Publicity, Participation, Report to PM	N Pau	E Grammer (Library aspect)
Task 5.1 - GIS Data Compilation (GEI Task 5.1)	<b>GEI</b>	SEP 2023	JUN 2024			
Task 5.2 - Merrimack River Flood Risk Analysis (GEI Task 5.2)	<b>GEI</b>	SEP 2023	JUN 2024			
Task 5.3 - River Road Flood Risk Analysis (GEI Task 5.3)	<b>GEI</b>	SEP 2023	JUN 2024			
Task 6.1 - Monthly Progress Reports FY25	<b>PM</b>	JUL 2024	JUN 2025	Compile & submit to MVP	C Wallace	Each point person contributes report of event to PM

Task 6.2 - Monthly Coordination at CCRC Meetings	<b>PM</b>	JUL 2024	JUN 2025	Committee meetings	All	
Task 7C.1 - G.A.R. Library Storywalk Family Night (unveil new story & have program/craft related to it)	<b>Library</b>	JUL 2024	JUL 2024	Coordinate, Report to PM	E Grammer	
Task 7A.1 - Community Site Visit (GEI Task 6.1)	<b>GEI/GMRI</b>	JUL 2024	SEP 2024	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	C Wallace	
Task 7A.2 - Public Project Update (GEI Task 6.2)	<b>GEI/GMRI</b>	JUL 2024	SEP 2024	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	C Wallace	
Task 8.1 -Shoreline Stabilization Options and Locations (GEI Task 7)	<b>GEI</b>	JUL 2024	DEC 2024			
Task 9.1 - Infrastructure Flood Adaptation Options (GEI Task 8)	<b>GEI</b>	JUL 2024	DEC 2024			
Task 7C.2 - G.A.R. Library Begins publicizing Community Read	<b>Library</b>	JAN 2025	JAN 2025	Coordinate, Report to PM	E Grammer	
Task 7A.3 - Final Public Meeting (GEI Task 9)	<b>GEI/GMRI</b>	JAN 2025	MAR 2025	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	C Wallace	
Task 7C.3 - G.A.R. Library Programs Related to the Chosen Book (talk/movie/kid's event)	<b>Library</b>	FEB 2025	APR 2025	Coordinate, Report to PM	E Grammer	
Task 7B.1 - Host Climate Cafe by Local Youth	<b>CCRC</b>	DEC 2024	MAY 2025	Publicity, Logistics, Coordination, Participation, Report to PM	N Pau	
Task 10.1 - Draft and Final Report (GEI Task 10.1)	<b>GEI</b>	JAN 2025	JUN 2025			
Task 10.2 - Continuing Wepage Development (GEI Task 10.2)	<b>GEI</b>	JAN 2025	JUN 2025	Publicize & summarize events; include feedback from email & public meetings	C Wallace	E Grammer
Task 6.3 - Project Case Study	<b>PM</b>	APR 2025	JUN 2025			
Task 7B.2 - Develop Interpretive Tour with Harbor Tours for their Routine Tours on Merrimack River (Haverhill section)	<b>CCRC</b>	MAY 2025	JUN 2025	Logistics, Participation, Report to PM	N Pau	
Task 7C.4 - G.A.R. Library Community Read Book Discussion/ Author talk	<b>Library</b>	MAY 2025	JUN 2025	Coordinate, Report to PM	E Grammer	

## Publicity

*The Committee discussed avenues for publicizing non-Library events as including*

- Announcements at Spring and Fall Town Meetings
- Newburyport Daily News article
- Newburyport Daily News calendar
- Newburyport Daily News letter to editor
- CCRC email sendouts to letter of support senders and other interested persons
- Town website calendar
- Town email blast
- Town homepage announcement
- Town facebook page
- West Newbury People facebook
- West Newbury Community News facebook
- West Newbury Next Door social media site

The Committee discussed looking for ways to reach different segments, including youth and Council on Aging constituents. *Elisa Grammer & Christine Wallace will work on publicity*

## Coordination with other planned Town gatherings (e.g., Town-wide Planning Bd events)

*Christine Wallace will work on seeing about coordinating major meeting dates.*

## Signs & website

Rick Parker noted that if we get the grant, we should be ready to have the signs up as soon as possible. He wondered whether additional locations for QR-sized signs would be helpful. The signs should be eye catching (perhaps with a logo and photo of River Road flooding and the question “What will River Road be like as Climate Change occurs in 2030, 2050 and 2070?” and a brief explanation of the project) and invite viewers (who may come from all over the North Shore) to click the QR code to learn more. The QR will direct to the [project page](#), which will ask readers to contribute by 1) learning & teaching others about the issues, 2) participating in the Action Grant public events, and 3) considering possible solutions. Gulf of Maine Research Institute will help with the signage.

The Committee also discussed obtaining photos of the Mothers Day flood. A history of flooding in West Newbury is on the [Climate Change Resiliency Committee webpage](#). The Committee [homepage](#) has at the upper right photos of the 1936 flood and a more recent 1990s flood at the River Road Ferry Landing area.

## Email feedback & responses

A part of the grant requirement is to receive and respond to community feedback, and in the application we proposed having 1) an email address to receive feedback and respond and 2) using monthly CCRC meetings to receive feedback and respond. Ms. Grammer set up a gmail account [WN.Climate@gmail.com](mailto:WN.Climate@gmail.com). A similar gmail account had been used for feedback during the MVP Planning grant process.

The Committee discussed whether and how we might use a wnewbury.org email address. Ms. Grammer said that experience has proven that it is very difficult for persons other than Town staff to use wnewbury.org email or webpage committee contact forms, so unless some working mechanism is developed, a Town staff person would need to collect and respond to emails. Also, Open Meeting Act and Town email security requirements come into play. Town committee members just use their personal email, as does this Committee.

*Ms. Wallace will work with Town staff to determine what approach to take to email*

- Town policy, email security, and Open Meeting Law considerations relating to this question
- Staffing to answer & respond to email feedback
- Town technical capabilities to automatically share or forward received and sent feedback communications among CCRC members

### **Other Business**

Mr. Parker noted that the Energy and Sustainability Committee has a site feasibility study underway to look at potential Town-owned sites for solar installations and that sites around Town Offices could support a microgrid. A microgrid to keep the government going and offer shelter to residents is one of the items identified in our MVP planning process. He suggested that we look for ways to plant seeds about this concept as well, without diluting the River Road flooding project. Mr. Wallace noted that the solar site study is a good place to start. It was suggested that a Climate Café might address emergency planning and that general education about the microgrid might occur.

Ms Pau reported that Yankee Clipper Captain Paul Aziz said that in late May he will be taking the boat upriver to Haverhill and we may be invited at the last minute to jump on board for the ride.

### **Minutes**

*The Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the April 12, 2023 meeting as amended.*

### **Next meeting**

*August 16, 2023*

### **Adjournment**

7:40 pm

### *Meeting materials*

Completed Action Grant Application

Draft timeline and tasks