

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting minutes 10/11/2023, 5:00 pm

1910 Building, Town Offices & via Zoom

Present at 1910 Building: Mike Dacey, Chip Wallace, Elisa Grammer, Rick Parker. DPW Project Manager Christine Wallace present via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89581420274>

November 9, 2023 forum

Ms. Wallace said that Town staff have been working on planning the November 9 forum, which is expected to start at 5:30 pm and go to 6 with refreshments, followed by presentations about Main Street (by TEC) and the MVP River Road & Environs action grant project (by GEI and GMRI) between 6 and 7 pm. Ms. Wallace noted that the MVP action grant is more complex and may need more time for the presentation. Then there will be a Q&A session. The Town Manager may also give an introduction/overview. Assistant Clerk Max Close, who is providing administrative support for the MVP project, will soon send out a save the date notice. There will be tables that will provide flyers, handouts, sign up sheets, etc about these two projects and other projects in Town. Townspeople can visit with the consultants at the tables.

The Committee discussed flyers and materials for the MVP action grant table and *decided to include:*

- *A sign up sheet so community members can get on the email list for MVP action grant announcements*
- *A flyer that 1) describes the grant (as is on the website), 2) lists upcoming events, 3) contains the website address, 4) highlights the Climate@WNewbury.org email to be used for questions and feedback*
- *Large scale map(s) with flooding information, potentially with MORIS projections for 2030, 2050, and 2070 and/or charts or other data from RMAF or MORIS and/or other GIS data*
- *A large display of images of flooding and issues on River Road & environs—which could be done via an electronic slide show using the portable screen display in the 2nd floor conference room of Town offices*

Ms. Wallace will check with the Town Manager's executive assistant to see if the 2nd floor display system could be used for this purpose. She will also ask consultants Leila Pike and Gayle Bonness about what they have in mind for materials for the November 9 forum.

Mr. Parker noted that a proposal on the warrant for Fall Town Meeting concerning finding a new water source includes flood risk modeling and that may tie into this MVP project. It is possible that the modeling in the water project will give an idea of flood risk throughout West Newbury. He said that he had been in touch with the MVP program's Michelle Rowden about this and was told that a new flood risk study will be coming out soon, under the auspices of the new state Office of Climate Science.

Signage River Rd & Coffin St

Ms. Grammer said that we have no update from GMRI on the status of signage. The minutes from the CCRC's September meeting with the consultants said that the goal was to have the signs describing the grant project up before the end of September and absolutely before the November Town forum. She also noted that the citizen science signage ties into the collection of GIS data and the ARC GIS story material for the websites, so that signage should also go up as soon as possible.

It was agreed that Ms. Wallace will get in touch with the consultants next week to obtain a status update.

Ms. Wallace and Mr. Parker noted that a productive meeting had been held with GEI's Andrew Gray (the drone and GIS expert), Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (which holds and maps West Newbury's GIS data), Butch

Hills of the Town Highways, and others about gathering and coordinating GIS data. The intent is to develop systems to gather the MVP grant data that can also be used for other similar data gathering concerning stormwater management, etc., around the Town.

Virtual GMRI Session Following November 9 Forum

It was also noted that we have no update from the consultants about GMRI's Virtual Town Event, which the September minutes say will occur after the November 9 forum. Ms. Grammer said that the grant schedule requires that this task be completed by December 31, 2023. Ms. Wallace suggested that this event might occur after Thanksgiving. Ms. Grammer noted that the GEI Drone Public Event will occur sometime in November or early December after the leaves have fallen and the planning for the two events should be coordinated.

It was agreed that this will also be discussed when Ms. Wallace gets in touch with the consultants next week to obtain a status update.

Other Business

Grant application Division Environmental Restoration near-coastal culverts. Ms. Wallace and Ms. Grammer described the Town's applications due October 13 for a pilot project grant intended to provide information about upgrading culverts at stream crossings subject to sea level rise. Only a maximum of 3 sites will be chosen and the grantees would be announced at the end of the year. If West Newbury receives the grant, it would be provided designs for improved crossings in view of sea level rising and increased flooding resulting from climate change. Ms. Wallace said she confirmed with GEI that these grants would not conflict with or disadvantageously overlap with GEI's work on the MVP action grant.

Committee report at Town meeting. Ms. Grammer said that we need to let the Town Clerk know if we plan to provide an update about the MVP grant at Town Meeting. *The Committee agreed that we should do so with an announcement that we got the grant, what it will accomplish, and some near term upcoming events. Mr. Parker will make the presentation and Ms. Grammer will share some bullet points with him.*

Minutes

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of August 8, 2023.

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of September 6, 2023, as amended.

Next meeting

The Committee determined not to meet on the ordinarily scheduled date of November 8, which is too close to the November 9 forum. Instead, the Committee decided to suggest to the rest of the group the dates of October 30th or October 24th—both at 5:00 pm.

Adjournment

6:32 pm

Meeting materials

Spreadsheet with target dates, organization of deliverables, etc

September progress report

Draft grant applications re 2 River Rd culverts

Volunteer hours tracking sheet