

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting 10/24/2023, 5:00 pm

1910 Building, Town Offices & via Zoom

Present at 1910 Building: Mike Dacey, Elisa Grammer, Rick Parker, DPW Project Manager Christine Wallace. Connor Brooks and Gayle Bowness of GMRI participated by zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87813788847>

Signage River Rd & Coffin St

Signs describing the MVP action grant project

The group discussed the wording and photos for the larger (2'x3') sign describing the MVP action grant project. After considering whether readers would understand the title language "River Road and environs," it *was decided to use River Road and vicinity*. Ms. Pau's suggestions were considered and it was decided that except for the reference to the citizen science project, we would use the GMRI version, but broaden it to include nearby streets, which are covered by the grant.

It was decided that we would have two of these signs: one at Ferry Landing Park and the other at the intersection of Coffin Street & River Road.

Signs for the citizens science project

Ms. Bowness provided slides giving an overview of the GMRI citizens science project, which has been extended to 16 coastal communities in Maine. The concept is to have signs with a QR allowing passersby to link into a website with prompts that allow them to give information about wind, rain, and other weather conditions along with up to six photos of the area. The data is then collected to help inform such entities as the National Weather Service and determine trends. It will also form the basis for a storymap that will be one of the grant deliverables.

Our project represents the first time this GMRI program has been applied to a tidal river not on the seacoast. The group reviewed the questions/prompts that passersby may answer on their smartphone as they observe the river, and *agreed that observations applicable to a tidal river should be added, such as the amount and nature of debris in the river, the velocity of flow, and overland water flow into the Merrimack contributing to flooding. Also, the language should be broadened—for instance from coastline to shoreline.*

Elisa Grammer and Nancy Pau had recommended changes to the GMRI citizen science signs (which are smaller and will be more numerous). Ms. Bowness said that GMRI has standardized this and is not accepting edits. Ms. Grammer pointed out that the Merrimack River does not have a coastline and does not have seaweed, as stated in the sign. Ms. Bowness agreed to remove the reference to seaweed and change coastline to shoreline.

It was agreed that there will be five of the community science signs, located at:

- *the end of River Rd near where it meets Riverbend's river trail;*
- *the intersection of Coffin & River Rd;*
- *the Greenbelt open space area near its parking;*
- *the big field near the culvert,*
- *Ferry Park*

It was also agreed that Ms. Bowness will provide a blurb about the community science project that can be put on the 2023 MVP action grant website. Ms. Grammer advised that Ms. Bowness could look at the CCRC's action grant webpage for 1) an example of how to make a website available in Spanish and 2) a slideshow of River Rd & nearby streets

Having the signs installed by the November 9 Town forum

Ms. Grammer asked about the timeline GMRI was planning so that we would be able to have the signs installed before the November 9 forum. Ms. Bowness said that she would be out of the office in upcoming days and that they usually give the printer two weeks to produce the signs.

Committee members noted that schedule would not allow sign installation before November 9. Ms. Grammer recalled that in our initial September meeting, which Ms. Bowness attended, we set the goal of having the signs ready by the end of September and then at the October 18 check-in meeting Ms. Bowness indicated that she would have a draft by October 25 and if we responded within 48 hours, the schedule would allow the signs to be installed before November 9. *Ms. Bowness will contact GMRI's printer on the day following this meeting and will have the signs sent directly to the Town to expedite installation. It was agreed that installation can be done with a 4" x 4" pressure treated post.*

Logistics of sign installation

It was agreed that we should let Greenbelt, the Conservation Commission, and the Park & Recreation Commission know about signs planned to be installed in the road right-of-way at land they are responsible for. Also, we should alert the Department of Public Works about the signs needing to be installed.

Virtual GMRI Session Following November 9 Forum

It was agreed that we would ask Ms. Wallace to confirm December 7 as the date for the virtual GMRI session.

November 9, 2023 forum

Ms. Grammer gave a summary of the plans for the November 9 forum, and Ms. Bowness had no additions.

Ms. Bowness and Mr. Brooks then left the meeting.

Mr. Parker and Mr. Dacey approved the draft flyer and email sign up sheet for the November 9 CCRC table. Ms. Grammer shared the photos in the slideshow on the website and asked if that would work as the slideshow for the November 9 meeting. *It was agreed that 1) Mr. Dacey will reach out to Merrimack Valley Planning Council to see if they have photos of the Mothers' Day flood in West Newbury, 2) Ms. Grammer will put the photos into a PowerPoint slideshow, 3) Mr. Parker will use his computer for the slideshow on November 9.*

Other Business

None

Minutes

Deferred

Adjournment

6:25 pm

Meeting materials

- notes from the 10/18/2023 meeting among the consultants, Town Staff, Rick Parker & Elisa Grammer
- a draft CCRC flyer for the 11/9 Town forum
- a draft of the GMRI citizen science signs (from GMRI's template, which was intended for coastal communities, as revised to reflect our tidal river situation)
- a draft from Gayle Bowman, GMRI of the larger signs (content--awaiting the graphic design step) describing the grant project—with redlined suggestions
- an updated version of the grant events/tasks timeline spreadsheet based on the 10/18 discussion
- a draft sign-up for people at the 11/9 mtg to be on the email list for the Town forum