

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting minutes 4/12/2023, 5:30 pm

1910 Building, Town Offices, 1st Floor Hearing Room

Present: Mike Dacey, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace. Nancy Pau, Liz Callahan, Rick Parker, DPW Project Manager Christine Wallace, and Town Manager Angus Jennings (until 6 pm)

Action Grant application

Ms. Grammer noted that the grant application is due by 2 pm on May 4, so that it would be good to review processes that will get us to that point.

In discussing the process for submitting the grant application, Mr. Jennings noted that this type of grant approach, where the initial application needs to forecast tasks, their costs, and their completion dates, with monthly tasks completed dictating payment, is very difficult to prepare—particularly when the consultant does not yet even have a contractual relationship with the Town. It is good, however, that this is an engineering contract that does not require competitive bidding. He also noted that the Town has a number of additional grants and projects going on at this time and all-Town meetings, such as the MBTA Communities Planning Project and Route 113 Project and expressed a desire that these be coordinated with or combined with the MVP grant process. He raised concerns that staff commitments and community interest in having meetings may be strained. *Ms. Wallace will work with the Planning Board to develop a list of upcoming events and we will look for ways of combining events, maybe with breakout groups.* Mr. Jennings said that Library events can proceed separately.

Mr. Jennings also said that the Select Board recently approved allowing an MVP Action Grant submission for River Road and environs and the idea of signage at each end of River Road, subject to the details of the signs. Also, it will submit a letter of support. He said that a deadline for providing the grant application for his review would be May 1. He also advised that it may not be possible for the Committee to work around open meeting requirements by formally establishing a non-quorum subgroup. Instead, it would be preferable for Ms. Wallace to informally identify fewer-than-a-quorum member(s) for quick technical consultation if the need arises.

The Committee generally agreed that

- *Another meeting will not be needed to further discuss the application*
- *The entire Committee will review the draft applications materials and submit comments to Ms. Wallace*
- *Elisa Grammer will*
 - Revise draft narrative application based on GEI/ GMRI information and on the meeting (specifically including Mr. Dacey's point that neighboring communities have sent letters supporting & expressing interest in the project) & submit to Christine*
 - Try to weave G.A.R. Library and other non-GEI/ GMRI \$0 cost tasks into Attachment B*
 - Prepare & present Committee Report for Annual Town Meeting*
 - Support & help Christine as needed*
- *Nancy Pau will*
 - For each additional community engagement project (training boat tour guides; MVP-sponsored & subsidized boat tour with cost for this one; informal kayak tour; climate remembrance; climate cafe), provide to Ms. Wallace & Ms. Grammer 1) a sentence describing the project, 2) an estimated start & end time for the project*
- *Christine Wallace will*
 - Contact Leila Pike for updates & missing info, especially cost data in view of Gayle's vacation all next week*
 - Complete RMAI*
 - Collate letters of support into one big .pdf*
 - Complete Attachment B*
 - Coordinate Committee member comments on draft materials*
 - Share revisions as appropriate with the Committee*

--Coordinate with & share the final drafts with Angus by May 1 & get his signatures on 1) statement of \$ match commitment letter & 2) web-based submission form

--Work with Planning Board to get list of other Town-wide meetings so we can try to coordinate the meetings

In the discussion of regulatory aspects, the Committee noted that in this Type 1 study project, we will not be proposing solutions—though regulatory solutions could include weight limits for trucks on River Road and wake limits for boats along River Road. Ms. Wallace observed that given the apparent condition of River Road, it could be a good idea to have some testing of its structural soundness in the near term.

Community support/engagement/letters of support

Ms. Pau discussed some additional means of community outreach, including

- Having herself (a biologist) and others with knowledge of the river and its issues train boat tour guides about river issues and climate change
- A Yankee Clipper boat tour excursion specifically for this project. The group recommended that
 - The MVP grant help buy down the cost of tickets to \$10-20 per person
 - The trip occur in fall 2023 before or after the kickoff meeting
 - An informal bring-your-own boat kayak tour was also proposed
- A climate remembrance program for student
- A Climate Café for students

It was agreed that Ms. Grammer will give a brief Committee Report at Town Meeting, outlining the message on the project webpage and inviting participation. Ms. Wallace noted that one aspect of the Hazard Mitigation update project is identifying flood prone areas. *It was agreed that Ms. Wallace will ask Ms. Pike if the community crowd source flood tracking could cover the whole Town as opposed to just River Road and environs.* The failure to maintain former irrigation ditches as a means of stormwater management was also raised. Ms. Grammer suggested developing a prepackaged slide show about the project to share with groups like the Garden Club, Council on Aging, etc.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of March 23, 2023.

Other Business

Ms. Grammer described the pilot MVP 2.0 program, whose grant filing and grant activities would overlap with the Action Grant and which is somewhat experimental. *The Committee determined not to pursue MVP 2.0 at this time.* Ms. Pau noted that a potential EJ community could be the [Penacook-Abeni Tribe](#) based in Alton, NH, which historically lived in West Newbury and used the Merrimack River. She said that good resources concerning indigenous uses of the river could be found [here](#).

Next meeting

May 10, 2023

Adjournment

7:04 pm

Meeting materials

Draft application components

Draft revised GEI scope