

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting 1/10/2024, 5:30 pm

1910 Building, Town Offices & via Zoom

Present at 1910 Building: Mike Dacey, Elisa Grammer, Rick Parker, Chip Wallace. Kelly Scott, youth Library coordinator, former science teacher. Sarah Tappan, Newburyport Resiliency Committee

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89289530217>

At the outset, before the meeting got underway, Ms. Tappan noted that Newburyport has just contracted with two consultants, UMass' [Urban Harbors Institute](#) (a more science-oriented group) and the [Creative Action Institute](#) in Ipswich (a more community support-oriented group) to work on the large community events planned for Newburyport's current MVP action grant.

GMRI Citizen science update

Ms. Grammer said that the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) is now planning to use Massachusetts' [My Coast program](#) instead of the Maine-based program GMRI program for purposes of gathering citizen science data about River Road area flooding in king tides and storm events. She added that Gayle Bowman of GMRI said that there will be Zoom events followed by in-person events at king tide periods in February, March, and April. [[NOAA has projected king tides in Boston](#) for February 9-13, March 9-14, April 9-12.] Ms. Bowman said that West Newbury needs to provide people for the in person events. Ms. Grammer said that Ms. Bowman committed to providing, no later than January 15, 2024, 1) the citizen science signage, 2) a blurb for the CCRC website, and 3) a date for the February event.

Ms. Scott asked for details and received an overview of the citizen science project. She may be able to engage youth in this. Mr. Parker and Ms. Grammer said that the details of the in person event are not clear, particularly in terms of how many volunteers are needed and exactly what they would be doing. *It was agreed that we would ask DPW Projects Manager Christine Wallace to contact Leila Pike of GEI (the main contractor) to get this information from GMRI (the subcontractor).*

GMRI Future planning event

Ms. Grammer tried to explain GMRI's planning future event and asked the CCRC for ideas about what we would like it to be and to accomplish. After some discussion of potential entities who might do future planning in Town (such as the Planning Board) and the importance of obtaining youth involvement, *the CCRC decided that we should have a future planning event like that described on GMRI's website about the [Main Islands Plan for Climate Change](#), which emphasized intergenerational planning.*

GEI updates

Ms. Grammer said that GEI reports that the existing conditions reports about the riverbank and the culverts is on track, as are the reports due in March about vulnerabilities. She noted that the options for resiliency solutions would likely be broad, but there would be more near-term shoreline stabilization options. The photos of high tides and post-storm conditions she took today included overland storm flows on Coffin Street where water ran down the hill, across the road, and into the wetland at the curve in the road. GEI said that they would be looking at overland flows and under road flows, apparently in connection with soil types. Mr. Dacey inquired whether GEI will be making recommendations for different segments of River Road. That wasn't entirely clear, but such an approach would make sense.

CCRC events

Ms. Grammer noted that the CCRC has two events to plan: a site walk along the area of concern for the grant work

Minutes of the Climate Change Resiliency Committee p. 1

January 10, 2024

Approved February 14, 2024

and the kayaking event. The group discussed safety points for the kayak event. Ms. Scott recommended hiring a professional group to run this, which idea was favorably received. Ms. Grammer noted that we would need to determine how to budget for that.

Approval of Minutes

By unanimous vote the Committee approved the minutes of December 5, 2023.

Other Business

MVP 2.0

Ms. Tappan said that Newburyport will be asking the state MVP officials if the City's current outreach grant could enable it to get a waiver of the MVP 2.0 requirement, which involves a new process to prioritize climate change concerns and involvement of environmental justice communities. She said that there is still no word on how the pilot MVP 2.0 grants have been working, and mentioned that the [UMass Collins Center](#) has been helping towns in western Massachusetts.

Adjournment

6:40 pm

Next Meeting: February 14, 2024

ZOOM meeting information

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89289530217>

Meeting ID: 892 8953 0217

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89289530217# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,89289530217# US (New York)

Adjournment

pm

Meeting materials

--Minutes from 1/3/2024 consultant meeting