

Climate Change Resiliency Committee meeting minutes 9/8/2021, 7 pm

Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting

Present: Liz Callahan, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace, Rick Parker.

Election/Status of Committee Chair, recruitment of members, involvement of Town staff

Liz Callahan said that she is willing to act as Chair on an interim basis, pending addition of new committee members who might take on the role. *The Committee elected Ms. Callahan as Interim Chair, by 3-0-1 vote, Ms. Callahan abstaining.* As previously agreed, Elisa Grammer will continue as Clerk.

As to recruitment of new member, Rick Parker said that he has raised this several times at Select Board meetings. *It was agreed that the Committee will write up a description of its work and advertise this on facebook sites, the Town website, and through a Town email blast. Ms. Callahan agreed to work on a draft and circulate it among committee members.*

Fall Town Meeting Article re: Interns

Nancy Pau and Rick Parker explained that the article for money to hire interns to work on invasive plant management is slated on the agenda. The explanations of benefit to the Town and supervision of interns (including supervision from the Conservation Agent, a senior intern, and mentorship from other committees) are in place, but the final article amount and pay rate have not been finalized.

Ms. Grammer noted that the Cable Advisory Committee, which has its own funding via cable fees, hired an intern this summer. She suggested it might be possible to determine the pay rate and supervisory mechanisms that Committee used.

By unanimous roll call vote, the Committee agreed to offer to sponsor the Invasives Intern article for Fall Town meeting.

River Road outreach

Ms. Pau said that the site walk with expert Geoff Wilson will occur on September 13, 2021 starting at 9 am and lasting around 2 hours. Invitees will include Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Wayne Amaral, Emergency Planning Director Lee Ann Delp, Town Planner Leah Zambardini, and Building Commissioner Sam Joslin. A member of the Conservation Commission may also be invited. Ms. Pau noted that if the time is available, it could be useful to visit the Pentucket campus, where good student-teacher work is occurring at the stream on that site.

Mr. Parker will send out invitations that 1) state the meeting date & time, 2) recommend carpooling and 3) identify Ferry Landing as the initial meeting place

Ms. Grammer said that she will not be attending, but if she were provided many photos and videos in landscape format, she could try to make a movie about this.

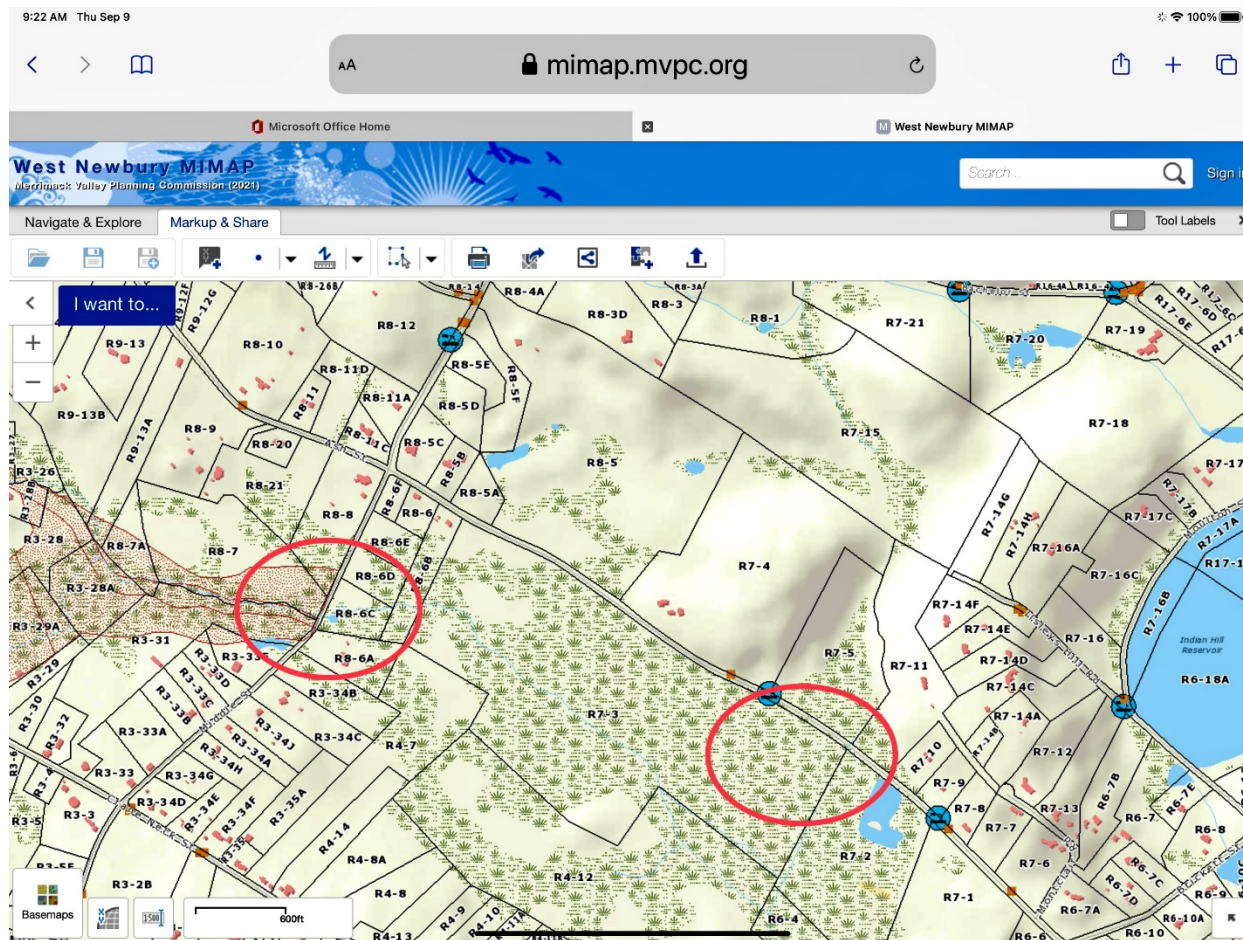
Ms. Pau raised the ongoing need to determine how to engage River Road residents and to consider how to approach the farmer who owns the fields near the stream at the western side of River Road.

It was also suggested that a copy of floodmaps applicable to River Road should be taken on the site walk. Mr. Parker said that the Building Commissioner may have such maps, and Mr. Parker will try to get a hard copy on Monday.

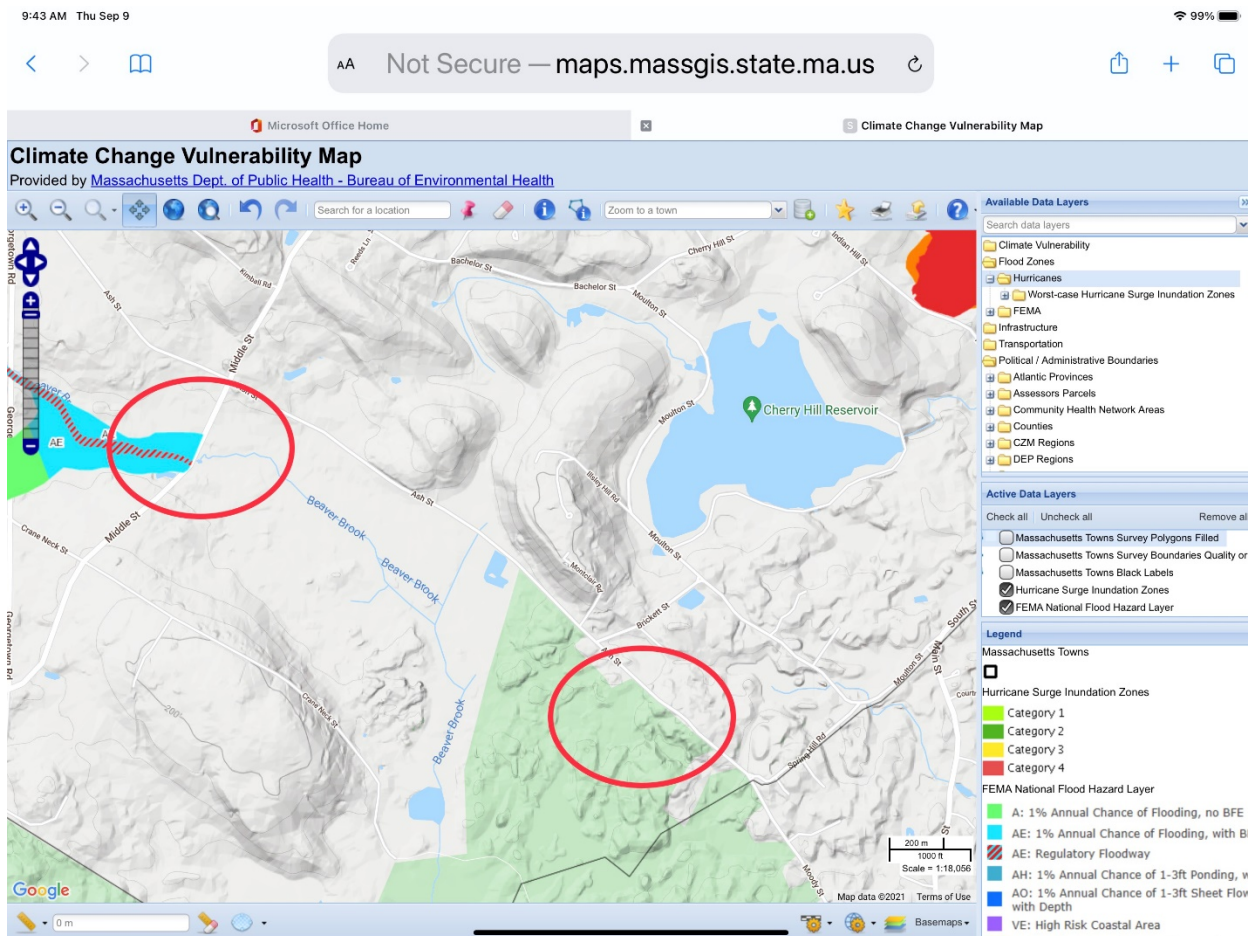
Other matters

Ms. Grammer shared a concern that she has found no good, credible maps of flood prone areas in West Newbury. The [Merrimac Valley Planning Commission \(MVPC\) map](#) and the [DPW map](#) show roads that do not exist (like Pikebridge Road—which is a walking trail).

The MVPC map also surprising shows floodwater abruptly refusing to cross Middle Street and no flooding on Ash Street at the swamp—even though that is an area known to flood and to be closed to traffic



The [FEMA flood map](#) on the Town website and the [Massachusetts state GIS flood map](#) raise the same issues



Ms. Pau noted that this problem falls within the scope of the MVP priority issues and good flood mapping could be included in an MVP action grant request.

Ms. Pau mentioned:

- A good video about the work at the Pentucket campus
- The West Newbury Wild & Native [event on 9/29/2021 with Russ Cohen about foraging edible plants](#)

The Committee noted that former committee member/ current Select Board member Wendy Reed was going to work on flyer that would discuss the critical importance of protecting waterway banks by maintaining (not cutting) vegetation. This not only benefits people, property, and infrastructure that may be harmed by erosion along waterways, but is also a legal requirement.

It had been suggested that having this come from this committee (as opposed to the Conservation Commission) would emphasize the nonregulatory, practical-consequences aspect of preserving waterside vegetation. The flyer was to be advertised on the website, facebook, etc. and mailed to River Road residents. Ms. Reed had noted that many were concerned that a River Road resident had recently cut down riverbank trees and ground up the stumps.

Arthur Wallace said that he will contact Ms. Reed (who is very busy on many Town projects) to see where this stands. Also, the Committee will coordinate with the Conservation Commission about this.

Minutes

The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 8, 2021, as revised.

Adjournment

8:25 pm

Next month's meeting

October 13, 2021 7 pm

Meeting materials

None