

### **MVP Core Team meeting notes 2/10/2021, 7 pm**

Present: Liz Callahan, Patricia Reeser, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace, Wendy Reed, Rick Parker, Nancy Pau

#### Decision on grant request, if any

The Group discussed the due date of February 26, 2021 for preliminarily stating interest in pursuing an MVP grant and the application date around March-April. (See email linked [here](#))

Nancy Pau said that a grant could support invasive plant removal and related items. She added that as a separate matter, a grant could fund a consultants' study/modeling of and potential resilience actions regarding the erosion and flooding problems threatening several portions of River Road, and possibly other roads at risk of drowning.

Rick Parker and Elisa Grammer noted that for the Town to go forward with a grant proposal, Town officers will want to know 1) how much administrative work the grant process will take and who will do it; 2) how real is the money—matching requirements, funding up front or only at the end, etc; 3) strings attached—will the Town have to commit to prior, concurrent, or long term obligations or changes to get the grant

*After discussion, the Group decided that:*

- Nancy Pau will share with the MVP Group a draft of the scope for the 2 grant proposals by the middle of next week and the Group will respond to her within a day or two
- Rick Parker will generally raise the idea of MVP grant statement(s) of interest for these two topics with the Town Manager & BOS, with the point to be raised at the February 22 meeting
- Nancy Pau will touch base with our state contact [Michelle Rowden](#)
- Elisa Grammer will share with the MVP Group Salisbury's successful MVP grant application regarding drowned roads (which is linked [here](#))
- Rick Parker will reach out to a contact at [GEI Consultants](#) about this kind of consultants' report concerning threatened roads
- Nancy Pau will reach out to her contact at [Horsley Witten](#) about this kind of consultants' report concerning threatened roads

#### Changing from Working Group to Town Committee status

Rick Parker said that he raised the idea of the MVP Working Group becoming a formal Town committee. Generally, this is viewed as a good idea and the Town Manager supports this change.

Elisa Grammer reported that our state representative Michelle Rowden said that whatever structure works for the Town would be fine, and encouraged wide representation of different stakeholders, including representation from Town staff.

*The Group agreed that we 1) want to pursue Committee status, ideally before a grant application would be filed, 2) will post on the website agendas and minutes even before reaching formal status (including retrospectively) and 3) do not at this time anticipate any budget request for this Town meeting. After discussion, the Group also agreed to finalize at the next meeting:*

- The name will be the Sustainability Committee (NB: Wendy Reed has more recently suggested using the name Resiliency Committee and renaming the Energy Advisory Committee the Sustainability

Committee, saying “I looked at Nport's website and their MVP offshoot is called the Resiliency Committee. The two words convey different aspects of conservation as described here: ‘While sustainability looks at how current generations can meet their needs without compromising that ability for future generations, resilience considers a system's ability to prepare for threats, to absorb impacts, and to recover and adapt after disruptive events.’”)

--A draft mission statement:

The mission is to promote, through action, education, and funding support, West Newbury's resilience to climate change. The Committee will build on the Town's Municipal Vulnerability Community status to seek action grants and take other steps to address the climate change vulnerabilities and action items identified in the Workshop conducted with representative stakeholders.

--Like the Energy Advisory Committee, no specific number of Committee members will be identified and the quorum will be a simple majority of whatever number the Committee then has

--The current membership of the Core Team (those present at this meeting) will comprise the initial membership of the Committee for whom BOS appointments would be sought

--Because the Energy Advisory Committee has a specific, detailed/technical, and somewhat different Green Communities mission, this Committee will not be rolled into the Energy Advisory Committee

--This Committee will seek members on and coordination with Boards/Commissions/Committees including Open Space, Conservation, Energy Advisory, Planning, Aging, Capital Improvements and will seek to coordinate with the Department of Public Works and other Town departments or organizations affected by climate change

#### Updates on MVP identified issues

##### *Invasive plants*

Patricia Reeser said that West Newbury Wild & Native (WN2) is considering its own website. Overall, the Group supported this idea and noted that this group's Town webpage could link to WN2's separate, non-Town website—and Rick Parker will check with the Town Manager about this.

Nancy Pau reported that West Newbury's John Terry, who is the president & founder of the student-oriented [Gulf of Maine Institute](#), has informed her that his group has been in contact with Jonathan Seymour, the Pentucket High School principal, and has had a positive reception concerning siting a new native sanctuary garden on the grounds on the new high school/middle school currently under construction.

##### *Composting*

No updates

##### *Electric vehicles*

No updates

##### *Storm water & roads*

No updates

##### *Communications*

No updates

##### *Power outages*

No updates

*Protecting & securing water supplies*

No updates

*Green Fair & moving the Town toward MA climate objectives*

No updates

Other matters

None