



CLIMATE RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

www.westport-ma.com/climate-resilience-committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of:
Thursday, September 1, 2022

John Bullard, Chair
Shana Shufelt, Vice Chair

CRC & Subcommittee Members present:

- John Bullard, Chair
- David Cole
- Michael Sullivan
- Constance Gee
- Jim Whitin
- Bob Daylor
- Donna Amaral
- Michael Yogman

John Bullard called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

1. Introduction:

Members of the CRC and the associated Subcommittees introduced themselves.

2. Acceptance of 6/16/22 minutes: Mike Sullivan motioned to accept the minutes of 6/16/22, seconded by David Cole, the motion carried unanimously.

John Bullard asked David Cole if he has acted on the motion he made at the last meeting (which was seconded and carried unanimously) to ask the Select Board to allocate some part of the share of SRPEDD hours to start a collaborative effort to support the work of the Climate Resilience Committee, in which Mr. Cole stated that he had not, since the specifics of what exactly the Committee would be asking SRPEDD to aid with were still unclear.

3. Subcommittee Reports:

- **Engagement & Fundraising:**

Mr. Cole stated that the subcommittee is still in the early stages of figuring out what exactly needs to be done and mentioned that Jeff Cantin has drawn up two plans for communication and engagement that have been circulated to the other subcommittee chairs asking them to articulate the messages of what they want to have communicated and what they want to engage the public in. With limited answers received, Mr. Cole is anticipating more answers from the various subcommittees in the near future and stated that once more answers are received they will be consolidated. Mr. Cole noted that little has been done regarding fundraising, but is aware of the many opportunities available. Mr. Cole explained that SRPEDD is still developing their program for climate resilience planning and therefore is waiting for them to get further along before a sit down can take place about work collaboration. It was mentioned that Discussions with the H.S. had come to a halt due to summer vacation, and discussions were planned to pick back up again in the fall. Mr. Cole encouraged other committee members to review the three useful resources mentioned in his report, which included then following: Community Planning Tool Kit; Community Driven Climate Resiliency Planning of Framework; How to Harness The Power Of Your Community To Address Climate Change: A Local Officials Guide.

- **Infrastructure & Safety:**

Bob Daylor provided an update to the committee, which included the following; there's a lot of activity going on within the Infrastructure Committee, and the Board of Selectmen has formed an Infrastructure Oversight Committee that he is the Vice Chair of, which held a kick-off meeting on 8/17/22. The purpose of this committee is to generate outreach and support for the Route 6 Trunk Sewer & Water Project. Mr. Daylor stated that all of the design is under contract, and three contracts to be put out to bid have been prepared and ready to bid by the beginning of the new year, the three contracts include the following;

- Phase 1: Fall River to Rte. 88
- Phase 1.C.1: Rte. 88 to Bread & Cheese Brook
- Phase 1.C.2.: Bread & Cheese Brook to Forge Road

Mr. Daylor stated that a MassWorks grant for the amount of \$7.2 million has been applied for relating to the Phase 1 Sewer, and is currently awaiting the decision on whether or not Westport will be awarded the grant.

Mr. Daylor stated that a Harbor Water Study Committee was created, which has met with Weston & Sampson in August to look at hydrogeo report relating to the potential development of a new water supply that could consolidate the water supply for the area. Mr. Daylor stated that there's potentially favorable areas of sufficient land to meet DEP requirements, and that Weston & Sampson has completed their hydrogeological study of fault line tracing in the upper region of the watershed.

Mr. Daylor reiterated that the MVP grant for the community sewer system for The Let was denied, and that the Planning Board and Board of Health has been working diligently to provide a draft response letter to the DEP regarding the proposed Title 5 Regulatory changes that will require all septic systems in Westport to be upgraded to the best available denitrification system.

Mr. Daylor stated that the Planning Board is intending to file a grant application with the Fire Department under MEMA to acquire funds to update the Towns Emergency Response Plan, since the current plan is out of date.

- **Water:**

Mike Sullivan provided an update to the committee, which included the following; the subcommittee has been looking at the risks of Westport and a number of individual drivers, which were narrowed down seven (7). Narratives for each will be created, and they will be ranked and profiled in order of importance and urgency for the next meeting. The seven drivers include the following;

1. Sea level rise (effect of flooding private property, uninhabitable structures, difficulty of obtaining property insurance and financing)
2. Effects on Marine life (movement of fish, lobsters, sharks and other impacts)
3. Dune erosion & beach cobbling, breaching changes in protection
4. Navigability of Westport Harbor and potential impact on commercial fisheries, river flushing, sitting of the harbor, nitrogen, bigger tides
5. Effects on the water table, saline intrusion into wells and septic systems
6. Health of river eco-systems, salt marshes, compounding Nitrogen problem, possibly changing MEP, algae blooms in the river
7. Health of Cockeast and Richmond salt ponds

- **Health:**

Donna Amaral provided an update to the committee, which included the following; the Health Committee has developed a draft of health impacts and response strategies to deal with extreme heat events, with a focus on extreme heat events along the shore lines. Ms. Amaral stated that the subcommittee has begun the communication and education process to engage and inform the community, and has reached out to Matt Armendo in the Health Department to assist in getting other departments, such as Fire and Police involved relating to the emergency response and preparedness plans. Michael Yogman stated that Ms. Amaral had reached out to the schools regarding mental health since there have been studies done on the effects of extreme heat on mental health in children and adolescents, in which the school expressed their eagerness to provide support groups. Mr. Yogman raised the question as to whether the State's newly passed mental health bill would open the door to any grants that would help fund the support groups.

- **Agriculture:**

John Bullard stated that summer is a busy time for this subcommittee, and that they will reconvene in the fall.

4. Other Business:

- John Bullard stated that the Planning Department is very close to having a Town Planner, which will help increase the capacity of the office and allow the Planning Department to further aid the Climate Resilience Committee, specifically with grant writing.
- John Bullard raised the question to the committee of how the finalized "report" will look in terms of it being a written report, video or another means of the display of information. Mr. Cole mentioned that he visualizes a "program", which would be laid out over a two year span that identifies all of the key problems and a strategic plan on how to overcome them. Mr. Cole stated that he sees the end result as more of an "agenda for action" more than a report. Mr. Bullard reiterated that the vision Mr. Cole has sounds like it would most likely be put together in a word format versus a video.

5. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, October 13th, 2022.

Daylor motioned to adjourn, seconded by Cole, the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Accepted 11/10/2022