

## 1/18/2024 Climate Resilience Committee

**Present:** Denise and David Hoyle, Sue Levene, John Morse, Laura Sewall, Carrie Suchar, Herb Thomson

Herb Thomson, chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm.

David Hoyle was approved by the Phippsburg Select Board and is an official member of the CRC.

**Approval of 11/7/23 meeting minutes:** Sue motioned to approve minutes, Herb corrected the date to November 8, 2023, seconded, and minutes were approved.

### **Introduction of Laura Sewall of the Phippsburg Comprehensive Plan Committee and Discussion of 12/23 Phippsburg Comprehensive Committee (PCPC) Report: “Phippsburg Sea Level Rise & Climate Resiliency Gap Analysis:**

Laura Sewall gave a summary of the current climate resilience component of the Town’s comprehensive plan update. With the help of Gabe McPhail, regional director for the Community Resilience Partnership, Laura and Erika Web, admin and co chair PCPC, and Ross McLellan, Town Administrator applied for and received a Island Institute ShoreUp Grant for \$10,000 for the PCPC. From the grant, \$8000 was used to hire FB Environmental Associates (FBE) to complete an Vulnerability Assessment of SLR climate impacts on the town. The Comprehensive Plan Committee will soon be discussing how the remaining \$2000 will be used.

There were 7 areas FBE looked at:

- Infrastructure and Public Properties
- Private Properties
- Working Waterfront
- Groundwater resources
- Water Quality
- Ecosystems & Habitat
- Town Ordinances

A draft of the “**Phippsburg Sea Level Rise & Climate Resiliency Gap Analysis**” was distributed to all those present for review with concentration on prioritizing the critical information gaps in the aforementioned areas. Addressing these gaps in the Town’s Climate Resilience Component of the Comprehensive Plan will enable the Town to build resilience and mitigate the impacts of sea level rise and related weather events.

Several of the Gap Analysis recommendations were discussed with emphasis on:

- Amend Land Use Ordinance to require demonstration of adequate water supply for development in at risk areas
- Amend Subdivision Ordinance to require hydrogeologic analysis
- Assess vulnerability of septic system contamination
- Assessing risk of salt water intrusion
- Review and update ordinances using “Municipal Guidance for Coastal Resilience: Model Ordinance Language for Maine Municipalities.

It was discussed that once the PCPC has all supporting material (maps, data) a workshop for Town committees could be planned to identify the most pressing issues outlined in the gap analysis so that it can be integrated into the comprehensive plan.

The Gap Analysis also proposed hiring a Resiliency Coordinator to plan and facilitate the SLR resilience measures. A \$50,000 Community Action Grant through the State’s Community Resilience Partnership was suggested as a way to help fund this position.

Laura also mentioned a collaboration with 2 Bates College students to study and research FBE recommendations to help categorize the critical gap areas in town.

According to FBE, this Vulnerability Analysis, once finished and implemented into the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, would satisfy the State’s Statute 1970, stating: *the State departments will give priority in making grants to towns who have adopted a local climate action plan and adopted comprehensive plans with a climate vulnerability assessment.*

#### **Other Climate Related Information and Discussion:**

January 10th and 13th storm damage was discussed. Sue mentioned developing Town protocols to follow during flooding events to keep road crews and emergency staff safe.

The storms’ impact and damage on the Rt. 216 culvert (Falls Bridge) was discussed. It was mentioned that a temporary fix is slated for summer 2024, and Herb reported that a permanent replacement is now tentatively scheduled for 2025 in the Maine DOT 3-Year Work Plan. Laura mentioned the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership aided area organizations in receiving a grant to help move the adjacent historic house so the culvert could be replaced.

Using social media as a platform was discussed as a way to educate and inform the community on the effects of SLR and weather related events in Phippsburg.

**Next meeting:** February 14, 2024, 3pm.

Meeting adjourned.