

2/14/24 Phippsburg Climate Resilience Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Francis Eberle, Denise and David Hoyle, Sue Levene, Laura Sewall, Carrie Suchar, Herb Thomson

Herb Thomson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Introduction of Francis Eberle: the newest town resident to participate on the committee.

Approval of 1/18/24 meeting minutes: After brief discussion on minutes, Sue motioned to accept, David seconded and minutes were approved.

Town Website Update: Herb informed the committee that the Phippsburg Climate Resilience Committee (CRC) description had been updated on the Town Website.

There was brief discussion on the MDOT work to be done on Rt. 209 on Morse River Marsh and also the Falls River culvert on Rt. 216. Ross McLellan informed the committee that the Rt. 209 work would be done in the winter of 2026, and a temporary culvert will replace the Rt. 216 culvert with a permanent fix scheduled in the MDOT 3 year plan.

Text for 2023 Town of Phippsburg Annual Report: Herb asked committee members what should be in the Town report for the CRC. Some items mentioned: the CRC worked with the road committee to assess town roads vulnerable to flooding, and also with the PCPC to review its Phippsburg Sea Level Rise & Climate Resiliency Gap Analysis completed by FB Environmental Associates (FBE). Herb will submit the CRC update for the Town's Annual Report.

The committee discussed the workshop idea suggested in the last meeting and decided it was best to try and build relationships and share ideas with existing individual committees instead of a public workshop.

CRC 2024 Projects: The Committee discussed what would be the best use of the CRC's time in 2024. Herb and Laura suggested the town look into a Fall Community Action Grant through the State's Community Resilience Partnership. After discussion, the committee thought the \$50,000 grant could be used to hire a Town Resiliency Coordinator as recommended in the Phippsburg Sea Level Rise & Climate Resiliency Gap Analysis. All present worked to create a to do list for the grant project:

- Communicate and coordinate with other committees, ie Road and Conservation among others, to get their input on what the grant should be used for and work to create a joint effort with these committees before bringing the grant proposal before the Select Board.
- Contact Gabe McPhail, Regional Coordinator for the Community Resilience Partnership to find out what would be a good use of the grant funds: either hiring a resilience

coordinator or doing a capital improvement project which would focus on community resilience in the face of sea level rise and/or other climate related events.

- Should Gabe be agreeable to the town resiliency coordinator position as a grant proposal, ask what would be the best job title and description for this position.
- Work on a timeline for the grant proposal for the 2024 fall deadline.

The general consensus from all present was this position would eventually pay for itself in its capacity to find and apply for local, state, and federal municipal grants to help Phippsburg prepare for climate change particularly for its infrastructure, roads, social vulnerabilities, etc.

When asked about other projects the CRC could tackle, Laura talked about 2 students from Bates College who are working to educate landowners on nature based solutions around erosion for their capstone projects in school. They will be creating a brochure that will help landowners come up with green solutions to prevent land erosion. The CRC will work to provide these students with accurate information and science around beach erosion.

Herb would also like the committee to have input on the process of reviewing and updating ordinances using the "Municipal Guidance for Coastal Resilience: Model Ordinance Language for Maine Municipalities". This was a policy recommendation from the [Phippsburg Sea Level Rise & Climate Resiliency Gap Analysis](#). Herb will put ordinances on the agenda for the next meeting, and in the meantime, CRC members will familiarize themselves with the ordinance language and the "Municipal Guidance for Coastal Resilience: Model Ordinance Language for Maine Municipalities".

Meeting Adjourned at 4:15 pm.