

3/13/24 Phippsburg Climate Resilience Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Francis Eberle, Denise and David Hoyle, John Morse, Carrie Suchar, Herb Thomson

Herb Thomson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Approval of 2/14/24 meeting minutes: After brief discussion on minutes, Carrie motioned to accept, David seconded and minutes were approved.

Town Website Update: Herb informed the committee that the Town Website now has the CRC email address listed: phippsburg.resilience@mail.com.

CRC Alternates: John Morse motioned to recommend Francis Eberle to the Select Board as a potential alternate committee member, Herb seconded. There was a brief discussion about the process of appointing alternates. The motion was approved.

GMRI Community Resilience Training and Climate Resilience Workshop: The committee discussed the PCPC Town of Phippsburg Climate Resilience Stakeholder Workshop. Both Carrie and David suggested the GMRI Community Resilience training, <https://gmri.org/projects/community-resilience-training/> may be useful to prepare for and possibly facilitate the workshop. There was mixed reception about this idea from the committee members, and the PCPC would have the final say on how the workshop would be done.

Herb offered to reach out to Gayle Bowness to see if the GMRI workshop could be tailored to meet the needs for the Phippsburg workshop. This would provide an option for the PCPC committee when preparing for this workshop as GMRI has the relevant tools, resources, processes, and professionals to help a community educate its members and businesses and gather consensus around community resilience planning.

David, Denise, Laura Sewall, Francis, and Carrie all participated in a Zoom meeting with Gabe McPhail, Regional Coordinator for the Community Resilience Partnership. When asked about the workshop, Gabe was cautious about the idea and advised that all committees and officials agree on the objectives and goals prior to the workshop.

As an example of good stewardship, the town of Arrowsic's Climate Action Plan was discussed, along with their efforts in engaging and educating the community and garnering the support they need to move forward with community resilience planning.

Potential Grant Opportunities: Several grant opportunities were discussed, specifically Coastal Planning Grants offered through the DMR's Maine Coastal Program and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Municipal Planning Assistance Program and Community Action Grants from the Governor's Office of

Policy Innovation and the Future Community Resilience Partnership. There is no match for the Coastal Planning Grant. The Committee agreed to look into the Coastal Planning Grant to see if it is possible to write a letter of intent before the March 31st deadline.

Community Resiliency Partnership Service Provider grants were also discussed where other municipalities would partner with Phippsburg to receive up to \$125,000 versus \$50,000 on the Community Action Grant. Possible towns to consider were Arrowsic and Georgetown. Herb agreed to reach out to Jody Jones of Arrowsic along with the Georgetown contact to discuss this possibility.

The committee discussed a potential Community Action Grant idea which was to present a scope of work from the Community Resilience Partnership List of 72 Community Actions that the Phippsburg could use to contract a sustainability coordinator for the town.

There is no match required when selecting one of more activities from the Community Partnership list of 72 Community Actions. With this in mind the committee agreed on a course of action for applying for the Community Action Grant:

1. Coordinate and collaborate with other committee and board stakeholders i.e. PCPC, Conservation Commission, Phippsburg Road Commissioner, Town Landings Committee, Shellfish Commission, etc. to get support and agreement on a grant idea and also ensure efforts are not duplicated, and the CRC is not competing with other committees over the grant.
2. Discuss the Community Resilience Partnership List of 72 Community action with committees and prioritize which activities on the list would best serve Phippsburg in preparing for and mitigating impacts of climate change and sea level rise when applying for the grant. The committee agreed the Phippsburg Sea Level Rise Climate Resiliency Gap Analysis was a valuable document and could serve as a reference and guide to determine these activities.
3. Present grant proposal to the Select Board for approval.
4. Prepare for, write, and submit the grant for the fall round.

The committee discussed having either Erika Cramer or Joan Chrane, PCPC co-chairs, attend the April meeting, and Bob Reyes or another member of the Conservation Commission attend the May meeting to discuss the Community Action Grant.

Herb also referenced LD 225, Governor Mills' \$50M proposal to increase funds for the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (MIAF) administered by the Maine DOT. The state just awarded \$5.4 million to 37 communities for projects that protect valuable infrastructure and improve resiliency to the effects of climate change. This could be a possible source of funds for Phippsburg roads and infrastructure in the future.

Next Meeting: April 10th, 3pm, Phippsburg Town Hall

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 pm.