

4/10/24 Phippsburg Climate Resilience Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Merry Chapin (PCPC), Francis Eberle, David Hoyle, Gabe McPhail (Community Resilience Partnership Region 1 Coordinator Collaborative (R1CC), Zoom), Sue Levene, John Morse, Karin Sadtler (Arrowsic Climate Resilience Committee), Carrie Suchar (Zoom), Herb Thomson, Jessica Weller (Georgetown Conservation Committee), Ellen Winchester (Phippsburg Conservation Committee)

CRC Housekeeping Items: Official Alternate Position for Francis (Speedy) Eberle was discussed. Sue will put it on the agenda for the Select Board meeting. CRC has a new email address, phippsburg.resilience@mail.com.

Karin Sadler from Arrowsic described their Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) enrollment. Arrowsic enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership with West Port, Woolwich, and Georgetown. Arrowsic applied for a Community Action Grant and received funds to develop their Climate Action Plan, and a citizen's handbook (Arrowsic Island Caring for Our Land and Waters Stewardship Guide). Their Climate Action Plan, a living document, is almost finished, and the Stewardship Guide is on their website.

Herb thanked the Phippsburg Conservation Committee for sharing their online documents. Ellen Winchester gave an overview of the Committee's work in these documents, starting with the Marsh Migration Grant, sea level rise maps, the Rt.16 culvert work, the Community Action Grant for the Sam Day Hill Road engineering study, and Community Resilience Partnership meetings materials which provides extensive information pertinent to social resilience in the face of climate change. Ellen advised that all the Town committees and commissions collaborate on the next Community Action Grant.

Gabe McPhail (R1CC) discussed how she could support Phippsburg in preparing for Community Action Grant applications and also help with facilitating meetings with other community groups and committees.

Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) 4/10 Zoom Call with Gayle Bowness and Stephanie Sun:

Carrie, David, Speedy and Herb discussed the merits of working with GMRI and the myriad of services and resources they provide for communities, i.e. community resilience training, partnering with several organizations on community projects and studies on sea level rise and climate change, working waterfront strategies, and coordinating surrounding communities on climate resilience projects that would benefit all.

Both David and Herb particularly like GMRI's approach to educating communities on climate resilience, describing it as a "train the trainer" approach, where GMRI educates and works with community leaders and stakeholders to address residents in a positive, productive way in regards to community resilience efforts in the face of climate change.

Gabe spoke of her experience with GMRI's Planning Forward Workshops, both as service provider collaborating with GMRI and as member of a community sea level rise and climate change committee. She explained the opportunities this training provided in the ways of communicating, assessing, and planning was worth it for communities in their community resilience efforts.

Collaboration/Coordination:

Phippsburg town committee member, Merry Chapin (PCPC), talked about communications between climate resilience related committees and mentioned that the PCPC is interested in having an Island Institute Fellow which could step into the role as a Resilience Coordinator and coordinate the committees. She also suggested a member of the CRC become a member of the PCPC.

Merry emphasized the importance of community resilience in all chapters of the Comp Plan from helping vulnerable populations to preserving the fishing heritage. She also talked about the importance of implementing the plan when it is finished.

Resilience Coordinator: Sue asked Karin and Jesse if they would be interested in a regional resilience coordinator. Karin expressed interest in the collaboration, but thought the best approach would be to first work with a consultant funded by a Community Action Grant. She also expressed concern on how to continue to fund this position. Jesse explained they didn't have the funds for this position. Georgetown had looked into an Island Institute Fellow, but the timing was not right, and they also could not provide housing for a Fellow. Currently their waterfront is their biggest concern after the last storms, and they were working on grants to rectify the damage. They were both interested in the idea of a regional coordinator but were limited in authority and could not speak for their entire communities.

Gabe spoke of some communities who coordinated on this position, specifically Freeport and Yarmouth who hired a sustainability coordinator which was funded initially through a Community Action Grant. She also talked of Islesboro who used an Island Institute Fellow and a Community Action Grant to work on a road resilience project. In this case the Island Institute Fellow worked as the coordinator between the community and the engineer who was hired through the Community Action Grant.

Sue asked Gabe if this resilience coordinator position is important to a town in the long run in regards to bringing in funds to deal with the climate resilience related infrastructure projects to which Gabe responded that small towns need a town planner who could coordinate on all aspects of community projects and referred to the MidCoast Council of Government, the area's regional planning organization, which could assist towns such as Phippsburg in hiring a planner.

Letter of Intent (LOI) for Municipal Planning Assistance Grant: Herb talked about the LOI and where it stands. Currently Herb and David submitted it on March 29, 2024, and the Town will not know until next week if they will be invited to apply for the grant.

Climate Resilience-Related updates, Items of Interest, New Business: Herb asked Merry to keep CRC informed on the ShoreUp Grant funds which will be used for social resilience for the Phippsburg. CRC members asked if these funds could possibly be used for the GMRI Planning Forward Workshops.

Herb inquired about the Sam Day Hill Study to which Ellen replied GEI consulting was in the early stages of the study.

Herb brought up the town road audit to find out which roads are compromised in regards to extreme weather events. He mentioned that Curtis Doughty, the Road Commissioner, would be willing to help with this audit, but the logistics were yet to be established.

Merry mentioned that included in the PCPC budget were monies for mapping. Currently a Colby College student is assisting the Town with GIS Mapping. PCPC has asked Curtis to map all of the culverts for these GIS maps which could aid in a road audit. If the PCPC budget passes at the Town Meeting, this GIS mapping software will be available for committees as well as training on how to use the software, and an Island Institute Fellow could be instrumental in helping with this process.

CRC Minute Approval: Sue moved to approve minutes, David seconded and minutes were approved.

Next Meeting: May 1, 2024 3pm.