

5/1/24 Phippsburg Climate Resiliency Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Francis Eberle, Sue Levene, John Morse, Laura Sewall, Carrie Suchar, Herb Thomson

Application to Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) for Resilience Communities Grant:

Francis gave a summary of the CBEP Resilience and Monitoring Grant application work to date :

- There are three categories of grants CBEP is accepting RFPs for
 - Casco Bay Resilient Communities Grants
 - Casco Bay Resilient Habitat Grants and
 - Casco Bay Monitoring Infrastructure Grants

The CRC is applying for the Casco Bay Resilient Communities Grant and will be asking for \$25,000 for a project which will:

1. Bring town officials, committees, and community stakeholders together in two workshop(s) facilitated by Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI). The first workshop would be designed to educate and increase communication between all the stakeholders. It would provide strategies for increasing awareness of sea level rise and other vulnerabilities identified in the FB Environmental Phippsburg Sea Level Rise & Climate Resiliency Gap Analysis. Attendees could also identify other vulnerabilities that may have been missed by Gap Analysis.

A second workshop would be more action oriented, prioritizing community vulnerabilities, building capacity to address climate impacts and working toward developing a plan of action, a “roadmap” to strengthen climate resilience in Phippsburg.

2. Provide community engagement to reach people who are not necessarily involved in the decision making processes of the town.
3. Use the funds to hire a part time planner or resilience coordinator for 2024.

Only 15% of the funds (\$3750) could be used for the community engagement activities. Sue suggests that the workshops be considered planning sessions and the engagement would be educating and recruiting people to build capacity.

The committee discussed letters of support or commitment from committee members, a Climate Action Plan as plan of action, workshop attendance, logistics, scale of project, and other ideas relevant to the grant application.

The committee worked on the proposal budget. Sue suggested \$10,000 be used for the workshops, \$1000 be used for community engagement, and \$14,000 be used for the planner/coordinator position. This position would be hired first so the planner/coordinator could

help prepare and coordinate workshops. John brought up the job description, and there was further discussion on the position and what it would entail. Herb had communicated with the Freeport/Yarmouth Sustainability Coordinator, Meddy Smith, about her job description which could be a reference for the Town's position, and Laura agreed to work on that for the application.

There is a conversation about Mapping, specifically GIS maps. Laura suggests a line item for maps (updated SLOSH, Sea Level Rise, road culverts and low lying roads) specific to Phippsburg should be added to the budget so these maps could be used in the workshops. All agree that there should be a map at the workshops for individuals to identify where flooding and washout areas are. Sue suggested that it could be part of the workshop as a workstation where people list vulnerable areas to a mapping expert.

The committee discussed other possible consultants to help with community engagement and planning. MidCoast Council of Government (MCOG) is suggested, especially where they are already contracted by the State to provide 16 hours of consultation for Phippsburg.

The committee worked on the application deadline, Select Board approval, and the project timeline. Francis will finish writing up the proposal, and Herb will write the Select Board letter, organize and submit the application on May 10th.

Other Business: next meeting is set for June 12th, 3pm.

Meeting adjourned: 4:21pm.