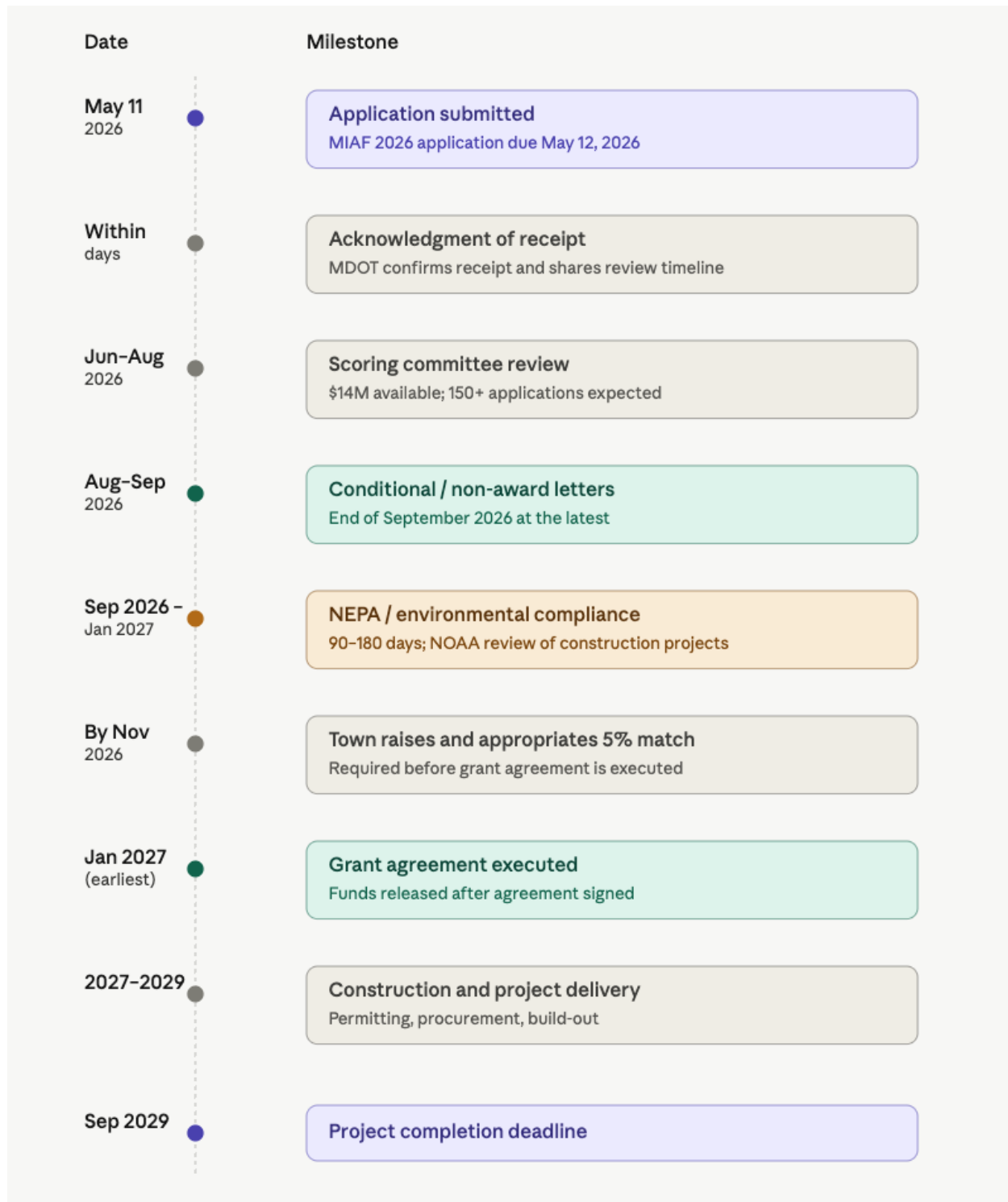


Islesboro Sea Level Rise Committee Minutes

5/14/2026 4:30 pm Town Office & Via Zoom

1. Called meeting to order. Quorum Established. In attendance: Lauren Bruce, Sue Stafford, Peter Rothschild, Jennifer West, Donna Leone, Fred Porter, Chloe Joule, Peter Willcox, Shey Conover, Shri Verrill, Janet Anderson, Bob Kochan, Murt Durkee, iPhone 98
2. Draft minutes from [4/9/2026](#) meeting were approved. Peter Rothschild motioned, Sue Stafford seconded. Unanimous approval.
3. Narrows Project Update
 - a. GZA is making progress. June 18th – 90% engineering complete is the goal. May 4th & 5th geotechnical bores were done. GZA is also working to get us the calculations for permitting impact on land owners & environmental impact requirements. On May 13th the letter from FEMA came through approving the hazard mitigation plan.
 - b. Shri has talked with MEMA, who has some capacity to help with benefits analysis required for the FEMA BRIC application, which will help reduce time for Shri and engineers.
 - c. Below is timeline for current understanding of grant application timeline and process.



- d. The total GZA Contract is \$121,500 to get to 100% engineering design. Town capital reserves anticipates covering \$72,500 of that, the MIAF grant request, if funded, would cover the rest of that engineering. MIAF has a cap of \$75,000 to cover engineering design work.

- e. There is the possibility that FEMA may reimburse us for engineering work. MEMA says that there may be some flexibility with reimbursing cost/benefit analysis.
 - f. Shri suggests talking with the Island Institute who may also have \$15,000 for grant funds available.
 - g. Once the engineering is complete and we have construction documents, we are ready to go out to bid. What happens if the bids come in higher than the funds we may be able to raise through grant funds? There is expected to be future rounds of MIAF & CAG – so may have other grants to seek. There is a lot of support for this project. But that is something that we will need to consider and adjust for.
 - h. This is a very competitive landscape for funding. Hopefully having a couple of options for how we scale the project will allow us to move this forward in some way and be competitive in our applications.
 - i. What can we do? It is very important to do what we can to make sure that we maintain community support. Funders pay attention to whether a project request is well supported by the community applying.
 - j. Summer information meeting – can we ask the selectboard to get on the calendar early. Communications subcommittee will work on this.
 - k. Are project changes allowed after funding has occurred? The goal is to not have any more project changes after we get 100% design documents.
 - l. How does timing of paying the engineering firm align with the Town fiscal year? Because we are paying the first portion out of capital reserves for this purpose, we do not have to worry about if the funds are available regardless of when we receive the invoice.
 - m. When will we have the impact information from GZA? Task 4 – probably will be done after the 18th. Between June & September is the best guess at this point.
 - n. Communication subcommittee will meet and have an outreach plan by our next meeting. Ideas for prioritizing letters of support for FEMA BRIC.
 - i. Selectboard. Up island residents.
 - ii. Any other documents about the damage at the Narrows is critical. Donna is willing to share information about the cost of the repairs that they made after the storms to their project.
4. Other Business. None
5. Next meeting date set for Thursday June 11th @ 4:30 pm. Motion to Adjourn made by Peter Rothschild, Sue Stafford seconded. Unanimous approval. Ended at 5:42 pm.