

**Town of Islesboro
Sea Level Rise Committee (SLRC)**

**November 30, 2021
Minutes - Final**

Members Present: Shey Conover, Chloe Joule, Peter Willcox, Lauren Bruce, Sue Stafford (Zoom), Nancy Alexander, Jennifer West.

Absent: Donna Leone, Fred Porter

Zoom participants: Nathan Robbins (DEP climate specialist), Parker Gassett (Maine Sea Grant), Linda Gillies, Paul Mickey, Hillary Maharam, Neil Hoffman.

Others Present: Dave and Janis Petzel, Donna Seymour

Quorum met.

Motion: Minutes of November 9, 2021 approved with two corrections, include date of approved minutes (102921) and spelling of Tutor.

Shey: Focus of meeting on the check list action items from the previous meeting for Risk & Vulnerability and Infrastructure. Review the final two items, Community Planning and Natural Environment.. Envisions a broader group will be helping to focus on the issues identified.

Risk and Vulnerability:

- Lauren: suggests individuals be identified to record with photographs events at sensitive sites on the island.
- Parker: There are models that include SLR and storm surge. Penobscot R. citizens group collected data. Important to start working on community planning such as raising roads, green infrastructure.
- Nathan: The Ransom study for Islesboro is a good resource.
 - Historic data- look at County hazard mitigation plan.
 - Data sets go back to the 1950's.
 - Helpful to set up a central repository.
 - Monitoring on the island going forward would be helpful to develop and expand baseline.
 - Data can be used for grants, proposals, etc.
 - Emergency Management, form 7, documents equipment, materials after FEMA declaration.
- **Subcommittee for Data Collection:** Peter, Fred, Lauren, Sue, Nancy, Jennifer
 - Janis: interested in participating in a subcommittee. It would be helpful to share the activities of the SLRC with other island committees.
 - Educate public- photos tracking sensitive areas
 - Identify sensitive areas based on projected SLR, most vulnerable at what height?
 - "Nest Egg": Committee assembles available data to develop recommendations for moving forward, general data that affects the entire island and focused data eg. Transportation (traffic counts, ownership of roads, records on maintenance, etc.)

Infrastructure

- **Infrastructure Subcommittee:** Peter, Shey, Jennifer, Janis,
- Cable crossing, sewer treatment plant, culverts
- MDOT responsibilities: ferry, state roads, culverts.
 - State roads: Ferry, Mill Creek, West Bay
 - Nathan has spoken with MDOT representative.
 - Coastal Community Grants
 - **Working group to work with MDOT:** Shey and Chloe
- Peter: is there a need to educate people? Climate change is a done deal.
- Shey: what are the vulnerabilities that we need to plan for, look at projections.

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- Dave P.: The Ransom Report is very helpful, includes Bar Harbor data. Make sure to read report and appendices.
- Parker: Adaption has many pathways to take. Engage the community in how the Narrows will change. Build buy-in on what needs to be planned for.
- Dave P.: Ransom Report recommendations: **Adaption, Protect, Retreat.**
- Nathan: Identify possible funding sources for the Narrows. Important to make a good proposal.
 - Additional focus areas: waste water, cable crossing, ferry.
- Donna S.: Narrows is critical, should there be a focus on getting a design and cost?
 - Shey: an engineering survey has been completed to raise the road. No cost figures for a 2' SLR. Suggests that the engineering firm should make a presentation on their findings.
 - **Narrows Focus Group:** Peter, Nancy, Donna L., Donna S., Jennifer, Shey,
 - Nathan: MDOT's internal policy is to plan for 4' SLR.
 - Committee should discuss with regional office.
 - Need consensus on infrastructure needs and remedy, raise road or bridge.
 - Anticipate it will take a number of years for the Narrows. Issues that will need to be addressed include impacts to wetlands and mitigation.
- ***Nathan and Parker can complete a report and data available and provide next steps.***

Community Planning

- Nathan has example ordinances that can be reviewed by the Planning Board.

Action Items

- Develop repository for data, reports, that can be accessed by the committee.
- Prepare for meeting with MDOT in January.
- Shey will contact Craig Olson regarding the treatment plant.
- Narrows Focus Group
 - Arrange engineering firm to present findings.

NEXT MEETING: December 7, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

- Complete check list review on Community Planning and Natural Environment.

Respectively Submitted,

Jennifer West