

SLRC Meeting Notes 11/17

Members in attendance:

Peter Wilcox, Nancy Alexander, Sue Stafford, Lauren Bruce (ad hoc), Liv Lenfestey, Chloe Joule, Donna Leone ,and Shey Conover, and Shri Verrill

Community Members:

Peter Rothchild and Terry Cowan

Meeting Minutes:

- 4:06pm Established a quorum.
- The committee has not received the supplement documentation from GZA (PowderPoint PDF) but we hope to soon. These answers and clarifications will be shared with Shri and then circulated to committee members as available
- Shey gave an overview of how the interview with GZA went, including information on their emphasis on a community risk analysis, how their team will collaborate on the project, and how their answers to our questions were received by members of the committee.
- The committee decided that they would like to have some more information available in writing before any contract is signed, this information will be in the PDF and will include a further cost breakdown
- Shri liked that GZA noted that at the end of the process, they will help provide and identify grant and funding sources to carry this project through to the next phase.
- Shey stated that, upon reviewing supplemental documentation, she would be comfortable recommending to the Select Board that we move forward with GZA as our selected firm
 - The committee would like to move forward with this process, and make our selection by the upcoming select board meeting Tuesday 11/21 @6pm
- The committee also acknowledged that they want to move fast and stay on track with the timeline, but not “stupidly fast” and not be thorough
- The committee discussed their impression on how GZA responded to their question on how their project is being limited by the \$50,000 budget.
 - GZA reported that we are missing out on receiving a fourth alternative and also “super site specific modeling”, but they stated that the lack of site specific data is not unusual for this kind of project
- Peter W. stated that he would like to confirm whether a bridge is appropriate before we sign on an engineer
 - Nancy supported this stating that she believes a free exchange of water East to West would be a positive thing for the marsh

- Shri gave some information on the Salt Marsh: that there is no evidence of a tidal channel between the east and west
- Sue read from her notes a statement of how GZA will combine a hardened structure with nature based features. This type of hybrid solution was positively received by the committee
- The bridge was discussed, for better or for worse, for several go arounds
- Shey suggested that the committee express interest in receiving reasoning for why certain options and alternatives are not being considered
- The committee discussed the limits of our budget and how we will respect engineers' expertise but also make sure we get what we want.
- Shey pointed out some things that still need to be finalized like: maximum construction budget and community appetite for risk
- Shri walked through how the SLRC will discuss questions before meeting with engineers and how the committee will communicate before getting engineers involved (to save money on their budget)
- The committee discussed their comfort level with only receiving one RFP, and due to the overwhelm of coastal resilience projects and the bottleneck of people who are able to do this type work in Mid-Coast Maine, we are ok with moving forward with just the one bid.
- The committee decided to push back their next meeting until after the selectboard meeting, when a pre-approval will take place, and will have a scope of work meeting after the select board pre approval. We would like to tell the selectboard and GZA by next week that we are ready to proceed, subject to our approval of their supplemental questions.
 - Chloe made the motion to bring this forward to the select board and it was approved!
- The committee set a next meeting: November 28th, 2023 @5:30
- Motion to adjourn approved