

# Sea Level Rise Committee Meeting Minutes

February 21st, 2024

## In Attendance:

Nancy Alexander, Peter Rothschild, Chloe Joule, Shey Conover, Liv Lenfestey

## On Zoom:

Peter Wilcox, Tim Logan, Donna Leone, Jane Wherren, Pam Filoramo, Harry Brigham, Fred Porter

1. Call Meeting to Order. Quorum Established
2. Draft Minutes ([1/11 Meeting](#) & [1/18 Meeting](#)) were approved
3. Shey Opened the floor for public comment, everyone said they were here just to listen. And provide support!

## Comms Update from Liv:

1. Big success at the library, about 30 people in attendance and Nancy and Sue did a great job at presenting. Lots of interest in the project.
  - a. This presentation followed a new script which was edited by Sue, Lauren, Shey, Shri, and Nancy.
  - b. During the Q&A, most people were concerned with what is being done at Ferry Road (mostly Arch Gillies) but reflects the communities interest in pursuing other SLR infrastructure projects
2. Chloe and I presented with the ICC board which went well, despite some technical difficulties
  - a. Community questions mostly centered on “sea level rise” vs “storm surge” flooding and identifying which is our immediate threat
3. Fred and I met yesterday and are working on getting a presentation set up the Sporting Club, due to some conflicting schedules it will most likely be in late April
4. Town Information Meeting is scheduled for April 10th, Shri will travel to the island for this event. Shey and Shri will present!
5. Working on finalizing a ShoreUp grant. Funds will be used to create a video and some graphics that will clearly show the proposed design alternatives. These graphics will be circulated to community members in May and June, before the SLRC and Select Board make the decision on the selected design concept. Michael Hutcherson will assist with video footage and editing.
  - a. Remaining funds will be used to begin project scoping and work at Ferry Road.
  - b. A slide deck that outlined the problem at ferry road and provided images of flooding from January’s storms was shared with John King to be presented to DOT and start a conversation about next steps with the State
6. Nancy commented on how during a Waldo County Democrats meeting Peter Rothschild presented on Sea Level Rise and did a great job
7. Peter Rothschild also talked about how he and Liv will be working together to get a forum event put together with the Tarentine Club to do some outreach with that crowd.
8. Peter Rothschild is interested in having Hannah Pingree travel to Islesboro to discuss climate action in Maine.

### **GZA and Project Manager Notes:**

- **Action Item:** Liv will upload the notes to the Shared drive after the meeting and the link will be shared with any interested parties.
  
- 1. The committee then turned to review the notes from this meeting. She gave an overview of the project timeline and our engagement with GZA. She emphasized that this is a multiyear process and the intention of working with GZA is to give us a scope of what our best option is— a bridge, a raised road, etc.
- 2. Nancy raised a question about whether all three sections of concern at the Narrows will be accounted for in each of the proposed designs.
  - a. This needs to be further clarified in
  - b. We had a comment from Bob Kochan who said “I want you to be careful with what you allow them to do. They may be good at Geotechnical work, but not very good at designing a bridge.” He noted that some engineers are more technologically advanced than others and offered his review services, as someone who works in forensic engineering.
- 3. Nancy brought up questions around the coring that may happen to determine where the bedrock is at the site.
  - a. She noted that we need to have more information in order to know where to drill and take core samples.
- 4. Bob brought up a question of if the committee had brought up “eminent domain”
  - a. She confirmed that we will not be taking anything by eminent domain.

### **Ferry Road Conversation**

1. She gave an overview of the Ferry Road project, highlighting that the committee chose to focus on the narrows first because it is a town owned road which simplifies things immensely. In 2021, we reached out to DOT about this issue and they said they would get back to us after they had completed a statewide SLR vulnerability study.
  - a. John King, Islesboro representative for MSFS, has been contacted about this issue and is in contact with DOT. John shared a slide deck with images of the flooding at ferry road with Bill Pulver. She shared it with Steve Cole, DOT planner
  - b. We received a response on all of these fronts, but no concrete answers. We hope to have more information on this in March
2. The committee discussed the potential of the ShoreUp grant being used for this project. Liv gave an overview of her expectation for the funds and got committee approval to apply for funds for ferry road even if the work takes place after her fellowship ends.
3. Peter commented that the projections for sea level rise may overrun the parking lot and roadway entirely, to a point where we do not want to invest more money in that location. As we plan for the new ferry, are we taking into account that this site may not be viable by 2050.
4. A discussion commenced on the ferry service and what is a viable solution for this site.
5. The committee decided to keep in continual contact with the state and stay on it in terms of “making the problem known”

**Budget:**

1. They introduced a discussion on budget planning for next year.
2. Nancy brought up a discussion on the electrical cable, noting that this could be packaged with the ferry road project.
  - a. Discussion continued on how this project will continue.
3. They pivoted back to a discussion on the budget. They noted that last year we asked for \$10,000, because grant funding covered much of our work.
  - a. We have about \$125,000 in a capital reserve fund as well. This can be used for engineering, matching funds, etc.
  - b. How much should we build in for meetings and information versus how much we can set aside for coastal resilience funds.
  - c. The Town wiped out their road repair funds and this is something we should be aware of. It helps us to be aware of where other large lumps of money will be asked this year.
  - d. Historically, \$25,000 each year has been put away in the capital reserve.
  - e. The committee needs more information on the FEMA funds that Fred is applying for
4. We had a public comment from Harry who lives on Billy Shore. He noted that the town helped dump rocks in some of the wash out, and offered further assistance in figuring out what to do in this area.
5. The committee concluded \$50,000 in capital reserve and \$5,000 on operational funds.

They asked for further questions or comments from anyone joining online.

The next meeting date was not set but planned for sometime in March.

Meeting adjourned.