

## St. George Resiliency Committee

Meeting minutes: 2/15/2023

Attendees:

Onsite: Richard Bates, Meg Rasmussen, Van Thompson, Leticia vanVuuren, Anne Rogers, Anne Cox, John Maltais (recording)

Zoom: Dan Verrillo, Jennifer O'Donnell

Meeting opened @ 5:00 PM, @ St. George Town Hall

Richard called for any additional comments/revisions to last month's minutes. None offered. Minutes accepted by team.

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Meg presented her plan (DRAFT) for Community engagement: "Rising Tides, Safe Roads, Working Waterfronts".

Agenda:

1. Welcome / Broad Intro – Meg or Van
2. Project Overview – Terry, Meg
3. Facilitated discussion – Meg +
4. Conclusions, Next steps – Meg or Van

First round table session: focus on community engagement relating to working waterfronts, road damage/flooding. Break session into perhaps two groups. Meg, Van to lead group discussions. Van may share details about LIDAR data collection, per potentially impacted Waterfront/Roads, other mapping, climate impact, MCOG.

First meeting – seek community feedback.

1. Welcome
  - a. Share Sebago Project
  - b. Talk Tech
  - c. LIDAR
  - d. Models
2. Working Waterfront
  - a. Impact
  - b. Demographics
3. Morph into facilitated discussion
  - a. Explore
    - i. "What do you know that we should know?"
      1. Have maps ready to facilitate discussion
      2. Latisha will assist with maps
      3. Maps will help engagement
      4. Identify areas of vulnerability (mapped)
    - ii. "We know these areas. What do you know?"
      1. Latisha: Exclude 2019 maps
      2. Use coastal flood viewer during meeting
      3. Possibly include Island Institute Sea Rise maps
      4. Use Low/Med/High vulnerability assessment maps
  - b. Round Table
    - i. Consider using single map, present sea level rise scenarios
    - ii. Consider inclusion of Mitigation Plan detail

- iii. Large format: 3 copies of same map, for use in working session discussions
- iv. “What is important to you?”
- v. “What challenges?”
- vi. “Next Steps”

Rich: How much spend can community support? For example, what is reasonable investment at Drift Inn Beach? How much can Town be expected to allocate? Over what time frame?

Van: Next steps – evaluate cost, prioritization

Discussion leads to ideas – learn what is most important, followed by cost estimates, investment.

Anne C.: How decide priorities. Process?

Jen: Expectation management is important. Cost does come into it. Prioritize. Expectation Management is needed, since can't do it all.

Van: Don't know prioritizes yet.

Meg: When questions come up in future – process will emerge.

To perhaps say fixing all issues - likely very expensive. Budget is needed. Can't do it all – is a given.

Jen: Agree. Consider including a timeline. Problems will not be fixed tomorrow. Follow priorities, while seeking to keep engagement.

Van: Explore grant funding

Jen: Funding goes to “Shovel Ready Projects”. Having plans leads to money and investment. St. George is a demo project site. We are in a good position.

Anne C.: Common values are important towards making decisions.

Meg: Add Talking Point: Manage Expectations.

Anne C.: How get visitors to meeting?

Meg: Van will lead talk

Van: Sites have been named. 120 candidate locations, using detail from town broadband audit.

Anne C: Don't see bridge at Martinsville listed. Was then explained because this is labeled “other”.

Meg: Flyer in mailbox by Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see this out to public by next week.

Meg to share details with Dan for posting on Town Conservation webpage. Link – Social Media push. Use of short link recommended. Dan talking with his IT team to help. Include on Sea Level Rise section.

Rich: Once post is ready – get short URL. Site available: <https://www.stgeorgemaine.com/community-resilience-committee>

Meg to Dan: How will you make a short link?

Rich/Dan to coordinate link development – share with Meg.

Rich: Will help with link development.

Anne C: Post on Main Page of Town website.

Meg: Post handouts at usual spots in town... SGBA, CDC, Colby College, JML. Van to help.

Meg: Help needed to ask SGBA. John to inquire. Marshall Point: inquire with Nat Lyons. Fishing Community representation – Island Institute has been asked. John Tripp to be called.

Anne C.: Tony Small to be called by Meg. Request facilitator.

Anne C: Engage with fisherman's alliance. Conversations have occurred prior. Request to CC: Van, Meg on any alliance communications.

3 kinds of help needed for meeting:

1. Setup/Run zoom. Monitor zoom chat/communications.
2. Setup room
3. Take notes

Meeting scheduled: 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Town Hall.

Anne Rodgers will help setup room.

Rich: Send zoom details to John/Van where J/V will assist with zoom setup.

Question: How capture notes?

Van: Open discussion is better. Capture bullets.

Suggestion: Use sign up sheet for meeting attendees.

Meg: This is all set.

Team: This planned community meeting has tremendous potential.

Meg: What controversies to expect?

Rich: from 2019, concern about salt in wells – and possible Impact to two town water supplies. Not addressed in 2019. Colby may have options to explore.

Van: Studies have shown: no noted issue with “transverse” fractures in Saint George. Intrusion of salinity minimal. Concern modest. Allen Isle “potentially” could be affected because of different geology. Monitor wells there – possible early indicator of emerging issue.

Anne C.: Even with issue at Isle – Might not affect Saint George.

Rich: Some summer impact noted

Van: Could be due to other factors. Van asks – any resident complaints?

Anne C.: No – no one wants to see hit to property value by sharing possible issues with water supply.

Rich: Topic raised at Town Meeting. State Survey team – no help. Prior testing shows no signs of saltwater intrusion. More demand for fresh water in summer season. Option: add storage system to bridge periods of seasonal high demand.

Meg: Topic: meeting around working waterfront? Private property. Social benefits can boost funding. How do we see town helping working waterfront areas?

Rich: Raise building levels?

Meg: No.

Anne C.: Examples?

Meg: Look to other towns for examples.

Rich: Consider develop Port Clyde

Meg: Town could help keep access by adapting land use planning

Anne C.: Land use ordinance adjustments – assist fisheries, not agriculture.

Van: Asks, where are you at certain road locations?

Rich: Who is responsible? State/Town for roads?

Meg: Support fisheries access.

Anne C.: Question goes to setting priorities.

Rich: Note that state has previously reneged on road maintenance requirements. May not be reliable partner.

Anne C.: Prior studies said issue are too difficult. cursory review (only skimmed).

Van: How work with state? Initially – make state aware. How fund?

Rich: Those are two separate things.

Meg: Local towns are banding together to address greenhouse gas emission reduction. County wide effort. There are common things we can all do. Suzy Ellis is championing this. What difference small group of communities make? Involving more towns – good step. GMRI training and awareness – expanding to include our area. Ask others to help. Take training.

Lat: requests email address for sending maps; include 3 height levels on one map.

Team: Agreed to wait until after 28<sup>th</sup> town meeting before planning next Resiliency Committee meeting date.

Anne C.: Newsletter in works – expected release: 24<sup>th</sup>

Rich: zoom meeting access details to be sent to john/Van.

Next meeting: To Be Announced

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 PM

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A variety of cookies were on hand for anyone to enjoy.