

St. George Ad hoc SLR Committee meeting
December 16, 2019

Present at the meeting committee members: Richard Bates, Sandra Roak, Dan Verrillo, John McIlwain, Anne Cox; also attending: Tim Polky, David Percival, Sherm Hoyt, Ann Matlack (state representative)

The charge for the committee:

The Ad Hoc SLR Committee is comprised of representatives of certain Town boards, committees and commissions, as well as interested citizens, in order to explore sea level rise and related issues that pertain to the Town of St. George, the life safety of its residents, and the possible future impact on the infrastructure of the Town. It shall coordinate and share information with committees and commissions of the Town, as well as with appropriate county, regional, and state level organizations.

Current members include: Richard Bates (Select Board), Richard Cohen (Budget Committee), Anne Cox (Planning Board), Alison England (St. George School), John McIlwain, Sandra Road, Dan Verrillo (Conservation Commission)

1. Expanding the committee.

Richard Bates agreed to chair this meeting and see the committee through the Maine Flood Resiliency Checklist Evaluation meeting in February, 2020. Anne Cox agreed to take notes on the meeting.

The committee currently has representatives from the budget committee, Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and the school, as well as interested citizens. A brief discussion regarding committee composition surfaced looking for participation from the fishing community, particularly with regard to aquaculture (Anne will contact Merritt Carey), along with the possibility of a representative from the CDC and from the Business Alliance.

2. Maine Flood Resiliency Checklist (MFRC) Evaluation Meeting.

This meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 29, 2020. Richard Bates passed around the outline of what Vinalhaven did at their MFRC meeting. We will be following a similar format. Richard will be contacting possible facilitators.

[Note from 12/23/19: Letitia vanVuuren, from the Knox County EMA office, and Bill Najpauer, from the Midcoast Economic Development District, have agreed to facilitate our Flood Resilience Checklist Evaluation workshop on February 29.]

We will target January 15, 2020 as the date by which invitations to people we would like to participate in this meeting. In addition to town staff, we identified the following as people who would be helpful to this conversation:

Business Alliance members (Anne will be in touch with Sandra Hall, chair of the SGBA)

Comprehensive Plan committee (Sandra Hall also wears this hat)

CDC *[I did not have a note as to who would do this — AEC]*

Neighbor to Neighbor (Dave Percival will contact Steve Maxwell, chair)

Lobster Coops (Sherm Hoyt will contact them)

Herring Gut (Sherm Hoyt will contact Kathy Barker, Exec. Dir.)

Town's Emergency Shelter Group (Dave Percival will make contact)

Those who talk to possible participants for the Feb, 29 meeting will make sure Richard Bates has the names so he can include them in the Jan. 15 invitation.

Discussing including other neighboring towns in this meeting, we agreed not to. We can alert them to what we are doing, knowing that there may be future points of overlap. Perhaps the approach is to let the town managers of neighboring towns know what we are doing.

3. Conservation Commission

Dan reported that the CC has SLR on their list of topics for their educational lectures. Sandra gave Dan a contact for a speaker on climate change issues. Anne suggested looking at the living shore line, how to live with a changing shore, issues related to shoreline stabilization, and will pass some resources on to him on the topic.

4. Communications

Richard will work with Tim to see that there is a space on the town website for SLR information. He will also add SLR to the monthly report on the news of boards, committees and commissions in the Town.

5. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14 at 3 pm at the Town Office.