

Town of Northport
Climate Resilience Committee
Notes, 30 Oct 2023

NEXT MEETING: Wed. Nov. 15, 10:00 (Northport Village Corporation Office, 813 Shore Rd.)

Present: Dave Cameron, Susan Conard, Celine Bewsher, Christine Anderson-Morehouse, Tinsley Morrison, Janae Novotny, Peter Spotlett, Gordon Fuller, Molly Schaufler, James Kossuth.

What is our mission?

Make recommendations to Town officials for how best to address climate change challenges identified as priority concerns by Townspeople during the June 2023 Climate Resilience public hearing (>40 attendees) and the online survey (>75 responses):

What priorities were identified last June? (from the Maine Won't Wait list of community actions: F1 (Climate risks assessment and Climate Action Plan), G1 (Vulnerability assessment for Town infrastructure) emerged as overarching priorities. B1 (Plan for energy efficiency) and Section H (Public engagement/education) were also identified as high priorities.

- Priority F1 Conduct a community vulnerability assessment that identifies climate risks and vulnerable populations and includes a review of existing plans and policies. Adopt a Climate Resilience Plan that describes high priority strategies for reducing risk and vulnerabilities...
- Priority G1 Conduct a vulnerability assessment for critical community infrastructure that includes: 1) the climate hazards to which infrastructure assets are exposed and how the intensity and likelihood will change over time; 2) the susceptibility to damage or failure given location, design, age, condition, and state of repair; and 3) the consequences that impairment or failure of the infrastructure will have on the community.
- Priority H (generally): Increase public awareness of climate change impacts and opportunities to take action
- Priority B1 Adopt and execute a plan for energy efficiency and building envelope weatherization improvements for municipal/tribal buildings.

What initial ideas or interests are we each bringing to the table?

1. Identify / map / assess specific vulnerabilities and vulnerable neighborhoods and individuals in Northport, e.g. vulnerability due to... (related to F1)
 - Power outages
 - Road washouts, stormwater management, & storm surge problems
 - Loss of (or poor) internet connectivity

- Communication strategy during emergencies
 - (farther down the road) potential for wildfires and rapid population increase.
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2. Draft a Climate Action Plan for Northport (probably an emerging/evolving document) (F1)
 3. Vulnerability assessment of Town and Village infrastructure (related to G1)

In process:

 - The Town Hall was assessed and deemed dysfunctional; plans for a new Town Hall attached to the Firehouse are in early stages.
 - The Town and NVC were awarded State CRP funding in Sept. to conduct a Coastal Stabilization Engineering Study, a first step to address active shoreline erosion problems.

Next steps:

 - Include Bayside NVC infrastructure (water, sewer, buildings) in infrastructure assessment
 - Map stormwater and drainage concerns throughout the town.
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 4. Education: Help Townspeople become aware of... (related to H)
 - The need to develop climate-resilient strategies (individually and community-wide)
 - Available opportunities for adaptive technology, supportive community resources, and/or affordable options for financing upfront costs to transition.
 - Simple steps residents can take to help mitigate local problems and increase community resilience, like keeping your culvert clear, check in with neighbors ...
 - Encouraging examples of how neighbors have taken steps to be more resilient.
 - The traditional values and core qualities of Northport, Bayside, and Temple Heights communities, and the importance of sustaining those values as we adapt to change.
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 5. Improve energy efficiency and management (related to B)
 - Collect / analyze / summarize information to help maximize building efficiency of the new Town Hall
 - Help research funding needs & opportunities to support energy efficient technology & design
 - Explore policy options, incentives, education, or other strategies to encourage energy efficient new development in Northport
 - Identify opportunities to help the most vulnerable individuals meet their energy needs more reliably and more affordably.
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