

1 **Town of Northport**  
 2 **Climate Resilience Committee**  
 3 Minutes, 13 Dec 2023

4  
 5 **NEXT MEETING:** Jan 31, 10:00 AM, NVCO (Bayside Community Hall)

6  
 7 **PRESENT:** James Kossuth, Molly Schauffler, Susan Conard, Gordon Fuller, Celine Bewsher,  
 8 Tinsley Morrison

9  
 10 **AGENDA: (with minutes, indented)**

- 11  
 12 ● Approve 11/15 minutes  
 13 Minutes approved with only one change: spelling of Peter Spollet's name  
 14  
 15 ● 12/11 Waldo County Climate Collaboration meeting update: Susan Conard  
 16 Waldo County Climate Collaboration began as a Belfast effort to bring together  
 17 various groups to collaborate on addressing climate concerns and exchanging  
 18 information. They decided to expand to be a Waldo County group. The meeting  
 19 was well attended and represented by local climate orgs. Sue introduced the  
 20 NCRC and gave a summary of our status. They will meet monthly, on  
 21 Wednesday mornings. Their next meeting is Jan 24, 2024 (9:00 to 12:00), in the  
 22 Abbot Room of the Belfast Library. We will adjust our meeting schedule to not  
 23 conflict.  
 24  
 25 ● Creating a "climate action board" google spreadsheet to organize and track goals,  
 26 priorities, next steps, and who is doing what by when.  
 27 Tinsley volunteered to take on the creation and implementation of a  
 28 spreadsheet/task tracker for NCRC and will share it with the group when it is  
 29 ready. Molly said that it will be good to have a way to sort grant and funding  
 30 opportunities.

31  
 32 Molly: We can start thinking about what funding we can apply for next fall through  
 33 the Community Resilience Partnership. Likely to be another \$50,000 or perhaps  
 34 more if we partner with another town.

35  
 36 **SIDEBAR:** Update on developments on shoreline stabilization project: An  
 37 engineering firm has been identified for the survey/planning phase:  
 38 Gartley & Dorsky. Sue asked what are the next steps for getting the  
 39 funding to implement the actual stabilization work? Celine summarized  
 40 that the survey phase will continue through the coming fiscal year, end of  
 41 2024. James and Celine have finished applying for "preauthorization" for  
 42 the next phase of funding and though it will be complicated, progress is  
 43 underway. The areas to be stabilized will be inspected by federal and  
 44 state (?) authorities and they will determine if we qualify for the funding

1 and if we do, the next step will be to write the grant application (June of  
2 2024) for funding to pay for the actual stabilization work. Celine also has  
3 reason to hope that much of the stabilization work will be nature-based as  
4 opposed to sea-wall construction and therefore possibly less invasive and  
5 less expensive than initially thought.  
6

7 Sue asked if the funding needs to be applied for in June, but the survey  
8 plan is not ready till winter, will there at least be a partial plan? James  
9 explained that the engineer gave a projected timeline: hopes to be done  
10 with surveying by April 2024, the civil design to be done by June 2024,  
11 client review and permit approval processes by June through July 2024.  
12 This should give us a good sense of actual construction cost by June  
13 2024.  
14

15 Molly brought up the community outreach and education elements that  
16 we should try to address going forward. (I will put this on the next meeting  
17 agenda.) Asking for community input on design, Informing citizens of  
18 vulnerability and asking them to weigh in. Celine suggests that we partner  
19 with MCOG and ask for their help to organize a town event in spring with  
20 an update, feedback, and a conversation. Molly says we can share our  
21 vulnerability map. Sue asked if the outreach will include informing the  
22 adjacent shoreline landowners of the stabilization work and opportunities  
23 for tie-in, and Celine answered that she understands that is going to be  
24 handled by Gartley & Dorsky. Informing citizens of vulnerabilities and  
25 changes (as a follow up to the June 2023 meeting) should be community  
26 wide and we should also have a meeting (probably before the town-wide  
27 meeting) for shoreline property owners that focuses on their issues.  
28 James had a call from Paul Bernake (sp?) requesting that he and other  
29 abutters of the project areas be kept in the loop re: shoreline stabilization  
30 developments.  
31

32 Gordon asked for a re-cap of the areas to be focused on for stabilization  
33 and they are: Bayview Park , Auditorium Park, Kelly Cove, section of  
34 Shore Road from around 585-591. Gordon mentioned that some of the  
35 Shore Rd. area is private property, James explained that Shore Rd. is a  
36 "four rod" road meaning that the town right of way extends 33' on either  
37 side of the center line.  
38

39 Celine recapped and received James's OK to begin planning (in January)  
40 the two meetings for Springs: a town-wide meeting and a smaller  
41 shoreline survey-related meeting.  
42

43 Molly brought up the goal of increasing the town newsletter subscription list.  
44 James replied that our newsletter subscriber growth has been very small for the

1 last year (approx 2 people added per month). We have 415 subscribers currently.  
 2 Molly suggests that we all make an effort to push subscriptions. (Sue and Gordon  
 3 signed up.) Celine wonders if we should do a mailing blast for subscribers, or a  
 4 sign-up sheet at the town office? We agree that putting renewed effort into the  
 5 town office sign-up sheet is a good plan. Gordon suggested that we can run a  
 6 reminder in the “Northport News” section of the Republican Journal.  
 7

- 8 ● Mapping drainage issues with Amon Morse and Bill Paige.
  - 9 ○ I met with Amon and Bill and a big map and we highlighted all the trouble spots  
 10 that they knew of. Let’s have a look and see if there are any more that you know  
 11 of that we can mark. Once that’s done, I will use a large-scale scanner to digitize  
 12 it. From there we can add layers of more information and update as needed.

13  
 14 Tinsley rolled out the maps and we all gathered around to discuss and  
 15 highlight more areas of concern.  
 16

- 17 ● Grants and funding (funding subcommittee—did we identify who this is? Celine and  
 18 anyone else?)
  - 19 ○ Let’s briefly go over current possible targets, identify which ones we can go for,  
 20 and hand that over to the grant subcommittee.

- 21 ■ <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/grants/>
- 22 ■ [https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/OCED\\_Rural-Remote%20Fed%20Overview.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/OCED_Rural-Remote%20Fed%20Overview.pdf)
- 23 ■ [Resource Events December 4, 2023.docx](#)

24  
 25 Tinsley recapped this agenda item, and that we had already  
 26 discussed it pretty well earlier in the meeting. The grant  
 27 subcommittee is identified as Celine and James.  
 28

29 Grant opportunities will be added to the task spreadsheet.  
 30

31 Celine brought up the idea that since we are identifying culverts  
 32 that need work, should we apply for the next round of funding  
 33 (50K) to address drainage. Molly replied that we have time  
 34 because we are not eligible for the Spring round, but that we can  
 35 try for Fall of 2024. We will prepare our evidence (with photos  
 36 linked to map) and plan and see what emerges for funding.  
 37

38 James said that getting photo evidence is a good idea, and we  
 39 should definitely go out as we can during rain storms and get  
 40 photos of trouble areas, culverts and ditches.  
 41

42 Sue mentioned that she is interested in finding other grant  
 43 opportunities related to climate resiliency other than just drainage  
 44 (like energy efficiency, etc), so she will be digging into that.

1  
2 ● Education and outreach (Priority H)

3 ○ Brainstorm ideas

- 4 ■ One idea I have is to create a webpage, it could be linked through the  
5 town website. It would have useful info for homeowners including tips for  
6 energy efficiency, stormwater management, and resources like rebates,  
7 etc. Dan Morrison (my husband) is currently producing a series of simple,  
8 animated informational and how-to videos (aimed at homeowners) for the  
9 Pacific Northwest National Labs that he has offered to let us use if  
10 appropriate. Here is an example (\*\*please don't share this video just yet  
11 as it is still in the approval process):

12 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30fC4lWKJQc>

13  
14 Tinsley acknowledged that we have already touched on outreach  
15 and education and generated some ideas earlier in the meeting.

16  
17 Tinsley talked about the idea of the NCRC website. Celine asked  
18 if it could be part of the town website, and James answered that  
19 yes, indeed, we already have a rudimentary page that can be  
20 added to. The platform is Wordpress, with which Tinsley has some  
21 very basic familiarity. We also discussed the possibility of  
22 volunteer website builders and possibly getting students to do it as  
23 community service/work experience. Celine will follow up on  
24 asking a student. We also talked briefly about adding the PNNL  
25 videos as they become available.

26  
27 ● Anything else we want to talk about?

28  
29 Molly gave a quick update (since Dave was not here) on the goal (being  
30 managed by Dave) of conducting an energy audit of the town. I will add this topic  
31 to the task spreadsheet. Celine asked if the audit might be had for free? That is  
32 something we will look into. There are companies that do free energy audits for  
33 individuals, but it remains to be seen if we can get one to do a whole town. We  
34 will ask Dave to see if that's a possibility. Sue mentioned that the federal gov't  
35 may have audit funding that we can tap.

36  
37 Molly brought up the vulnerability assessment priority and wondered if the energy  
38 audit is connected to or separate from infrastructure vulnerability. We agree that  
39 they are separate things. We can add map layers which include town structures  
40 with photos and notes (like for the drainage) and example being Bayside's  
41 wastewater treatment structure. To figure out what it all is, we can use Dave's  
42 energy audit list and go through them one by one and delineate the  
43 vulnerabilities, whatever they are. We will need to include other structures too  
44 that don't use energy such as: the public landings, etc.

1 We agree to add a layer to the map which shows the electric grid. We can keep  
2 track of outages and understand vulnerabilities better this way. Celine mentioned  
3 that the ideal long-term solution to power outages is putting the grid  
4 underground.

5  
6 Molly connected the dots with the recycling committee which is looking at  
7 reducing the town's recycling costs with a trash compactor. The issue is that they  
8 need power at the transfer station to run the compactor. We need to investigate  
9 which is more affordable: a solar array at the site or having CMP run power in  
10 from Beech Hill Rd. James had found that running power will be about \$100,000  
11 (\$25.00 per foot). We are adding this research to the task board. Celine asked if  
12 we have communicated with Belfast re: recycling and we are assured that yes,  
13 they have asked, and no, Belfast definitely does not want anything to do with  
14 Northport's recycling. Molly let us know that the Recycling Committee will be  
15 giving a report of their findings and recommendations at the Jan 8 Select Board  
16 Meeting (6:15 PM, @ Town Hall)

17 Sue brought up that one thing to think about regarding the new town  
18 office, which hopefully will have solar panels is if the transfer station is  
19 producing electricity through solar (and maybe wind) it could help offset  
20 the town hall's energy use.

- 21  
22 ● Schedule our next meeting :)

23 **January 31, Wednesday. 10:00, NVCO**

24 Meanwhile, committee business can be done via email and our Google drive  
25