

# Swampscott Climate Action Plan Committee

## Minutes (Final)

Received by Town Clerk  
April 3, 2024 4:28pm

Wednesday March 13, 2024 at 6:30 PM  
*Town Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room and Virtual Meeting (details below)*

*As set forth above, this meeting/hearing of the Swampscott Climate Action Plan Committee will be held in person and/or virtually as provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend*

Called to order 6:34 PM

Attendees: Martha, Suzanne, Doug, Gerri, Neil, Lilly, Sierra

Agenda:

1. Review/approval of meeting minutes from February 6, 2023  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tS38ktc0Klv8pQX\\_hJE4zdVFzJRyyKkLFqcz7VyVYtE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tS38ktc0Klv8pQX_hJE4zdVFzJRyyKkLFqcz7VyVYtE/edit)
  - o Motion to approve: Gerri, Lilly 2nd, Unanimous approval
2. Specialized Energy Code - Community Meeting (2/27/2024) feedback
  - o Not much feedback or pushback. Went well!
  - o Was put forward at a town meeting on Monday and it was passed!
  - o The Renewable Energy Committee helped get momentum and helped folks understand its importance. Kudos!
3. Coastal Resilience - proposed projects for future funding (grants/capital etc)
  - o Feedback from meeting with Rep Armini and Climate Chief M. Hoffer on 2/23
    - i. Fisherman's beach/fish house meeting.
    - ii. Mostly informal/casual conversation, but we gave highlights from our plans (Kleinfelder Report, MVP etc)
    - iii. Talked about grant opportunities and their perspectives
  - o Presentation to Select Board in March
  - o [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wqXxkgavBbbIAo37BV5lhMEvORRoWRcu/edit#slide=id.g2b58814e39d\\_1\\_10](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wqXxkgavBbbIAo37BV5lhMEvORRoWRcu/edit#slide=id.g2b58814e39d_1_10)
  - o Grant potentials (MVP 2025 Action Grant, MVP 2.0,
    - i. Application deadlines are coming up in the next month
    - ii. Marzie, Martha, and Doug are working on it
    - iii. Fisherman is a good area to put forward for these grants
    - iv. Up to 2M
    - v. Webinar details

1. Both address mitigation to climate change.
  2. MVP is a little more flooding-oriented and community involvement
  3. Coastal Resilience is more about erosion mitigation
    - a. North shore coordinator breakout session that martha attended
    - b. Asked about the Kleinfelder report. The coordinator didn't think we needed to. But not sure if they've fully looked into the limitations of the report.
  4. Both like to see nature-based solutions.
- Follow up meeting on Monday w/ Green communities, CZM, dredging person and more
    - i. On their radar and know that we're interested and involved in state funding opportunities.
  - Managed retreat and mitigation
    - i. Historic community complicates things,
  - Kleinfelder: Our MVP points directly to the Kleinfelder report.
    - i. Quantified and specified the risks at the beaches. Ranked/scored.
    - ii. Fishermans beach to Philips park is the highest risk area
    - iii. Then Eisman's beach seawall
    - iv. 2016
    - v. Doesn't take wave run up, overtopping + into account. It's not entirely comprehensive.
    - vi. Next step recommendation from Doug + comments:
      1. Do a comprehensive update to the Kleinfelder report
        - a. Nature-based solutions
        - b. Robust, scientifically driven, community engagement
        - c. Entire beach scope
      2. ID and assess potential solutions to the highest risk areas
      3. Goal: one comprehensive assessment that is our foundation. Prioritized lists not a menu of options. Robust cost estimates.
      4. Doesn't need to be the same firm, open bid process.
      5. Martha comments
        - a. Go for a study of just Fishermans? So we can make quicker action progress.
      6. Sierra comments
        - a. Recognize both perspectives
        - b. The report is 7 years old
        - c. If we're going to put money into things it needs to be very defensible

- d. Coastal resiliency is topical in town
  - e. Cost and timeline for this type of comprehensive report?
    - i. Minor cost bc it's a low match requirement for the grants
    - ii. Probably a few months?
- 7. Gerri comment:
  - a. Hazard mitigation plan is going to touch on this when it's updated. Where are we in that?
    - i. We have a grant for this HMP update.
    - ii. Could we loop in that work for this Project Prioritization?
      - 1. Just problems not solutions for HMP
- 8. Propose: let's go back to coastal resiliency (Kathryn Glynn and Michele Rowden at MVP) and have a conversation ASAP before the RFR is released
  - a. Set up a call and get a more detailed perspective
- 9. Fishermans
  - a. Alternatives Analysis for Fishermans
    - i. Living reef might be out of scope/ for MVP or Coastal Zone Management
      - 1. Eelgrass is a major consideration
      - 2. Where it's helpful for erosion and boating is directly in the eelgrass bed. Permitting is unlikely
      - 3. Would need to be truly "living"
    - ii. That analysis would tell us what impacts would happen
  - b. Is it the longest stretch where the town owns the coastline?
    - i. Not residential
    - ii. An obstacle for the comprehensive study is that so much of the coast is privately owned. But Klienfelder did that scope and talked about taking ownership of the seawalls/housing. Not in the next 3-5 years
    - iii. We should go where we already own the coastline
  - c. Nature-based solutions
    - i. Always includes some degree of assumed managed retreat

- ii. There will be areas of town that are ALWAYS flooded by 2050 due to sea level rise. The modeling is getting more severe.
  - 10. A third-party expert could be advantageous for the full-scope of the needs and impacts of the different projects.
    - a. Here's what's fundable, what's at risk, what's the arguments for why what is recommended is needed
- Grant Strategy
  - i. Told by the state to go with the same project for both MVP and coastal resiliency
  - ii. Doug: We could do both of these things in one grant
- Zoning updates with the recent flood maps is something we can do while all these grant/analysis are done.
  - i. Zoning was redone post-Kleinfelder report
  - ii. EEA has a technical assistance grant for this purpose.
  - iii. Climate resilience and flood hazard overlay districts is happening in Salem. We could look to them. More stringent than FEMA
- Momentum building
  - i. Use the town newsletter to keep the flooding
  - ii. Sierra will write blurb
- Selectboard follow up
  - i. Doug and Martha and members from other committees meeting with Sean and Marzie tomorrow about the grant application strategy
  - ii. Lots of chatter about the pier project.
    - 1. We don't need to comment unless it's going to interfere with resiliency efforts
    - 2. Kleinfelder suggested raising the pier
- 4. HWAC project status discussion
- 5. Earth Day - scheduled for Saturday April 27, discuss ideas for tabling/demos
  - Asking for a table
  - Revise and community first program will be tabling too
  - Sierra will be there, but is already wearing too many hats
    - i. Has the materials
  - Present the Flood Maps
  - Pull out pages from Resilient Swampscott
    - i. There are powerful graphics
    - ii. Make a nice, reusable poster
    - iii. Don't do foamcore, laminated poster
  - Call to Action - go to the website? Sign a petition?

- Activity - Take a carbon footprint test?
- Earth Day Sub Group
  - i. Gerri, Lilly, Doug
  - ii. What can you do
  - iii. What materials do we need?
- 6. Status update on Capital Projects using ARPA funds (Doug)
  - Not yet!
  - Ask - plug in the capital plan for climate-related funding
    - i. Sustainability manager?
    - ii. 75k match for EV installations
    - iii. Proposed charging stations for Phillips Park and at the fire station
    - iv. Down the line, money for a solar canopy.
- 7. Other business
  - Heritage Trail Signs status (Thomas Starr - Suzanne, Sierra)
    - i. Meeting on Friday
    - ii. Permanently mark structures (fish house?) of future sea level rise
  - Sustainable Marblehead update, and Green Homes tour Saturday, May 4th, 10-2
    - i. Martha met with some folks
    - ii. More participation, but not far ahead of us
    - iii. Heat pump ambassadors, green homes tour, etc.
    - iv. REC is talking about something similar.
  - RS posting to next monthly newsletter
    - i. Sierra
  - Candidates for open seat on CAPC
    - i. Suzanne followed up with a Swampscott HS student, will ping again, but
  - List of resources
  - [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dSjyHXZoOFMe3nDpThk1eHdjs\\_cmsVj2x8iqgczv6L0/edit?usp=drive\\_link](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dSjyHXZoOFMe3nDpThk1eHdjs_cmsVj2x8iqgczv6L0/edit?usp=drive_link)
  - Airtable status
  - <https://airtable.com/app9CzKJGgMNkxMdy/tblntkR9LHsREqGoj/viwXEKe8E2dF6nDPZ?blocks=hide>
  - CAPC Name and Charter - did Select Board review? (Doug)
    - i. Frittered out a bit within SB
    - ii. Do our own effort within the committee to get this change done
    - iii. Doug will email to check on the procedures.
    - iv. Climate Action and Resilience Committee.
  - ConCom Flood Protection brochure and proposed bylaw
  - Ideas on utilizing Revise money - Greenscapes, Bike Lane protectors
    - i. Go back to REC, Greenscapes

- Review updates to CAPC website
  - i. Updated! Check it out.

#### Next Meeting Date

- First Tuesday of the month
- April 2nd at 6:30pm

#### Action Items

- Grants
- Newsletter blurbs
- Earth Day

Motion to adjourn by Lilly, 2nd by Sierra, All in favor.

Adjourned 7:46

*If accessing the meeting online or on the smartphone app, you will be muted upon entering the meeting but can be unmuted to speak by using the “raise your hand” feature in the application.*

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Meeting ID: 269 933 759 769**

**Passcode: vamNLH**

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

