

COMMON FENCE POINT PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE (CFPPC)
Minutes September 6, 2023

PURPOSE: Discuss the issues, goals and purposes, along with the wonderful things which have happened and are to come.

CALL TO ORDER: Nicole Gotovich at 6:35PM

ATTENDEES: Nicole Gotovich Jim Fogerty
 Paula Connelly Tom Charbonneau Nancy Arruda Nary
 Paige Myatt Mil Kinsella

ON ZOOM: Chris Thompson Chuck Milksis

BUSINESS:

- Review and approved of August 2023 minutes with Amendments; Under "NEWSLETTER" Mil corrected "semi-annual 'Saltmarsh Chronicles'" to "semi-annual and last one was called 'Saltmarsh Chronicles.'" Also "EMERGENY MANAGEMENT" was corrected to "EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT."

CFPIA:

- On September 9th there will be "The Sakonnet Coastal Bike and Stroll". It is a family event, through Island Park, the Hummocks to Common Fence. It will be 9:00am – 12noon. Exit #3 route 24 N will be closed to vehicle traffic during this time.
- Also during the September 9th weekend, the CFP VFW is looking for volunteers to clean out their upstairs bar. There was also a rumor that the VFW was sold off in order to become a restaurant, this is NOT true. The VFW is doing long overdue renovations by renovating the bar and opening it up as a non-smoker establishment and maybe have some type of food service in the future, along with fixing their parking lot.
- The CFPIA will have the election of Officers at the September 13th CFPIA community Meeting at 7 PM. To vote you must be a resident, active dues and paying member. Voting can be done online or in-person. If you are interested in joining the Board please contact Conley.

SEPAC:

- Jeff Prater was not able to attend but Nicole read an email from Jeff that stated that he still would like to propose that CF Blvd be a one-way for pedestrians and bicyclists, which would make CF Blvd safer. In order to accomplish this Brian Woodhead, DPW Director, and the Town are commissioning a street study. Nicole suggested making Anthony Rd and RI Blvd a 4-way stop and Anthony Rd and Massasoit Ave a 2-way stop with the stop sign for vehicles coming down the hill in order to give vehicles a safer entry into CFP from the Access Rd and the family in the first house at this intersection ample time to exit and enter their driveway.
- The work on the Taylor's Point marsh is still scheduled for November 2023.

NEWSLETTER:

- We will receive a draft of the Newsletter template, or layout, from Alex Pouliot (URI) when we meet with the URI team visiting the Oyster Farm and CFP on September 22nd. This Newsletter will include the Interview with CFP residents, My Coast, and Pictures. Mil is writing her articles and we can decide what others would be appropriate.
- Mill suggested reading a free RI Sea Grant & Coastal Research magazine called "41 North" to get ideas for the Newsletter.
- Nancy is looking into pricing at Modern Printing in Fall River, MA. We are also trying to think of a name, or title, for the Newsletter. Some names were: "Preparing the Point," "Common Sense for Common Fence," and "Rep the Prep."

FORUMS:

- Nicole reported there will be a Beach Cleanup with Save the Bay on October 7th. More will be posted on this event in the near future.

- Pam Rubinoff and her team from URI will be visiting, via kayaks, the oyster farm in Blue Bill Cove on Friday September 22nd. They want to come to CFP to visit and explore the projects Pam has been working on with the CFPPC and SEAPC. These include the plantings, the Taylor's marsh project, and the ball field. We will have lunch together about noon and discuss the progress of the various areas of focus.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- Ray was unable to attend this meeting.

RESILIENCE BUILDING:

- Linda Ujifusa was very helpful last month in discussing possible grants to support the committee and communities efforts to address; sea level rise, storm drain and flooding issues as well as infrastructure and mitigation. Linda invited Paige Myatt, Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank's (<https://www.riib.org/about/who-we-are/>) Aquidneck Island Regional Resilience Coordinator, whom did attend this meeting.
- The Regional Aquidneck Island Hazard Mitigation Plan (Newport, Middletown, & Portsmouth) is now under review by FEMA. Application for Federal Funding a regional plan is \$75,000 for the 3 towns, each town will receive more funding, a 25% match divided among Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth. This would include workshops, consultations, etc.
- The towns will not be excluded from Federal Funding if the Regional Plan expires before approval while the plan is being worked on. Lea Hitchen, Portsmouth's Town Planner, submitted an application in December 2022.
- There is also a 2 year grant coming out next week totaling of \$10 million for "Justice40". This grant is meant to help disadvantaged communities by giving them 40% of Federal grant money.
- Next Week there will be Action Planning Grants that Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth can request, upwards of \$1 to 2 million which is funding for Design (construction) & Engineering; co-benefit grants, example shoreline access with recreation.
- At the municipality level there is no funding for planning and feasibility, but there is for nonprofits.
- Maryland's plan is leading the pack in its content. It is called the Hampton Roads Plan. It includes: Shoreline, storm water, mitigation, preparedness.

The process for applying for Federal grants:

1. Organize
2. Community Involvement
3. Multiple municipalities
4. Same outcomes
5. Bundles
6. A lot of flexibility to work together
7. Out comes to address: Flooding, shore line access, protection

Specific Areas for Grant funding: Green Mitigation, Environmental Equity, Biden Justice40 (disadvantaged, 40% of the federal funding), Capacity Building (ex CFP Flood Mitigation for storms and flooding), etc.

Steps for future

1. Meet with Leah, Planning department
2. Meet with Paige, Leah, grants
3. Partner CFPIA with Town
4. Ray Perry can assist in looking at Operations Guide...list of what has been done
5. Work on public education, community involvement, capacity building
6. Brian Woodhead and Lea Hitchen good to open up a dialog with

NEXT MEETING: October 4, 2023 6:30PM

AJOURMENT: 7:50pm