

COMMON FENCE POINT PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE (CFPPC)
Minutes October 4, 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 6:33PM

ATTENDEES: Nicole Gotovich Ray Perry Jeff Prater
 Paula Connelly Tom Charbonneau Nancy Arruda Nary
 Chris Thompson Chuck Miksis
On ZOOM: Neil Hingorany JMA – Johna Spencer, Portsmouth Conservation Commission

BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of September 2023 minutes with Amendments;
 - Under “RESILIENCE BUILDING” Ray did not say that “The Regional Aquidneck Island Hazard Mitigation Plan (Newport, Middletown, & Portsmouth) is now under review by FEMA.” Only Portsmouth’s Hazard Mitigation Plan is at the end of the 5 year cycle. However, by going to 1 regional plan, Portsmouth is rolled into the Regional Aquidneck Island Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Under “Steps for the future” #6 ends with the word “with” and no period. This is added for clarification purposes.

CFPIA: Jim Fogerty;

- The CFPIA had their election of Officers at the September 13th 2023 CFPIA’s community meeting. Officers are as follows;
 - Conley Zani- President, Jim Fogerty -Vice President, Dave Breton- Treasurer, Ashley Murphy-Secretary.
 - Lee Silva, Tom Charbonneau, Sally Smith, Sarah Chase Ferreira - Members At Large.
- Leon Lesinski the Trustee talked about the ongoing Bylaws and confirmed that the beach by the Sportsmen’s Club is owned by CFPIA.
- Barbara Jones is still working on the CFP pond and the phragmites. She is also looking for volunteers.
- The VFW Hall is undergoing renovations to improve the flow of the space in hopes to attract more users.

SEPAC: Jeff Prater

- The work on the Taylor’s Point marsh is still scheduled for November 2023. There is no further permitting and cutting the ball field grass does not affect this grant.
- Jeff made the suggestion for when the Newsletter is published (and on line) to include updates on the progress and status of the 3 projects under the grant SEPAC secured. Those areas are the Taylor’s Marsh dredging project, the plantings on CFP Blvd, and the CFP Ball Field adjacent to the salt marsh.
- The grant has as one of its purposes to educate and inform. Funds from the grant could be utilized to help with the cost of the newsletter. The URI field trip to CFP, photographs, and the “Working Together for Resilience” video link could be tied in for the purpose of educating.
- A street study has not yet been started by the town, addressing one ways and traffic on the Point.

NEWSLETTER: Nancy Arruda Nary

- We have received a draft of the Newsletter template from Alex (URI) and were handed out during meeting. Mil is writing her articles and we are deciding what others will be included. We have beside Sue Kennedy’s “Common Fence Profile”, MyCoast pictures, an education on MyCoast; its purpose and its benefit in addressing coastal flooding.
- We have an article being written by Wenley Ferguson from Save the Bay on the success of the CPF Blvd plantings and the nature of those plants. We will include an update on the Taylor’s marsh project.
- The focus of the newsletter is; land issues, mitigation, preparedness, sharing information, education and history regarding the shore, “Did You Know?” section, best practices, possibly a piece on the Trustees and CFPIA

property with a map, along with the land we love and appreciate living on and next to. Planning on creating and sending out both a hardcopy and online twice (2 x) a year.

- Was also suggested to have information on flooding history (example, boat floating across CFP Blvd) and information of the legal case that helped to keep the CFPIA land intact. "The Rising Fence Line" was a name suggested by Jeff for the Newsletter.
- It was mentioned that if the CFPPC asks the CFPIA or the Trustees for money to pay for the newsletter, they too would have to vote/approve on the content. We agreed that the CFPPC can pay for it through private donations and/or grants.

FORUMS:

- Nicole reported there will be a Beach Cleanup with Save the Bay on October 7, 2023. Save the Bay and Safe Harbor Marina is partnering with CFPIA. They will pick up and weigh the trash. There will be tally lists to use as to what items there were on the beaches. There will be 6 sites; Taylor's Point, CFP Blvd Beach, end of Anthony Road, Sakonnet Dr Beach, Narragansett Blvd Beach (under the power lines), and CFP entrance. Low tide is at 9:30. Chuck made the wise suggestion to bring a 5 gallon bucket it is easier than the bag initially.
- Pam Rubinoff and her team from URI visited CFP on Friday September 22, 2023. A huge THANK YOU to Nancy for opening her home up for URI and the Prep Committee to discuss and enjoy. URI wanted to come to CFP to visit and explore the projects Pam has been working on with the CFPIA and CFPPC. Those are the plantings on CFP Blvd., the Taylor's marsh project, and the ball field/marsh. We had lunch together and wonderful discussions. The URI folks and CFP residents/members of the Preparedness Committee walked to the 3 above mentioned areas. It was very informative.
- There will be a Stormwater Innovation Expo event at Roger Williams Park on October 18, 2023. Nicole requested free tickets but is still waiting for their response.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- Ray Perry discussed with the group the Prudence Island Fire Fighting Compliance Plan. It is very comprehensive. There is a significant risk on the island and they are addressing it.
- Fire safety for the holidays because there is a greater risk of fires during the winter months.
- Ray encouraged the group to consider partnering with other neighborhoods in looking at mitigation, preparedness, emergency management. It would be helpful for grant writing as well. Regional efforts are considered most appealing at state and federal levels.
- CFP, Island Park, and the Hummocks are so close in proximity and share so many environmental similarities perhaps we could share forums with them or invite them to certain Preparedness meetings. Try to get Peter Raposa involved with Island Park due to some of his properties being there.
- Some suggestions that were made were: VNA clinics, Blood Drives, educational forums such as on oyster farming, storm water, flooding, etc. Jeff encouraged making it welcoming and social with refreshments (apple cider social). Ray is going to pick which topic(s) he would like us to host with our neighboring neighbors.
- Ray discussed the Town's Operation Plan/Guide that would list resources, web sites to address everything from hurricanes, COVID clinics, weather emergencies, etc. Ray did state that vaccine clinics are too costly and not necessary for the CFPPC to run one. The Portsmouth schools already have the flu vaccine clinics.

RESILIENCE BUILDING:

- Chris Thompson brought to the committee a very interesting project addressing demonstrating to residents the fragility of the shore given global warming. He discussed Data Visualization. He has looked into the Environmental Research Institute, software for community education. The project began in 2020 in California. Project NOAA or Flood. Maps are prepared showing the shorelines of coastal regions then those same shorelines are shown as how they may appear so many years into the future (<https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/flood-exposure.html>). Rather convincing using the current trends in global warming and sea level rise. Chris will investigate more and we will try to have the ability to show the information on a screen at a future meeting.

- Nicole said a similar project was done by RISD in the past and that might be worth looking into. Peter Stempel of RISDI created this technology and presented it to CFP in February of 2020 and this video can be viewed on the Common Fence Point website under Preparedness. Terri Cortvriend, our Representative, also uses Peter's technology for the Aquidneck Island Climate Caucus that she help start in 2020. Nicole does not know if we can have access to this data.
- Jeff brought up a good point about posting this data due to property values.
- We will also look for past materials for Chris on flooding in the area in the past.

OTHER:

- Nicole has spent \$200 of the \$450 that the Town of Portsmouth gave to the CFPPC on ink, paper, and CFP brochures.
- The Little Corner Store & Deli will remain open this winter. Last winter they were closed for the season.

The committee discussed continuing to address grants with the town. We continue to work on the steps for the future that have been suggested.

Steps for future grant help:

1. Meet with Lea Hitchen, Portsmouth Town Planner
2. Meet again with Paige Myatt, Aquidneck Island Regional Resilience Coordinator for the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank
3. Brian Woodhead, Portsmouth's DPW Director

NEXT MEETING: November 1, 2023 6:30PM

AJOURMENT: 7:49pm