

MVP Working Group

Minutes of Wednesday, November 15, 2017 meeting, Town Hall Annex, first floor

Present: Nat Strosberg, Christine Bongiorno, Bob Bowes, Gail McCormick, Jim Curran, Lela Shepherd, Charlotte Milan, Ken Pruitt, Ann LeRoy

Guests: Nathalie Beauvais and Nasser Brahim, Kleinfelder

Nat Strosberg led the meeting. The minutes of the October 18 working group meeting were approved. He reminded all members to complete the online ethics training that is required for all Town staff and appointed volunteers.

The main purpose of the meeting was to meet the Kleinfelder consultants who will manage the municipal vulnerability program for Arlington and to continue preparing for the workshop, which is a key element of the state-funded grant program.

Following brief introductions by the working group members, Nathalie and Nasser described their previous work on climate change planning, especially in Cambridge and Boston. They handed out the Community Resilience Building Workshop Guide and explained how they would use this guide to coordinate the Arlington workshop.

Three top risks to be analyzed for our region are

- 1) coastal flooding from the Mystic River via Alewife Brook (due to constraints at the Amelia Earhart Dam),
- 2) precipitation and inland flooding in Mill Brook, Alewife Brook, Reservoir, Spy Pond, etc., and
- 3) heat impacts on human health, vegetation, and local fauna.

Other risks include insect pests and invasive plants, winter storms, drought, and wild fires.

These risks will be examined in term of specific factors related to vulnerabilities and strengths, including:

- Infrastructural (stormwater system, roads, buildings, etc.)
- Societal (demographics, cultural differences, civic participation, public services, etc.)
- Environmental (water bodies, native and invasive flora and fauna, etc.)

Before and during the workshop, Kleinfelder staff will assemble maps, statewide demographic and economic data, photos and reports of past hazard events, and other information to help participants understand the current risks in Arlington and the region. Information on current planning projects (such as Reservoir Master Plan and Wellington Park/Mill Brook study) will also be documented. Using the Guidebook charts, the participants work in small groups to gather information and fill in high, middle and low priorities for these risks and factors.

These dates were proposed and later confirmed for the 8-hour workshop:

Thursday, January 25, 4-8 pm and Friday, February 2, 9 am-1 pm
A storm date is Thursday, February 8, 4-8 pm.

The working group still needs to finalize the proposed list of about 30 stakeholders who will be invited to participate in the workshops. Kleinfelder will provide facilitators to assist in the meetings.

A question was asked about future budgeting and planning to be able to address the risks and vulnerabilities identified during the workshops, for both capital and maintenance budgets. Cost estimates will be part of the process of reviewing results and preparing a final report to the Town. Future state funding may be available to supplement Town planning as a result of this MVP program.

Submitted by Ann LeRoyer
November 27, 2017