

## **HENRY POINT WORKING WATERFRONT PROJECT**

### **COMBINED COMMITTEE MEETING**

Working Waterfront Access Committee, Harbor Committee, Shellfish Conservation Committee

**AUGUST 17, 2022**

**PRESENT:** John Church, Harbor Master; Harry Fish, Harbor Committee Member; D. Kraig Church, WWAC Member; Dean Faulkingham, WWAC Member; Cynthia Beauvais, Comprehensive Plan Committee Member; Kathy Killian, Selectman's Assistant Grants/Planning

**GUESTS:** Elaine Abbott, Sunrise County Economic Council; Dr. Tora Johnson, UMM GIS Laboratory; Austin Simmons, UMM GIS Laboratory

#### **Presentation of Maps:**

- Dr. Johnson and Mr. Simmons presented examples of mapping that show possible sea level rise and possible storm surge areas. Uncertainty about both was discussed and how that means the committees and engineers will need to develop plans that are reasonable and will meet the expectations of funding sources (grantors). Government grants, both State and Federal have climate resilience guidelines that must be considered in the project plan.

#### **Planning Discussion led by Dr. Johnson and Ms. Abbott:**

- Considerations for decision making:
  - Time horizons:
    - Rates of change for SLR and storm surge
    - Service life of infrastructure
  - Risk tolerance
  - Cost of failure
  - Importance of infrastructure to community during and after floods
- Selecting an engineering firm:
  - Cost of design, scoping and permitting
  - Experience with similar projects
  - Do they understand your priorities, needs, constraints, etc?
- Uncertainty in predictions for SLR and Storm Surge – State and Federal funders may have different guidelines and projections.
- For dealing with wetlands, does the firm have a hydrologic engineer or can they contract with one?
- Is the firm willing to discuss our priorities?
- Contact references, principals in other projects the firm has worked on, and other communities that have completed similar projects (Cutler, Eastport, Lubec). Also check past Land for Maine's Future projects – did they consider 'our firms' for their project?

#### **Wetlands:**

- Dr. Johnson was able to determine from data she had available that the Henry Point wetland is considered fresh water which may make our 'swap' with wetlands on the Kelley Point Road easier.
- Town has an undivided 1/5 ownership in a parcel on Kelley Point Road. We need clear ownership. Legal and survey work will need to be done.
- We need money to get answers but in the interim, Ms. Killian will be researching options so steps that need to be taken can be outlined.
- Killian will contact Jim Beyers of Maine DEP to see when he can visit to give his opinion on both sites.
- Killian will contact the town's attorney John Hamer to determine approximate cost of the necessary legal work.

The committee members present agree that they would like to interview both responding firms. Ms. Killian will contact both to try to arrange a date as soon as possible to facilitate decision by 8/31/2022. Selectmen will expect the committees to make a recommendation on which firm they would like to work with along with the reasons for their recommendation.