

City of Biddeford

Climate Change task Force

April 14, 2023 6:00 PM Council Chambers & Zoom

*<https://biddeford.zoom.us/j/96264262507?pwd=MGIjZmRzSmtGRE9oTUFWs0xzQT09> Webinar ID 962 6426 2507;
Passcode 488497*

1. Member Attendance

- Brad, Steve, Bev, Max, Tim, Meaghan
- Meeting commenced at 6:10 pm

2. Guest Recognition & Presentations

Karina Graeter, Julia Maine, and Zoe Miller of Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission attended the meeting to present on and take feedback for the draft of the Vulnerability Assessment Report

- Brief review and summary of the vulnerability assessment, broad descriptions of major topic areas:
 - Social vulnerability
 - Flooding and sea level rise
 - High heat and air quality
 - Drought and wildfire risk
 - Changing marine conditions
- SMPDC is looking for “local” task force insight on parts of town worth mentioning:
 - Bev emphasized locals’ worry about erosion and flooding along Fortunes Rocks
 - Multiple task force members were surprised the census data showed Biddeford Pool area has a large low income population, and would like SMPDC to look into that
 - Tim mentioned threats to parks closer to downtown, particularly Rotary Park, which sits along the Saco River
 - The map showing impervious surfaces was worrying because it showed large heat island risk downtown
 - Steve thinks the assessment should provide more information on invasive species currently in Biddeford
 - Max suggested asking the Parks Department and Biddeford Pool Land Trust for information
 - Max suggested “localizing” the key takeaways, replacing census block locations with street and neighborhood names in the report wherever possible
- SMPDC listened to feedback on what might be missing in the report:
 - Max stressed the importance of a social vulnerability index
 - Index should very clearly highlight where hazards come into contact with local populations, and articulate compounding social vulnerability
 - Maps using census data to show high concentrations of critical socially vulnerable groups (New Mainers, elderly, low-income residents, etc.)
 - Brad suggested a bigger focus on affordable housing and the impacts of climate migration/climate gentrification
- SMPDC asked about specific strategies to engage the public:
 - Tim is concerned about adequately addressing the many interconnected aspects of climate vulnerability
 - Max thinks we need to talk about things currently being done to combat climate change, to prevent people from feeling overwhelmed and avoiding events
- SMPDC will incorporate input into next draft of vulnerability assessment

- Task force members are encouraged to provide any insight or local data they think of in the coming weeks

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

- BCTF chair suggested tabling business to ensure enough time for SMPDC meeting, if necessary

4. Staff Liaison Business

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

6. Old Business and Discussions

- Photovoice
 - Competition deadline was April 10th, all pictures are in
 - Photovoice event is on Friday, April 21st
 - Engine wants to extend gallery hours for the event but they don't have the staff
 - Brad sent around a sign up sheet for task force members to volunteer some hours to the event
- All other business tabled to next meeting

Adjourned at 8:04 pm