



Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force Select Board Meeting Packet

July 20, 2021

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Plymouth Climate Emergency Declaration

Full Community Submissions for this Item Included in Addendum A

Introduction

The Climate Emergency Declaration proposal is presented by the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, League of Women Voters of the Plymouth Area, Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance, and Sustainable Plymouth. The topic was proposed through the Town's Climate, Energy and Environmental Taskforce and was rated #1 by the community during the community input phase of the process.

Objective

The purpose of presenting the Climate Emergency Declaration as a Select Board Resolution is to bring attention to the fact that our ecosystem is in crisis, experiencing extinction rates unprecedented in human history¹ and accelerating sea level rise,² and to ensure that the Town of Plymouth factors climate and environmental impact into all policies, procedures, planning, and decision making.

Key Points

Declaring a climate emergency has been recommended by over 13,000 Scientists.³

Nearly 2,000 jurisdictions in 34 countries,⁴ including 148 municipalities in the United States and 23 in Massachusetts,⁵ have declared climate emergencies.

Massachusetts has released its Decarbonization Roadmap,⁶ and Plymouth must be ready to support the Commonwealth's goals and take advantage of anticipated funding opportunities.

Conserving open space saves taxpayers money compared to the costs of services incurred by allowing more single family homes and commercial development.⁷

Prioritizing forested spaces preserves species diversity, sequesters carbon,⁸ decreases the heat island effect, filters stormwater, reduces air pollution, and buffers coastal lands.

The Climate-Ready Healthy Plymouth (CRHP) study concluded that the community is concerned with the aforementioned issues. The CRHP report⁹ recommends actions in line with this declaration.



Supporting Organizations

Citizens' Climate Lobby South Shore & Cape Chapter, Friends of Ellisville Marsh, The Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Herring Ponds Watershed Association, League of Women Voters of the Plymouth Area, Network of Open Space Friends, Plymouth Board of Health, Plymouth Conservation Commission, Plymouth Water Conservation Committee, Representative Matthew Muratore, Savery Pond Conservancy, Six Ponds Improvement Association, Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance Sustainable Plymouth, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Wildlands Trust

Notes & References

1. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/>
2. <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-sea-level>
3. <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/70/1/8/5610806>
4. <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/>
5. <https://northamptonma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/16334?fileID=145401>
6. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/ma-decarbonization-roadmap>
7. <https://masswoods.org/sites/masswoods.org/files/pdf-doc-ppt/cost%20of%20community%20services%20for%20four%20towns.pdf>
8. <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/eap.2039>
9. https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3691/f/uploads/final.climate-ready-health-plymouth_report_v6.16.20.pdf
10. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YgtRdMW78mdEaRrCYdU7YaFdv747IXbrXfZZWdoH4lI/edit>



A Resolution to Declare a Climate Emergency

WHEREAS: The Town of Plymouth is experiencing the negative impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS: Rising temperatures, increased climate-related public health concerns, stress on local fisheries, more harmful and frequent storms, rising sea level, increased probability of flooding, and higher flood insurance premiums will harm Plymouth's residents and visitors;

WHEREAS: Plymouth is a seaside community economically dependent on tourism, whose historic buildings and artifacts are irreplaceable and located within an area vulnerable to sea level rise and increased storms;

WHEREAS: The Alliance of World Scientists has issued a warning, signed by more than 13,000 scientists, recommending that policy makers promptly declare a climate emergency and act accordingly;

WHEREAS: The United Nations 2018 IPCC Special Report on Global Warming detailed the importance of keeping global warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F) above pre-industrial levels rather than 2°C (3.6°F) or higher; projected that limiting warming to 1.5°C will require deep emissions reductions and rapid, unprecedented transitions in all aspects of society; and asserted that "Every bit of warming matters. Every year matters and every choice matters";

WHEREAS: Much of Plymouth's total energy use, which includes electricity, heating, and transportation, is generated from carbon-based fuels that continue to pollute the environment and accelerate the rate of climate change;

WHEREAS: Plymouth has several areas containing urban heat islands, wherein the intensified impact of climate change threatens the health of vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS: The Climate-Ready, Healthy Plymouth report concurs with the widespread scientific consensus that recent record-breaking storms are linked to the growing concentration of greenhouse gasses in our atmosphere due to human activity;



WHEREAS: As a municipality in Massachusetts, a national leader on climate initiatives, Plymouth has a responsibility to take actions that support these initiatives, help the Commonwealth achieve its goals, and utilize the available funding opportunities and decarbonization resources;

WHEREAS: Having undertaken a number of important steps on climate and the environment, Plymouth is well placed to implement the critical transition away from fossil fuels and to advance a robust, carbon-free, and equitable economy that will improve residents' health and quality of life;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Select Board of the Town of Plymouth hereby declare that a Climate Emergency threatens our town, state, and nation, as well as humanity broadly, and that a mobilization to meet this challenge is both an imperative and an unprecedented opportunity to stabilize the climate, remedy environmental harms, create clean-energy jobs, and improve human lives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Select Board of the Town of Plymouth agrees to support climate mobilization strategies such as:

Accelerating mitigation, adaptation, and resilience strategies to prepare for intensifying local and global climate impacts, including prioritizing forests and other open spaces because of their ability to draw carbon out of the atmosphere and store it; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and ensuring that the costs of such mobilization efforts do not unfairly burden those who are economically or socially disadvantaged.



Open Space Conservation

Full Community Submissions for this Item Included in Addendum A

About the Open Space Committee

The mission of the Plymouth Open Space Committee is to advocate for the preservation and maintenance of natural open space for current residents as well as for future generations to protect our aquifer, our environment, and the character of our town.

The Committee was created in 2002, when it was added to the Town charter as Plymouth faced intense development, having grown almost five times in population in a relatively short time.

The Committee carries out its mission by seeking opportunities to conserve natural and recreational open space, bringing articles to conserve land to Town Meeting, offering guidance to land owners seeing to sell or donate land or create a conservation restriction, collaborating with the Community Preservation Committee, to buy land for conservation, working with other conservation organizations, and by educational efforts such as newspaper articles, public recreational walks on conserved land, and occasional public conferences. The current Plymouth Open Space Plan may be found by [Clicking Here](#).

About the Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee enacts the regulations of the Community Preservation Act (MGL Chapter 44B), which allows communities in Massachusetts to place a surcharge of up to 3% on property taxes (Plymouth residents adopted the statute at only 1.5%). These funds are matched by the State with proceeds from the Registry of Deeds. The Act mandates that a committee be formed to oversee these funds and create an application procedure to determine which applications for funding will be brought to Town Meeting for approval. The funds are committed to affordable housing, to historic preservation and land conservation.

Motion: That the Select Board reaffirm the Town of Plymouth's commitment to open space preservation with funding through the Community Preservation Act, and the continued work of the Community Preservation Committee and Open Space Committee. And, that the Select Board will evaluate and publicly discuss additional opportunities and policies to increase open space in the current year.



Climate Resiliency/Sustainability Planner

Full Community Submission for this Item Included in Addendum A

This new position will plan for and manage the impacts of climate change on residents and infrastructure by coordinating the efforts of all town departments. The role would create efficient responses and avoid duplication of efforts. It would also generate funding for these needed responses by writing grant applications. It is important that this position has a cross-functional role with access to collaborate with all town departments and staff, including schools.

The cost of responding and adapting to climate change will only grow over time. Infrastructure will become more damaged and more costly to repair with increased frequency of flooding and other adverse effects due to climate change. A lack of planning now will push the costs further down the line where they will be more burdensome to future generations.

Other municipalities have had success with similar positions. The Town of Holliston utilized MVP funds to help cover its first-year costs for this position, and the Town of Natick has brought millions of dollars in grants, savings, and revenue, including \$830,000 in 2019 through this role. There is a successful model of municipalities creating and benefiting from similar roles. Plymouth is in a unique position as a significant coastal community to attract well qualified candidates for this important new role.

Motion: That town management, through the upcoming budget process, create a new position starting in fiscal year 2022, with the working title of Climate Resiliency/Sustainability Planner. Input for the job description will be submitted during the normal process of creating the new position. And, the Select Board will identify and prioritize the primary goals for the town and this position before the end of this calendar year.



Regional Coastal Resilience Project Grant

Full Community Submission for this Item Included in Addendum A

The Duxbury, Kingston, and Plymouth Bays, known as the “DKP,” are a shared regional asset supporting globally renowned industries such as fresh oysters and sight-seeing in historic Downtown Plymouth. The DKP includes four tidal rivers, two major barrier beaches providing critical wave energy dissipation to the shorelines of all three communities, and numerous living shorelines providing marine health, habitat, and additional shoreline protection. The DKP also has several shared challenges between the three towns: stormwater management, water quality impairments, increasing precipitation regimes stressing stormwater infrastructure, severe coastal erosion, natural asset degradation such as eel grass meadows and salt marshes, and coastal flooding both during storms and at lunar high tides. The three Towns have begun a collaborative approach toward planning for the management of this regional asset and this proposed MVP Action grant would serve to solidify this collaboration and set the stage for future coordination on implementing regionally beneficial nature-based solutions for storm water management and coastal resilience.

The DKP Regional Resilience Project would seek to accomplish six key deliverables in a two-year period: (i) gather, collect, and prioritize Herring Pond Wampanoag and Wampanoag Nation perspectives in achieving regional coastal resilience and marine ecosystem health, (ii) inland stormwater modeling, vulnerability assessment, and green infrastructure feasibility, (ii) coastal flood pathway and vulnerability assessment , (iii) natural asset mapping, (iv) nature-based design solutions for approximately five key inland/coastal “hot spots” guided by the preferences of the Wampanoag and endorsed by the public, and (vi) an user friendly online decision support tool/story map.

The application came within three points of being funded in the last round of grant submissions. With the guidance received from the state at that time, it now has an excellent chance of being funded. The town of Plymouth would need to commit staff time to participate in the planning.

Motion: The Town of Plymouth will participate as a co-applicant when the Regional Coastal Resilience Project MVP Grant is re-submitted to the Commonwealth by a neighboring town. Prior to submission, there would need to be an understanding and approval of the amount of Plymouth’s staffing resources being requested in the application.



Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Addendum A

Priority Items as Submitted & Ranked by the Community



Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Priority 1 Item (as determined by community input)

This item 101 is merged with item 112 below.

Project ID: 101

Item Name

Climate Emergency/ NetZero Decarbonization Plan

Description

Declare a climate emergency. (a) Immediately begin working on a phased decarbonization plan.
(b) Assign or hire staff to draft and implement the plan.

Grant Opportunity

MVP Grant

Quantifying the Impact

Tools and resources to help create and quantify decarbonization plans:

<https://www.mapc.org/net-zero/playbook/>

Additional Links

https://www.townofholliston.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif706/f/uploads/holliston_mvpaactiongrant_update_1172020.pdf

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/ma-decarbonization-roadmap>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YgtRdMW78mdEaRrCYdU7YaFdv747IXbrXfZZWdoH4II/edit?usp=sharing>



Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Priority 1 Item (as determined by community input)

This item 112 is merged with item 101 above.

Project ID: 112

Item Name

Town of Plymouth Climate Emergency Declaration

Description

A climate emergency declaration acknowledges that we are in a climate emergency, and that the Town of Plymouth needs to act on the causes and mitigate the impacts of climate change in our community by adopting a Climate Emergency Action Plan

Grant Opportunity

We anticipate that new landmark State and Federal legislation addressing climate change will be providing funding opportunities for local municipalities, especially if they have developed climate action plans.

Quantifying the Impact

A Climate Emergency program is a comprehensive package of follow-up steps — sometimes adopted through a climate action plan — that puts a city or county on track to reach zero emissions by 2030. In 2020, twelve of the 15 towns on Cape Cod have declared a Climate Emergency at their Town Meeting, signaling a commitment to take the necessary steps to reach net zero emissions in the earliest technologically and economically feasible time.

Additional Links

https://climate-xchange.org/2020/01/31/massachusetts-senate-passes-economy-wide-carbon-pricing-net-zero-emissions-target/?mc_cid=680f784566&mc_eid=40047e3877

<https://climate-xchange.org/2021/04/08/webinar-recap-how-state-governments-can-help-communities-invest-in-climate-resilience/>



Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Priority 2 Item (as determined by community input)

This item 109 is merged with item 119 below.

Project ID: 109

Item Name

Efforts toward open space conservation, so as to reach a goal of 30% of the land area of the Town in conservation (excluding land already protected.)

Description

1. Updating the Plymouth Open Space and Recreation Plan to include nature-based modes of mitigating climate disruption on coastal, wetland & upland areas.
2. Supporting environmental initiatives of other entities in the community, private & public.
3. Monitoring land coming out of Conservation Chapters 61,61A and 61B.
4. Education & advocacy to raise public awareness of environmental issues
5. Identifying, evaluating & seeking to obtain for the Town tax title properties which would enhance existing conserved parcels.
6. Enhancing public health through helping to maintain or establish walking & bicycling trails
7. Helping to protect the fresh water aquifer.

Grant Opportunity

We do not have access to governmental funding, but we do receive donations for various short term projects.

Quantifying the Impact

Since 2002, the Open Space Committee has secured more than 360 acres into protected status.

"Decades of research into the forest-water connectionunderscore the fact that one of the lowest cost options for water sustainability is to retain forests for the pollution filtration and storm water retention benefits they provide."

Changes to the Land: Four Scenarios for the Future of the Massachusetts Landscape

Additional Links

The Open Space Committee page on the Town website



Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Priority 2 Item (as determined by community input)

This item 119 is merged with item 109 above.

Project ID: 119

Item Name

Description

The League feels the town should have a goal to protect as open space at least 30% of land excluding already protected land under state or private entities in order to protect our sole source aquifer and the the pine barrens that are vital to clean air and water. This would also provide more recreational areas and walking trails for the public.

Additional Links

The MISSION statement of the Open Space Committee, The Open Space and Recreation Plan-2017 update, the CPC. The Planning Board/Department



Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Priority 3 Item (as determined by community input)

Project ID: 116

Item Name

Climate Resiliency Coordinator/Planner

Description

A person to plan for and implement municipal sustainability initiatives and programs in support of the Plymouth's commitment to sustainable practices. The coordinator would be responsible for development, implementation, promotion and monitoring Plymouth's initiatives pertaining to sustainability including environmental, energy, climate-change, and similar programs and issues. Ensure that there are action steps to follow up on the assessment and priorities of the Climate, Energy and Climate Task Force. New programs at the state and federal level are being developed so that having someone who can track and access these will be important.

Grant Opportunity

There are a number of grant opportunities including from the Commonwealth (MVP is one example) and private foundations. The League has identified some specific foundations that have funded this type of project. Additional funding is under development at the state and federal levels.

Quantifying the Impact

The intent of this position would be to assist the town to plan for and deal with the impacts of climate change (more heat, storms and flooding) on its residents and infrastructure by coordinating efforts of the separate town departments. It would help create efficient responses and avoid duplication of efforts. It would also generate funding for these needed responses by writing grant applications.

Additional Links

A job description that has been used as a model by other towns in Massachusetts is being sent as an attachment to an email. Similar positions already exist in Amherst, Cambridge and Brookline. The Commonwealth and the Federal Government have created these positions.

Attachment: Sustainability Planner for Plymouth



Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Priority 4 Item (as determined by community input)

Project ID: 118

Item Name

Regional Coastal Resilience Project Grant

Description

Reapply for an MVP grant in conjunction with the towns of Duxbury and Kingston. The Duxbury, Kingston, and Plymouth Bays, known as the “DKP,” are a shared regional asset supporting globally renowned industries such as fresh oysters and sight-seeing in historic Downtown Plymouth. The DKP includes four tidal rivers, two major barrier beaches providing critical wave energy dissipation to the shorelines of all three communities, and numerous living shorelines providing marine health, habitat, and additional shoreline protection. The DKP also has several shared challenges between the three towns: stormwater management, water quality impairments, increasing precipitation regimes stressing stormwater infrastructure, severe coastal erosion, natural asset degradation such as eel grass meadows and salt marshes, and coastal flooding both during storms and at lunar high tides. The three Towns have begun a collaborative approach toward planning for the management of this regional asset and this proposed MVP Action grant would serve to solidify this collaboration and set the stage for future coordination on implementing regionally beneficial nature-based solutions for storm water management and coastal resilience.

The DKP Regional Resilience Project would seek to accomplish six key deliverables in a two-year period: (i) gather, collect, and prioritize Herring Pond Wampanoag and Wampanoag Nation perspectives in achieving regional coastal resilience and marine ecosystem health, (ii) inland stormwater modeling, vulnerability assessment, and green infrastructure feasibility, (ii) coastal flood pathway and vulnerability assessment, (iii) natural asset mapping, (iv) nature-based design solutions for approximately five key inland/coastal “hot spots” guided by the preferences of the Wampanoag and endorsed by the public, and (vi) an user friendly online decision support tool/story map. The tool that assimilates all the scientific data, modeling, and qualitative data from the Wampanoag on stormwater hydrogeologic flows and coastal hydrodynamics flows with geographic feasibility and design of nature-based solutions for both inland and the DKP.

Grant Opportunity

MVP Action Grant: The application came within three points of being funded in the last round of grant submissions. With the guidance received from the state at that time it now has an excellent chance of being funded. Duxbury will take the lead in conjunction with regional planning councils in updating and submitting the application. The town of Plymouth would need to commit staff time to participate in the planning.



Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Quantifying the Impact

If the three towns were to receive the grant the results would be:

1. Performing a climate change planning process centered on the voices and preferences of Native Americans.
2. Transfer of knowledge on how sea level rise and storm surge will impact coastal stormwater infrastructure (outfalls, catch basins, and pipes) with various storm scenarios under certain probabilities.
3. Creating a platform for long-term collaboration and coordination of three towns working to preserve a regional asset-the DKP- with nature-based solutions for coastal flooding, stormwater management, and marine health.
4. Transfer of knowledge on design specifications for stormwater infrastructure that incorporates precipitation and sea level rise projections.

The final deliverable for the project would be an online decision-support tool to collate the inland and coastal modeling and design solutions combined with the stories of the Herring Pond Wampanoag and Wampanoag Nation.

Measurements of success include completion of a user-friendly, vibrant, and educational online decision support tool, a clear concrete path toward implementing nature-based solutions for solving the most critical challenges to the DKP, land use recommendations to preserve and restore the natural assets in the system, a clear path for improving the stormwater infrastructure to withstand the impacts of extreme precipitation and coastal flooding, and a strong baseline for collaboration for the three Towns in advancing these solutions together. This project will solidify the collaboration of the three Towns and the community-based partners in coordinating solutions for resilience. The data from the project can be used to inform stormwater improvements and compliance with MS4.

Additional Links

There are examples of effective multi-town collaborations including Resilient Mystic River Collaborative and Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative.

Resilient Mystic Collaborative <https://resilient.mysticriver.org>

CCCCC | Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative <https://capecodclimate.org>

A copy of the previous application is being sent in as an email attachment: Final DKP Creating Natural Solutions



Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Addendum B

Plymouth CEE Task Force Process and Correspondence

Patrick Flaherty

From: Patrick Flaherty
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 5:49 AM
To: Patrick Flaherty
Subject: RE: Plymouth Climate, Energy and Environmental Task Force
Attachments: Plymouth CEE Top 4 Items.pdf

Good morning,

I received confirmation that the follow up Select Board agenda item for this task force will be July 20th. The agenda item will be for a full hour and will cover the four priority items in the attached document. There will also be opportunity for public comment on each of these items.

I will follow up with additional information leading up to the meeting but wanted to put this out there so anyone wishing to attend can get on their calendar.

Thank you all for your interest in these efforts.

Patrick

Patrick Flaherty

Plymouth Selectman

Direct: 774-404-2241

Town Hall: 508-747-1620

www.plymouth-ma.gov

From: Patrick Flaherty
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 11:26 AM
To: Patrick Flaherty <Flaherty@plymouth-ma.gov>
Subject: RE: Plymouth Climate, Energy and Environmental Task Force

Hello all –

Thank you to everyone who submitted their item rankings over the last few weeks. I have posted the full results on the shared CEE Task Force document:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hOPamXHp5AqWYdODnzRP0EOyCxyUh1GEfyxGqs_qo2Y/edit#gid=593241818

There were four items that had overwhelming support (some items were similar or identical and were merged):

1. Town of Plymouth Climate Emergency Declaration
2. Efforts toward open space conservation, to reach a goal of 30% of the land area of the Town in conservation.
3. Climate Resiliency Coordinator/Planner
4. Regional Coastal Resilience Project Grant

The next phase will include internal follow up and research on these specific items for open discussion at an upcoming Select Board meeting. I will update everyone once that agenda item is scheduled.

Important!

An item making the “Top Four” only means that it will be researched and vetted by town staff to be openly discussed at an upcoming Select Board meeting. At that point, the ‘town’ and community will understand costs, next steps, and the town’s role in those items if it moves forward. This will happen in open session where community input is encouraged. After that phase is complete, the process will return to the other items submitted to continue additional ‘rounds.’

The form for submissions is open ongoing at the following link. If an item was submitted in the first ‘round,’ there is no need to resubmit. If you have a new item you want to be considered, you can submit anytime:

<https://forms.gle/6SQ5sQiEwi8mAbJHA>

Thank you to everyone who participated in this process so far. I look forward to these continued discussions and action!

Sincerely,
Patrick

Patrick Flaherty

Plymouth Selectman

Direct: 774-404-2241

Town Hall: 508-747-1620

www.plymouth-ma.gov

From: Patrick Flaherty

Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 10:55 AM

To: Patrick Flaherty <Flaherty@plymouth-ma.gov>

Subject: RE: Plymouth Climate, Energy and Environmental Task Force

Hello all –

We are in to phase three of the Plymouth CEE Task Force! Please see below and attached.

Phase III – Prioritizing Item Review Through Public Feedback

Timeline: May 10, 2021 through May 28, 2021

Over the last several weeks, there have been 25 submissions from several community groups and individuals to our CEE Task Force. The submissions have been collated in the attached in the order they were received. Through this phase ending on May 28th, individuals will have the opportunity to rank their personal top five priority items.

Any individual is welcome to submit their rankings at this link: <https://forms.gle/gGes1eJhNXeexJ7x6>. The “Project IDs” in the attachment are what will be used to identify each submission when ranking. The individual submissions will remain anonymous, and the cumulative results shared at the end of this phase.

For each of the top five items, the Town will then review and provide feedback on:

- The current priority of the item (if and when it is planned to become an active project).
- Any obstacles, including funding and/or staff resources, that are preventing the item from moving forward.
- What the next steps would be to make the item an active project (grant application, Town Meeting article, re-prioritizing other initiatives, etc.)

During this agenda item at the Select Board meeting, any group or individual can speak to the items on the docket for that evening.

Thank you for your participation in this process, I look forward to a continued collaboration between the Town of Plymouth and community on these critical issues.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Sincerely,
Patrick

Patrick Flaherty
Plymouth Selectman
Direct: 774-404-2241
Town Hall: 508-747-1620
www.plymouth-ma.gov

From: Patrick Flaherty
Sent: Saturday, May 1, 2021 6:49 AM
To: Patrick Flaherty <Flaherty@plymouth-ma.gov>
Subject: RE: Plymouth Climate, Energy and Environmental Task Force

Good morning all –

Thank you to the groups who have made submissions to the Plymouth Climate, Energy and Environmental Task Force. Below is the link to the shared document (note the different tabs on the bottom) and also a summary of items submitted so far.

We're looking to have the submissions for this 'round' of the CEE Task Force by Friday, May 7th. If you, or a group you work with, have any project or initiative that involves these areas where the Town of Plymouth would have to play a role, please feel free to submit that item here: [Plymouth CEE Submission Form](#).

If you have any questions, I'm available any time to discuss.

Thank you,
Patrick

[Plymouth CEE Task Force Shared Document](#)

REQUESTED ITEMS	
West Plymouth Steering Committee	2
North Plymouth Steering Committee	1
Sustainable Plymouth	2
Plymouth Saltwater Intrusion Taskforce	1
Plymouth Board of Health	2
Living Observatory	1
Archiart Associates	1

Patrick Flaherty

Plymouth Selectman

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www.plymouth-ma.gov

From: Patrick Flaherty

Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:39 AM

To: Patrick Flaherty <Flaherty@plymouth-ma.gov>

Subject: Plymouth Climate, Energy and Environmental Task Force

Hello all –

I've included you on this email since I believe you are either a member of, or represent a group concerned with climate, energy and/or environmental issues in the Plymouth area.

Recently, the Plymouth Select Board initiated a Climate, Energy and Environmental task force to organize efforts on these pressing issues. This initiative will allow for streamlined communication between the Town and the public, allowing us to collaborate and make real, impactful steps together. This task force is not a new committee or group itself, but rather a process to bring together the work being done across many Town departments and public groups into one 'hub.' This will allow for both transparency and an organized approach for Plymouth to review and plan for future projects and initiatives.

Over the last weeks, Town departments have been inventorying all projects related to Climate, Energy or the Environment that have been completed, are in progress, or planned for the future. All of that information is found on the public document [here](#). The next phase is for public groups and individuals to submit any and all additional programs, projects, or grant opportunities they believe the Town should be considering at the link [here](#).

An overview and timeline for this initiative can be found in the attached PDF and at the first link below. Along the way I look forward to connecting with anyone who would like to discuss. Please reach out to me anytime.

I appreciate and am grateful for all your individual efforts over many years on these issues. I look forward to working with you all. If there is anyone else you feel would be interested in this initiative, please feel free to forward this message.

Thank you,
Patrick

Overview of Initiative and Timeline:

https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3691/f/pages/plymouth_ee_task_force_summary.pdf

Public Document for Task Force (will be updated ongoing)

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hOPamXHp5AqWYdODnzRP0EOyCxyUh1GEfyxGqs_qo2Y/edit?usp=sharing

Form to Submit New Items from the Public

<https://forms.gle/6SQ5sQiEwi8mAbJHA>

Patrick Flaherty

Plymouth Selectman

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Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Addendum C **Letters of Support**



July 5, 2021

Town of Plymouth Select Board
26 Court Street
Plymouth, MA 02360

Re: Sustainability Coordinator

Dear Select Board Members,

We are writing to express our support for the Town of Plymouth hiring a Sustainability Coordinator. Creating and filling this position is one of the top four priority items identified through the Climate, Energy, and Environmental Task Force process and has been of interest to Sustainable Plymouth's membership for some time.

We understand that there are hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants available through the Massachusetts Green Communities program, a designation the Town of Plymouth is still working to achieve. Meanwhile, the Town of Kingston has received over a million dollars in grant funds through the program. ¹ A Sustainability Coordinator could oversee the application process, ensure that the information necessary to achieve designation is provided in a timely manner, coordinate the projects funded by the program, and apply for future grants.

A Sustainability Coordinator position more than pays for itself, but there will be an upfront cost. The Town of Holliston utilized MVP funds to help cover its first-year costs for this position. ² The Town of Natick has hired a Sustainability Coordinator that has brought millions of dollars in grants, savings, and revenue, including \$830,000 in 2019 alone. ³

Modern accounting methods consider a triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit. This position will help improve Plymouth's bottom line and is a win-win for the Town of Plymouth. It is both the environmentally and fiscally responsible choice.

We encourage you to vote yes for a Sustainability Coordinator position and to work toward making it a reality.

Sincerely,

Sustainable Plymouth Advisory Board
sustainableplymouth@gmail.com

1. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/map-of-280-gcs-and-grant-summaries/download>
2. https://www.townofholliston.us/sites/g/files/vyhli706/f/uploads/holliston_mvactiongrant_update_1172020.pdf
3. <https://www.natickma.gov/964/Sustainability>



FRIENDS OF ELLISVILLE MARSH, INC.
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July 12, 2021

Mr. Richard Quintal, Chairman
Select Board
Town of Plymouth
26 Court Street
Plymouth, MA 02360

Dear Mr. Quintal:

The Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc. strongly support the request to be made at your upcoming July 20 meeting that a Climate Emergency Declaration be made by the Town of Plymouth. The Friends' board has formally adopted the following resolution:

"The Friends of Ellisville Marsh, Inc., a Plymouth-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that has been engaged in revitalizing Ellisville Marsh since 2007, strongly endorses the proposal for a Climate Emergency Declaration. Such a declaration recognizes that wetland resources, wildlife habitat, and fisheries are all threatened by climate change and rising sea level and signals the Town's intent to take necessary actions to reduce or offset greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the consequential environmental impacts."

We encourage you and the other members of the Select Board to vote to take such action at your July 20 meeting.

Thank you for your support of this critical action.

Sincerely,

Eric Cody
President

Savery Pond Conservancy

July 12, 2021

Town of Plymouth – Select Board

Delivered by email to selectmen@plymouth-ma.gov

CC: Chris Badot (cbadot@plymouth-ma.gov)

Re: Letter of Support for Plymouth Climate Emergency Declaration

Dear Select Board Members,

The Savery Pond Conservancy (SPC), a Plymouth-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that has been engaged in addressing harmful algal blooms and revitalizing Savery Pond over many years, strongly endorses the proposal for a Climate Emergency Declaration. SPC's support for the declaration recognizes that available groundwater recharge (which maintains pond levels and provides freshwater flushing to multiple kettle ponds in the Town of Plymouth), pond water temperatures (which facilitate algal growth when warmed), fisheries (which are harmed by warmer waters) and overall wildlife habitat are all threatened by climate change. SPC supports the Declaration as it signals the Town's intent to take necessary actions to mitigate the environmental impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the Plymouth Climate Emergency Declaration. We are happy to lend support to this important step in guiding natural resource management.

Sincerely,

Savery Pond Conservancy Board of Directors



Peter Schwartzman

SPC President

Licensed Hydrogeologist





July 12, 2021

Patrick Flaherty
Board of Selectmen
Town of Plymouth
26 Court Street
Plymouth, MA 02360

Dear Mr. Flaherty:

I write to inform you that the Six Ponds Improvement Association supports the Climate Emergency Declaration as proposed. Further, in order to realize the work needed to achieve the stated goals we support the addition of a Climate Resiliency/Sustainability Coordinator to the Town staff, an increase of Open Space with the Town to at least the 30% proposed outside of the State Forest, and participation in a Regional Climate Resiliency Municipal Vulnerability Program.

We understand that you will be presenting the Declaration to the Board of Selectmen on the evening of July 20, 2021 and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting and providing support of your proposed Declaration

All the best,

Hampton/s/

Hampton Watkins, PhD
President, Six Ponds Improvement Association
P.O. Box 850
Plymouth, MA 02360
www.sixponds.org

Patrick Flaherty
Select Board, Town of Plymouth
26 Court Street
Plymouth, MA 02360

July 7, 2021

Dear Mr. Flaherty,

On behalf of Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), I urge the Select Board of the Town of Plymouth, MA, to declare a Climate Emergency and immediately take steps to develop and implement strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Whale and Dolphin Conservation is a 30+ year-old international marine conservation organization and leading global charity dedicated to the conservation and protection of whales and dolphins. Established in 2005, WDC's North American office is an IRS-recognized 501c3 located in Plymouth, MA.

Whales play a key part in helping to combat climate change through their role in the marine ecosystem. They play a vital role in the health of the oceans where they help provide up to 50% of our oxygen, combat climate change, and sustain fish stocks. Yet they are also at the mercy of a rapidly changing climate impacting their survival. Changes in sea temperature, freshening of seawater, acidification, rises in sea levels, the loss of icy polar habitats, and the decline of food sources are just some of the many dangers which climate change poses for whales and dolphins.

Plymouth's own coast rests on Cape Cod Bay, a federally designated habitat for one of the world's most critically endangered species, the North Atlantic right whale. The North Atlantic right whale roamed the coast of the New England before the Mayflower landed. They surfaced next to the Mayflower as she anchored in Provincetown Harbor 400 years ago. Rich in blubber and baleen, they were our source of light and product until we hunted them to near extinction. Their history is steeped in our own, and there are now fewer than 370 remaining.

Protected from hunting since 1935, right whales are now an unfortunate victim of our own success. The emissions from our ships, our cars, and our progress have warmed their ocean waters - moving their food into areas where they are at increased risk of entanglements and vessel strikes.

The Town of Plymouth has the power and the responsibility to enable this species to recover, which includes taking immediate action to mitigate the impacts of climate change. We understand that these changes are not easy but they are doable and necessary.

Through published research and our own work we now recognize that both environmental impacts and climate change disproportionately impact communities of color. We urge the Town of Plymouth to ensure that any steps taken are representative of all communities, especially those who are most impacted by marine-related issues and policy decisions.

Sincerely



Regina Asmutis-Silva
Executive Director, WDC North America

WHALE AND
DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION



Melanie Monaco
11 Colony Beach Blvd.
Plymouth, MA 02360

July 11, 2021

Town of Plymouth Select Board
26 Court Street
Plymouth, MA 02360

Re: Climate Resiliency [Sustainability] Coordinator

Dear Select Board Member,

I am writing to you as a resident of Plymouth, a taxpayer, mother, homeowner, and small business owner to express my support of the Town hiring a Climate Resiliency/ Sustainability Coordinator.

This position could help Plymouth identify ways of reducing its carbon footprint and prepare for the increasing challenges posed by climate change. This position would potentially lessen the workload of others within the town who are currently doing pieces of this work. It could also be instrumental in drafting a net zero emissions plan.

Our planet is experiencing extreme weather, increasing global temperatures, loss of biodiversity, land desertification, accelerating sea level rise, and many other signs that our ecosystem is in crisis. This position would help coordinate efforts to lessen the impact of climate change on our town. I am a firm believer that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Plymouth is one of only 20% of towns in Massachusetts that have not achieved Green Community designation. Evidently, town employees are spread too thin to make achieving designation a priority. Surrounding towns have received over a million dollars in Green Community grants, while we await designation. Green Community grants alone would potentially pay for the cost of the new position. However, that is not the only way the position would pay for itself. Reducing resource use saves money; the position would likely be tasked with finding ways of reducing resource use while lowering the Town's greenhouse gas emissions. The Town of Natick is a great example of what a Sustainability Coordinator position can do. Natick's Sustainability Coordinator has brought them 3 million dollars in grants, revenue, and savings since the position's implementation in 2014 (an average of approx. \$430,000 per year). This position should not have a cost to the town beyond its first or second year and should be considered for its return on investment.

The cost of adapting to climate change will only grow with time as we delay addressing the causes. Infrastructure will become more damaged and more costly to repair with increased frequency of flooding due to climate change. There is no avoiding dealing with climate change and sea level rise, there is only pushing the costs further down the line where they will be more burdensome to our children. I consider that unfair to younger and future generations, as well as to our future selves. This problem is ours to address and adding this position is a sensible step in addressing it.

I personally ask you to vote yes for a Climate Resiliency/Sustainability Coordinator.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Melanie Monaco
781-588-0275

Patrick Flaherty

From: Henrietta Cosentino <henrietta.cosentino@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Selectmen
Cc: Patrick Flaherty
Subject: SUPPORT Patrick Flaherty's Climate Resiliency Proposal

We strongly support Selectman Patrick Flaherty's proposal for climate resiliency following the four highest priorities of the Climate Change Task Force!

Since the turn of the century, we've seen more and more clearly how climate change impacts Plymouth. While we cannot control Mother Nature, we can certainly take measures to protect our town from nature's angriest impacts, which seem more intense and worrisome with every passing year: the violence and increasing frequency of storms, the dizzying alternations between drought and flooding, the rising seas and the erosion of coasts, the cyanobacteria plaguing so many our ponds and rivers, the disappearance of frogs and fireflies, the changes in the growing season....

The climate change task force has done a fine job of outlining priorities for Plymouth's resiliency strategies. The four priorities are not in competition but would work in tandem, and the key to these strategies is to have someone practical, visionary and dedicated, someone who can see the big picture and can work with and coordinate between many Town departments—and whose ongoing task would of course be to find sources of funding for mitigation projects. While the cost of such a position might seem great, the position would more than pay for itself: not just in money obtained for the Town, but also in forestalling and/or mitigating future climate impacts that would otherwise cost the Town dearly. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

It is already the 13th hour, high time for Plymouth to step up to the plate with a well-coordinated plan. We are grateful to Selectman Flaherty and to the Climate Change task force for their diligence. We trust that the Select Board will support these proposals!

Respectfully,

Henrietta and Donald Cosentino
43 Gallows Pond Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

(Mailing address: Box 3906, Plymouth, MA 02361)

Patrick Flaherty

From: Mary Ferron <maryfferron@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Support Hiring of Climate Resiliency Coordinator

Dear Members of the Select Board: Richard Quintal, Jr., Betty Cavacco, Patrick Flaherty, and Harry Helm,

My husband and I are very proud of the steps that the Town of Plymouth is taking to address Climate Change. We strongly support the four priorities of the Climate, Energy, & Environmental Task Force.

We understand that a vote on the Task Force's recommendations will be taken at your July 20th meeting. We urge you to support them all. The Surfside Condo disaster in Miami is like a canary in a coal mine. It is a severe warning that living along the coastline has many dangers that cannot be ignored. The dangers of salt-water include erosion and salt-water intrusion. Coupled with the realities of Climate Change, towns like Plymouth must take action immediately. A Climate Emergency Declaration is an essential first step. However, if we do not hire a qualified person to coordinate the actions that are needed, then we'll end up spinning our wheels.

Therefore, we unequivocally support the cost to hire a Climate Resiliency Coordinator. We are hopeful that you will too.

Sincerely yours,

Mary & Don Ferron

40 Pinehills Drive, Apt. 1411

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Patrick Flaherty

From: Ken Stone <kenstone1016@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Support for CEE Task Force Proposals

Hello

I understand that the Select Board will be discussing four proposals from the Climate Task Force at your meeting on July 20th.

In my opinion, all four proposals are necessary and an appropriate response to the action recommendations of the MVP study performed for Plymouth. Climate change is already having real consequences for Plymouth, fiscally as well as environmentally. Our shoreline is eroding at such a rate that shoreline retreat has proved necessary. Homes are being moved back from the shore at great expense and some may become worthless in the not distant future. Manomet Point required the rebuilding of its main access due to collapse. The potential for salt water intrusion into the aquifer could impact our sole source water supply as could ever increasing residential sprawl. Heat islands are impacting north plymouth and downtown. Flooding has been occuring on Water Street. All of these problems and more will only get worse if we are complacent. Sea walls have had major repairs, but will not suffice if trends continue along current lines. The time for concrete action is now before the expense of remediation is extraordinary or beyond our means.

All of this will take a coordinated effort by the town in order to address the issues effectively and efficiently. Often departments and committees are siloed due to their individual mandates and priorities, making coordinated action more difficult. I do not believe that this is intentional, but rather a structural problem. In that regard, I want to express my particular support for one of the four CEE proposals that will come before the Board next week, though I value all four. That is the creation of a Sustainability Coordinator for the town.

I believe such a position is necessary given the number of issues, the diversity of tasks and the not uncommon involvement of multiple departments and committees when trying to address any one action that might be taken to address a particular recommendation. A sustainability coordinator would focus on preparing Plymouth for the increasing challenge of climate change and identify best practice approaches that Plymouth might adopt. Such an individual could also serve as the conduit for communication between those involved in any project plus serve as the facilitator for collaboration across groups. This could lessen the workload regarding the management and coordination of efforts while facilitating efficiencies. In addition, a Sustainability Coordinator could focus on seeking out and apply for grants and other forms of funding; keep abreast of sustainability efforts and resources at the regional, state and federal levels and be the town's liaison to groups engaged in sustainable actions both within and outside of the town. A Sustainability Coordinator would have the time to focus on such matters whereas department heads and committee chairs most often have to keep much of their focus on more narrow concerns.

The cost of funding such a position would be offset by the financial benefits the town would accrue. The town of Natick has had a Sustainability Coordinator for 7 years now which has resulted in millions of dollars in grants, savings and revenue. One example of a fiscally beneficial role for a Sustainable Coordinator would be working on Plymouth becoming a Green Community. Neighboring towns to Plymouth have been receiving thousands of dollars annually from the state via Green Community Grants, while Plymouth has been leaving money on the table as it works toward such a designation. Someone working full time might facilitate this and other matters.

Patrick Flaherty

From: edstrawn@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:50 PM
To: Selectmen
Cc: Lee Hartmann; Melissa Arrighi
Subject: Support for Climate Resiliency Coordinator
Attachments: sustainability Planner for Plymouth.docx

I am writing to you as a tax payer in the town of Plymouth. I am also a member of the Advisory and Finance Committee so that I do have some understanding of the fiscal challenges facing the town from that perspective. That being said, I strongly support the creation of a climate resiliency coordinator or a position that would serve that function. I have attached a draft job description that has been used by other towns in Massachusetts as they developed this role in their municipalities.

I believe that a full time person focused on the increasing challenges presented by climate change would be able to more than cover the costs associated with that position through grants. This has been demonstrated by employees in other departments, most notably David Gould and Patrick Farah. DPW has also been able to access funding far beyond the tax base. I am sure there are others but those are the ones that I have first hand knowledge of. Given the attention being paid to these issues at the state and federal levels, more funding is becoming available and Plymouth needs to be positioned to take advantage of those opportunities. Private foundations are also interested in funding innovative approaches to solving problems while that is still doable.

A resiliency/sustainability coordinator would focus on searching out and implementing best practice approaches. They would also facilitate collaboration across town departments and the numerous environmental groups in the area. This could lessen the workload regarding the management and coordination of efforts while facilitating efficiencies among departments. In addition, a resiliency coordinator could help educate the public about the importance of the challenges facing our community and ways they could get involved before the problems get out of hand.

I was chair of the Conservation Commission for 15 years. In that capacity I witnessed first hand how quickly our shoreline is eroding. I also saw the consequences for inland resources and the aquifer we all depend upon. These were detailed in the Climate-Ready Healthy Plymouth Report. The effects of climate change are real and beginning to be felt already. We need to address these now. Therefore I am asking you to support creating this position.

Evelyn Strawn

Patrick Flaherty

From: Deborah Etzel <daetzel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Climate Resiliency Coordinator

Dear Members of the Plymouth Select Board,

I am a resident of Plymouth (and a taxpayer) and I wish to strongly encourage you all to vote yes for all 4 of the items being placed before you at the July 20th Select Board meeting that resulted from Plymouth's Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force.

I especially want you to approve the Climate Resiliency Coordinator position. I realize that there is a cost associated with this position but I truly believe that the cost of not having such a position will be way more costly to Plymouth. Not only will this position be able to procure grants for the town but that position will help to reduce redundant efforts that occur when no one person is overseeing and coordinating all the very important activities happening throughout the town.

Much of Plymouth is situated directly on the oceanfront and derives much of it's tourist dollars from that proximity and all of that is in peril as the oceans rise and storm surges get greater. We have already seen winter flooding along Water Street and the loss of the use of beach roads in recent years, this will only increase. This position should allow us to efficiently take advantage of the programs that will help us be more resilient and perhaps mitigate the damages well before they become catastrophic.

The time to act is now while we can prepare instead of trying to repair.

Patrick Flaherty

From: Harvey LeSueur <hclesueur@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 9:14 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Position of Resiliency Coordinator

July 12, 2021

To the Plymouth Select Board:

Harvey & I have become increasingly alarmed by the ravishes to the West Coast and elsewhere – environmentally, financially and personally – due to climate change. Plymouth must more proactively prepare for the potential future here!

We therefore urge the Select Board to support all four related motions at your July 20th meeting. As taxpayers we particularly urge a “yes” vote on the motion to both create and fill a position of **Resiliency Coordinator** funded by the town. Such an investment will pay for itself many times over – with grants and state and federal gov’t monies (think David Gould’s effectiveness); as a critical conduit for communications with other town departments and state officials; attract environmentally focused businesses to settle here; and most significantly, strengthen our community’s future in spite of the hurdles we will be facing.

Now is the time for Plymouth to join other Massachusetts communities who have already taken this far-reaching step.

Yours Truly,

Mary & Harvey LeSueur

7Bay Colony Drive

Precinct 5

Patrick Flaherty

From: Marlene Samuelson <marlenesam24@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Support for hiring a Climate Resiliency Coordinator

Dear Select Board members,

I understand you're about to have a meeting to discuss the possibility of spending our tax dollars to hire a Climate Resiliency Coordinator. **I ENTHUSIASTICALLY, HEARTILY SUPPORT THE USE OF OUR MONEY TO HIRE A CLIMATE RESILIENCY COORDINATOR.** I am a knowledgeable, confirmed environmental advocate and activist, and a resident of Plymouth. Whatever the cost of this hire is, it is absolutely worthwhile and should be done.

There is no issue/problem more urgent right now than climate change. We are all impacted and we are all responsible to address this ASAP with efficiency and coordination. Having a Climate Resiliency Coordinator will allow this effort to be science and data based, and well organized among the various agencies and groups that should be involved. In addition, I would hope that the efforts will expand to include both **mitigation and adaptation** strategies.

Thank you for taking this into serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Marlene Samuelson, Ph.D.

Professor Emerita Curry College

40 Pinehills Dr., Apt. 1459
Plymouth, MA 02360

Patrick Flaherty

From: edstrawn@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Selectmen
Cc: Lee Hartmann; Melissa Arrighi
Subject: In Support of Regional Resilience Project Grant
Attachments: Final_DKPCreating Natural Solutions_MVPAActionProposal.pdf

I understand that there will be an item on the agenda of the Select Board meeting on July 20 asking the town to participate in a Regional Resilience Project Grant. Unfortunately I will be out of state so that I can not speak to this in person so that I am writing instead.

I have attached a copy of a proposal that was submitted for funding through the Municipal Vulnerability Program. It came within three points of being funded and the reviewers provided concrete suggestions for how to make it even more competitive in the next round of grant funding. I have been part of a group of volunteers and town employees representing the towns of Duxbury, Kingston and Plymouth as well as the Herring Pond Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation and the Old Colony Planning Council and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. We are committed to submitting a proposal to that will solidify collaboration between the three towns and set the stage for future coordination on implementing regionally beneficial nature-based solutions for storm water management and coastal resilience. There is a commitment from staff in the town of Kingston to take the lead in conjunction with MAPC to do the actual writing of the grant.

I am also a member of the Sustainability Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Plymouth Area which submitted this proposal to the CEE Task Force for consideration. The League covers these three towns and has been searching for ways to encourage a regional approach which is why this project was proposed by that organization.

I urge you to vote in favor of Plymouth's participation in writing a regional MVP grant.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Evelyn Strawn

Patrick Flaherty

From: Heidi Mayo <heidi@heidimayo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Plymouth's climate future

Dear Select Board Members,

I'm writing to urge the entire select board to support Plymouth's Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force's four top priorities (see below), most importantly the creation of the position of Climate Resiliency Coordinator for Plymouth. Organizing and implementing the other priorities depends on the unifying leadership of that position. I took part in the survey to identify the town's most critical climate change challenges, and each and every item seemed to be of almost equal importance, but committing to the cost of hiring a Resiliency Coordinator is key to any success Plymouth might have at mitigation and response to effects and challenges of climate change and rising sea level. Thank you for helping to improve Plymouth's potential in dealing with the local aspects of this worldwide problem.

Priorities:

1. Emergency Declaration
2. 30% Open Space (beyond the state forest)
- 3. Climate Resiliency Coordinator Position**
4. Regional Coastal Resiliency MVP project

Heidi Mayo
20 Savery Avenue
Plymouth, MA 02360
5087475467



Heidi Mayo
heidi@heidimayo.com

Patrick Flaherty

From: alfred baum <alfredbaum@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 5:16 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Forthcoming Climate , Energy and Environmental Task Force recommendations

As an enthusiastic resident of Plymouth since 1982 with a keen interest in insuring the effective maintenance of the towns environmental as well as economic integrity I am writing in support of the Climate, Energy and Environmental Task Force recommendations to be proposed at the upcoming Select Board meeting. In particular I want to underscore the value of establishing a Climate Resiliency Coordinator Position whose role in helping to identify, facilitate and coordinate resources to address the impacts of climate change (regardless of its cause) would almost certainly result in returns much greater than the cost of such a position by supporting relevant overburdened town staff, optimizing external sources of financial support, reducing the financial impact of crisis management by forestalling negative environmental impact and increasing the attractiveness of our community to industry and future residents inclined to recognize the inherent value of being environmentally as well as economically conscious.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alfred Baum
27 Oar and Line Road

Patrick Flaherty

From: Diane Flaherty <dflaherty6@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Selectmen
Cc: Diane Flaherty
Subject: Climate Change Concerns

To The Plymouth Select Board,

As concerned Plymouth citizens, we ask that you pass these top priorities of the Plymouth Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force:

*Climate Emergency Declaration

*30% Open Space (beyond the State Forest) *Climate Resiliency Coordinator Position *Regional Coastal Resiliency MVP Project

The establishment of the Climate Resiliency Coordinator Position is critical to Plymouth's ability to respond to future climate change challenges and should be added to the Town Budget. This position will ensure that efforts that are currently underway to respond to climate change are managed efficiently and effectively, avoiding costly redundancies. The coordinator position will also enable us to apply for State and Federal grants to fund our climate change efforts.

Plymouth is already experiencing the negative effects of climate change and we need to be prepared for changes to come in the future. The Climate Resiliency Coordinator Position will position us to do so.

Diane and Frederick Flaherty
11 Matt Hoxie Trail
Plymouth, MA
413-427-2586

Patrick Flaherty

From: Beth Hunnefeld <bhunnefeld@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 8:10 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Support for a resiliency coordinator position to help combat climate change

Hello,

As a taxpayer and an environmentally concerned citizen, I am reaching out to you to identify my support for a resiliency coordinator position. The climate problem facing us today is catastrophic. If we do not address the situation immediately there will undoubtedly be consequences. Having a dedicated person to support this effort is extremely important.

A resiliency coordinator will help prepare Plymouth for increasing climate challenges. There position should include:

- obtaining anticipated grants from the state and federal government that will 'repay' position costs, as well as cover costs of program initiatives.
- coordinating efforts of individual town departments to maximize effectiveness of projects and initiatives
- providing town staff the support they need to proactively address the challenges we are facing
- attracting environmentally-related businesses to work in a progressive, coastal community

--

Beth A. Hunnefeld
Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

Patrick Flaherty

From: Deanna Nealey <deannap1@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 11:50 AM
To: Selectmen
Cc: Deanna Nealey
Subject: Climate Change co-ordinator

To the Select Board of the Town of Plymouth,

It is with great satisfaction to know that the Select Board will be evaluating priorities to address the climate crisis at your next meeting. One of the priorities is to hire a Climate Resiliency Co-ordinator for the town of Plymouth. As a taxpayer, I greatly support this endeavor. Nationally, we are alarmingly unprepared to deal with the rapidly increasing changes in our weather patterns that have produced record heat, and jarring storms, gripping the country coast to coast. Plymouth should take this opportunity to take this step to invest in our future. We need to prepare for climate emergencies by having a regional plan to work on coastal problems caused by changing intense weather patterns.

Sincerely,
Deanna P. Nealey

Patrick Flaherty

From: Denise Stowell <denise.stowell@me.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:17 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Support for the Climate Emergency Declaration

To the Select Board of Plymouth MA.,

I ask that you support the Climate Emergency Declaration proposal for the town of Plymouth. Please consider our children and the future of our earth, air and water in making decisions in our town.

Thank you

Denise Stowell
3 Hog Rock Rd.
Plymouth, Ma 02360

Patrick Flaherty

From: Patti Anklam <patti.anklam@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 12:53 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Support for Climate Resiliency Coordinator Position

Dear People:

I strongly support the need to put a coordinator in place to connect the dots among existing and planned activities related to Plymouth's resilience in the face of climate change.

As a social network analyst for many non-profit foundations over 20 years I saw the value in network leadership -- someone with the ability to see the broad picture, enable disparate groups to collaborate and cooperate, and to use the power of the network to leverage grants and opportunities.

Please vote to establish this position.

regards,

patti anklam
14 Summersweet Circle

--

Patti Anklam
(978)807-7897

In sum, I hope the Select Board will decide to support establishing a Sustainability Coordinator position for the town and explore ways to fund the same. I believe the return on the investment would be well worth it in so many ways.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your service to the town.

Ken Stone

Kenneth Stone, Ed.D.
10 Madison Reach
Plymouth, MA. 02360

Patrick Flaherty

From: Janice Capofreddi <jcapofredd@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 2:53 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Climate Energy and Environmental Task Force Recommendations

Date: 7/11/2021

To: Selectmen@plymouth-ma.gov

From: jcapofredd@aol.com

Subject: Climate Change Recommendations

To the Members of the Select Board:

My husband and I support the Town of Plymouth as it addresses current and future climate change issues.

We agree with the four priorities of the Climate, Energy, & Environmental Task Force.

As part of that initiative, a Climate Resiliency Coordinator, with the appropriate background, would be an invaluable asset to the town.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Janice and Peter Capofreddi

Patrick Flaherty

From: Carol Roupinian <carol.roupenian@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:40 AM
To: Selectmen
Subject: re: July20th meeting/Climate energy and environmental task force

Hello,

As a concerned Plymouth taxpayer and voter, I am sending this email to urge a favorable vote on creation of a **resiliency coordinator position**. I believe this issue should be a priority concern in Plymouth and this position must be funded in order to move forward.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Carol Roupinian

Patrick Flaherty

From: JUDITH BARBER <judy.barber33@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Plymouth's Climate, Energy and Environmental Issues

To all the Select People

I would individually like to urge your support of the following matters that will be discussed at your July 20th meeting.

- Climate Emergency Declaration
- 30% Open Space (beyond the state forest)
- Climate Resiliency Coordinator Position
- Regional Coastal Resiliency MVP project

Sincerely,

Judith A. Barber

Patrick Flaherty

From: Jill Polvinen <jillpolvinen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 8:41 AM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Plymouth's Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force

Dear Select Board Members,

I am writing to you as a Plymouth resident to show my support for Plymouth's Climate, Energy & Environmental Task Force priorities, especially for the Climate Resiliency Coordinator position. This position is critically needed to effectively prepare Plymouth for the future as well as providing for long term economic advantages. I hope you all vote in favor of this crucial initiative.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Jill Polvinen
14 Atlantic St
Plymouth, MA

Patrick Flaherty

From: gordod1@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Climate resiliency

As a taxpayer, I commend Patrick Flaherty's efforts to address climate change and its effect on our important natural resources. Our tourism and family friendly atmosphere depends on it.

Please pass the July 20 resolutions and create a climate resiliency position. It will pay for itself with forward thinking protections and grant money that many South Shore and South Coast towns are accessing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kathleen and Gordon Dunn

Sent from my iPhone

Patrick Flaherty

From: Linda Warren <linda@ecys.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 7:18 AM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Climate Resiliency Coordinator

Dear Selectmen

As a Plymouth resident I am concerned about the future of the environment in our rapidly growing town. The position of a Climate Resiliency Coordinator is a positive way of studying our town and recommending strategies to preserve our open spaces and fight global warming at a local level.

Thank you

Linda Warren

794 Long Pond Rd

Plymouth, MA 02360

Please vote to place this position on the October Warrant.

--

Deb Etzel
31 Island Rock
Plymouth, MA 02360

Patrick Flaherty

From: dianegpeck@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 12:05 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: A letter of support for the Climate Resiliency Coordinator

This a letter in favor of the hiring of a Climate Resiliency Coordinator for the Town of Plymouth. We agree that the Town needs a co-ordinated response to the climate crisis, and needs to take its proper place as leading the effort in our region.

Thank you,

David and Diane Peck
16 Overlook Rd
Plymouth MA 02360

508.746.5894

Patrick Flaherty

From: kingfischer@vtlink.net
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:06 AM
To: Selectmen
Subject: CEE Priorities

Dear Members of the Plymouth Select Board,

I wish to add my name to the list of people supporting the adoption of all four of the CEE priorities Selectman Flaherty will present to the Board this coming Tuesday, July 20th.

While there clearly are many, many municipally directed Town projects and activities working to address the community's climate change challenges, energy use and needs and environmental conservation activities, it is time to give this work a higher place in Town efforts. The Town must bring balance between this said CEE work and the crush rapid development has and continues to place on us, for only in the long term will such efforts protect the Plymouth we enjoy today.

A Sustainability Coordinator, who has the charge of pulling these many centers of work together and make them more impactful and efficient is needed. Please support the resolution to establish the position.

I hope you will support all CEE's four priorities this coming week.

Thank you,
Cheryl King Fischer
Manomet Resident, Town Meeting Member and Precinct 6 Chair