LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 19, 2023
4PM
Rice Public Library
Community Room
AGENDA

1. Directors Report

2. Climate Action Plan Strategies Input
   a. Do they reflect what is expected?
   b. What is missing?
   c. What should not be in the plan?

3. Library Strategic Plan
   a. Feedback on Draft Goals and Action Items

4. Children's Garden Update

5. DEI Committee Update

6. Next Steps
   a. Action Items
   b. Next Meeting

Materials
- Draft Climate Action Plan Strategies
- Draft Strategic Plan Goals and Action Items

LAND USE & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

How can Kittery help our town's natural environment be ready for climate change?

1. Direct growth to areas with existing infrastructure and low flood risk

- Implement coastal flood hazard ordinance (in process).
- Refine ordinance to allow increased density in areas with sewer, water, energy transmission, public transit, and other amenities.
- Identify long-term strategies to reclaim coastal land for resiliency and public access.

2. Advance use of Low Impact Development practices

Refine Low Impact Development (LID) ordinance to:
- Require and promote reduction in impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff to limit groundwater rise and erosion.
- Require limit on soil disturbance.
- Require preservation and maintenance of natural landscapes with native vegetation.
- Require alternatives to hard/impervious surfaces.

3. Preserve and protect natural areas and local farms/food producers

- Refine ordinance to preserve areas that allow for marsh migration by protecting from development.
- Direct development away from flood-prone areas (Also see Strategy 1).
- Monitor shoreland buffer modifications and fine violators.
- Refine subdivision ordinances to require more open space in zones with no public utilities (also see Strategies 1, 2).
- Add seasonal farmstand definition to ordinance and remove regulatory barriers for establishing seasonal farmstands.

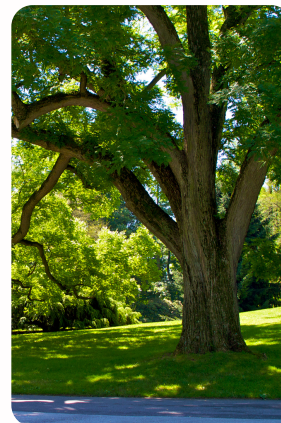## 4. Limit use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides

Advocate for statewide limits on residential use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, particularly in shoreland areas.

5. Preserve and revitalize working waterfronts

- Adopt policies and ordinances to preserve working waterfronts and enhance access to and use of.
- Support infrastructure at dock and marine facilities to enable electric fleets.
- Support the development of aquaculture.
- Permit only water-dependent uses along the coast.
- Require future coastal development/redevelopment to be climate/flood resilient and energy-efficient (Also see Strategy 1).
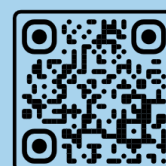
6. Maintain and increase tree cover and access to shade

- Develop a Town-wide tree program to encourage protection and planting of climate-resilient trees.
- Inventory heat islands, street trees, and shade areas, and develop a plan to plant more trees and install shade areas.

HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELL BEING

How can Kittery increase health, safety, & well being in our town?

7. Provide advisories on health impacts of climate and extreme weather events

- Develop and implement communication strategies for public health advisories about climate-related health risks around vector-borne diseases and air/water quality issues and during extreme heat and storms, fires, and power outages.
- Develop a plan for "Resilience Hubs" that can provide critical services during a disruption or health event – such as electricity, food, water, shelter, medical supplies, heat/cooling – and coordinate partners for post-disruption support.

8. Enhance planning for disaster response and mitigation for current and emerging climate hazards
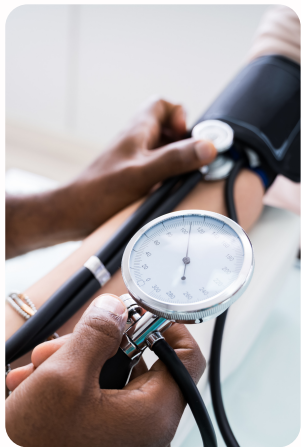
- Develop town-level plans that build upon existing county-level efforts – for climate hazards including loss of electrical service, extreme precipitation and flooding, extreme temperatures, wildfires, and drought.
- Create a coordinated climate and health response team to address disasters and establish a network for pre- and post-event coordination.
- Enhance collaboration with York County Emergency Management Agency on hazard mitigation planning.

9. Assess potential impacts of groundwater rise on septic systems and wells

Advocate for a regional groundwater modeling effort to identify areas of risk for groundwater rise and saltwater intrusion.

10. Provide education on public health impacts of climate change

- Implement community and school-based programs to educate the community about public health impacts – including vector-borne diseases, low air-quality days, and heat-related illness.
- Ensure education includes additional information-sharing methods for contacting "harder-to-reach" audiences (e.g. vulnerable populations, seasonal workers).

11. Evaluate and update evacuation routes to reflect current and future flood risk areas

Review and update evacuation routes, along with the signage and maps that direct people away from flood hazard areas.

BUILDING & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

How can Kittery make our town's buildings and energy systems ready for climate change?

12. Increase efficiency in public and private buildings

- Support weatherization outreach programs – operated by KCAN and others – that provide resources and information on efficiency evaluation, Efficiency Maine incentives, contractors, and financing options.
- Create incentives to build energy efficient affordable housing within Town.
- Support the adoption of higher efficiency building codes at a regional level.
- Support monitoring of energy efficiency in municipal and school facilities – along with planning for additional efficiency measures.

13. Support efforts by Efficiency Maine to transition single family homes and other buildings to heat pumps

- Support usage of Efficiency Maine's heat pump adoption programs for single family homes.
- Support current town plans to transition more municipal buildings to heat pumps. Encourage the school system to consider opportunities to transition to heat pumps.

14. Encourage distributed renewable energy

- Support solarization programs that provide resources and information on solar evaluation, Efficiency Maine incentives, contractors, and financing options.
- Actively engage in discussions of off-shore wind and other renewable sources at the regional level.

15. Support improved grid resilience

Support regional-level planning in cooperation with utilities to ensure a strong grid in the transition to greater electric dependency and for all potential crises.

16. Promote resilient building designs

- Encourage that building designs and modifications consider both current and potential future hazards from climate change.
- Ensure critical facilities consider climate-related weather risks in both location and design and ensure they have plans for resiliency.

17. Promote hazard disclosure for property transactions

Encourage the State to require flood risk disclosures for all property transactions.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

How can Kittery make our transportation systems and infrastructure ready for climate change?

18. Expand access to & use of public transportation services

Mount a concerted regional effort towards expansion of public transportation throughout southern Maine.

19. Direct development to areas of town with public utilities, public transportation & essential services

- Modify land use codes to promote infill development.
- Redevelop brownfield sites to increase housing stock.

20. Improve bikeability & walkability

Improve and expand the walkability and bikeability of our roadways with safe, comfortable, and convenient paths, sidewalks, and bikeways.

21. Reduce paved areas in new development & redevelopment projects

- Review and amend parking ordinances to reduce minimum requirements and build in flexibility.
- Review and update minimum parking space dimensions and parking lot design, including compact car spaces where appropriate.

22. Expand electric vehicle charging on public & private land

- Expand public EV charging locations through public/private partnerships – including in existing publically-accessible but privately-owned lots and on the waterfront and wharfs.
- Require EV chargers or EV-ready parking in new development and redevelopment projects.

23. Increase public & private use of electric vehicles

- Transition municipal, school, and public transit fleets to EVs.
- Ensure the public has user-friendly information and resources to encourage and assist with purchasing EVs.
- Continue to push for EV charging stations along state/interstate highways as well as locally.

24. Protect critical water-related infrastructure

Assess and protect critical assets such as drinking water, wastewater and stormwater management infrastructure that will be impacted by sea level rise, storm surge, flooding and extreme weather events associated with climate change. (Also see Strategy 9)

25. Assess vulnerability and improve resilience of transportation infrastructure

- Assess impacts of heat, groundwater rise, saltwater intrusion and flooding caused by sea level rise on local roads, culverts and bridges to better understand vulnerabilities of important infrastructure assets.
- Plan and conduct improvements for appropriate upgrades such as raising or relocation of transportation infrastructure.
- Amend road design standards to include climate resilience.
- Adopt a policy that the Town will only consider adopting roads that meet these updated standards

LEADERSHIP & CAPACITY

How can Kittery foster leadership and support to implement our Climate Action Plan?

26. Ensure municipal decision-making and funding strategies considers resilience and sustainability

- Adopt protocols to account for environmental conditions of today and tomorrow in municipal decision-making.
- Include funding for resilience and sustainability infrastructure investments in annual budgets and capital plans. Provide ongoing funding for staff to plan and implement projects.

27. Grow municipal capacity to support and implement climate adaptation strategies

Provide town departments with the resources, space, staff, and training needed to identify, evaluate, plan, and implement adaptation approaches.

28. Engage the community and local businesses in ongoing sustainability and resilience efforts

Encourage more residents and local companies to take action in their own homes and businesses by providing support, education, and programs. (Also see Strategies 12 & 14)

29. Advocate for resiliency and sustainability education at the state level

Ensure that the next generation has an understanding of these issues by advocating for greater incorporation of climate change and resiliency into core curricula requirements.

Help Guide Kittery's Climate Action Plan! The Kittery Climate Action Plan Task Force has been working hard to create a Climate Action Plan focused on changes that will have the biggest impact. What do you think of the proposed strategies? **Answer the survey by scanning the QR code here or visiting www.kitteryme.gov/CAP.**

SCAN ME

SMPDC
SOUTHERN MAINE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

SOUTHERN MAINE CAP COHORT

RICE PUBLIC LIBRARY
STRATEGIC PLANNING
GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS
DRAFT

1. **Lifelong Learning**
   Provide materials in multiple formats, and opportunities to engage—individually or in groups—in activities that promote learning and curiosity, including outreach and accessibility for the larger community.

   GOAL 1: To support the members of the Kittery community to expand their knowledge base, spark ideas, and make connections.

   ACTION ITEM #1
   Celebrate Diversity every month with a variety of programming.

   ACTION ITEM #2
   Continue the Big Books Big Ideas program that fosters community dialogue around important themes affecting our community.

   ACTION ITEM #3
   Explore Maker space options including creating classes and stem/art learning kits.

2. **Community Engagement**
   Provide broadly accessible program opportunities and services that celebrate diverse community interests and needs, feature voices from within the community, and create meaningful experiences in an environment where everyone feels welcome.

   GOAL 1: The library will expand the variety of services to enhance the experience of remote and in-person library patrons.

   ACTION ITEM #1
   Collaborate with the KCC and School dept and other local agencies.

   ACTION ITEMS #2
   The library will develop a service schedule to maximize access by everyone, both on-site and remotely

   ACTION ITEM #3
   Develop a plan to add Book Mobile service to support those in the community who do not have access to RPL onsite.

   ACTION ITEM #4
   Invite the Friends of RPL to start a new book group.

3. **Early Literacy**
    Provide programs and services to all children before they enter kindergarten, which are designed to foster a love of learning.

    GOAL 1: Promote early literacy Children 5 and under will have programs and services designed to ensure they enter school ready to learn to read, write, and listen = Ready for Kindergarten

    ACTION ITEM #1
    Roll out the 1,000 books Before the Kindergarten Reading Program* (initiated in Sep 2023)

    ACTION ITEM #2
    Add an additional Storytime for one Saturday or one evening for families that cannot attend.
    the two weekday Storytimes.

4. **Technology**
    Provide access to education and resources to help people adapt to an ever-changing technological landscape.

    GOAL 1: Expand Opportunities to support the technological needs of our community.

    ACTION ITEM #1
    Expand Digital Resources including streaming video and audiobooks. This includes media that stream content in many languages.

    ACTION ITEM #2
    Initiate a partnership with Sanford Jobs Center for on-site job application training, resume, and technology assistance.