

## Town of Oxford Community Resilience Committee (CRC)



Community resilience is often defined as the capacity to ‘bounce back’ from disruptions. Whether the disruptions are in the form of climate change, economic impacts, or as recently discovered, pandemics, the function of building resilience allows a community to adapt and persist through changing circumstances.

The Town of Oxford, citizens and officials, realizing the urgency and importance of not only preserving the irreplaceable history that is Oxford, but also the importance of protecting the quality of the surrounding waters that the citizens of Oxford have been dependent on for the last 300 years, have been deeply involved in long range planning to both fortify their town against sea-level rise and climate change and reduce their impacts to the surrounding waters. Simultaneously, the Town has been engaged in multiple efforts to improve and sustain the economic viability of the Town of Oxford, with the same intent of preserving 300 years of history and heritage for future generations.

In the interest of **Building and Sustaining Community Resilience for the Town of Oxford** the Oxford Commissioners have determined a Citizen Committee to act as the “keepers of the light” would be beneficial in assuring the work of the past ten years is carried into the future. This Committee would have the purpose of educating themselves on the recent efforts of the town, reviewing the prepared studies and recommendations, acknowledging successes and identifying future challenges, and passing their knowledge on to future Committee members.

The Town’s efforts towards Community Resilience over the last several years include the following:

### ENVIRONMENTAL

#### Studies/Plans:

- *Stormwater and Flood Management Study* prepared by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- *Stormwater Management/Shoreline Protection Fund/Utility (SMSP)*, with FY 2015 first year revenues of an estimated \$100,000 to be set aside as matching funds for future Capital Improvement engineering and implementation, addressing stormwater management and shoreline protection utilizing best management practices. An additional \$50,000 is included annually in the operating budget for maintenance and monitoring of stormwater/shoreline infrastructure.
- *Comprehensive Digital Inventory of Stormwater and Shoreline Infrastructure (SMSP Phase I)* funded through the initial FY 2015 SMSP fees and to be used in the future development of the Stormwater Management and Shoreline Protection Capital Improvement Plan (Master Plan).
- MD DNR Coast Smart/NOAA technical assistance collaboration producing a *Flooding/Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Study* to be used as a model for other communities.

- *The Oxford Stormwater Management and Shoreline Protection Capital Improvement Plan (Master Plan 2016)* that prioritizes infrastructure improvements and additional infrastructure needs based on current infrastructure, historic experience and projected vulnerabilities that will be used to leverage additional funding for the stormwater management and shoreline protection improvements necessary to assure the sustainability of the Town.
- *Critical Area Coastal Resilience Planning guide 2016* – Prepared by the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays as a case study of the Town of Oxford and including recommend Critical Area regulation modifications.

#### **Projects:**

- Oxford Causeway Stormwater Bioretention Areas
- Oxford Coastal Resilience/Shoreline Enhancements (Strand Beaches) – active project
- Oxford 2100 Visioning (in the face of sea-level rise) – active project

## **ECONOMIC**

#### **Studies/Plans**

- *Oxford Working Waterfront Strategic Planning* The economic sustainability of Oxford and its quality of life are dependent on the successful continuation of its maritime industries, the employment they provide, the tax revenues they produce, and their appeal to the boating community, visitors, and future residents.
- *Oxford Historic Commercial District Strategic Plan for Revitalization* The aim of this report is to encourage and help guide coordinated public and private actions and investment in the Oxford historic commercial district and thereby contribute to the Town's economic vitality and historic preservation.
- *Oxford Sustainable Community Plan (2014, 2020 – 5-year updates required)* This plan is a requirement to participate in the many State funding opportunities and the 5-year updates are required to remain eligible. The plan includes all area of Sustainability and future identifies priorities.

#### **Projects**

- Oxford MEWS Acquisition and Stabilization
- Oxford Façade Mini Business Grants 2016
- Oxford Façade/Interior Mini Business Grants 2017
- Oxford Façade/Interior Mini Business Grants 2020

## **OTHER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE and EFFORTS**

### **Studies/Plans**

- Oxford Wastewater Treatment Plan Upgrade Study 2007
- Oxford Wastewater Treatment Plan Updated Study 2012
- Oxford Water Treatment Plan Study – active

### **Projects**

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade to Enhanced Nutrient Removal
  - Morris Street Water Main Improvements
  - Oxford Central Park Improvements
  - Oxford Community Rating System (CRS) – ongoing participation
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### **Committee Responsibilities:**

- Review Oxford Documents in the Oxford Resiliency Library (to be created)
- Review state, federal and privately developed informational studies and programs with regards to climate change and sea level rise projections (to be provided)
- Review activities of other coastal communities as related to resiliency planning
- Quarterly Meetings to review prior efforts, current work and identify future needs
- Provide quarterly comments to Oxford Commissioners
- Available by request from staff to provide advisory opinions for identified needs

### **Committee Members (5) to be determined by the Oxford Commissioners:**

Commission Chair – Town Planner

Commissioner Liaison – Sitting Commissioner

Commission Members at Large - Two (2) Oxford Permanent Residents

Commission Member – Oxford Business Oriented – Residency *could* be waived