



# Commissioners of Oxford

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## **Town of Oxford, MD 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, realize the urgency and importance of not only preserving the irreplaceable history that is Oxford, but also the importance of protecting water quality, town infrastructure, businesses and home owners with regard to the surrounding waters that the citizens of Oxford have been dependent on for the last 300 years. The Town has been deeply involved in long range planning to fortify their town against sea-level rise and climate change to reduce their impacts. The Town has also been engaged in multiple efforts to improve and sustain the economic and physical viability of Oxford, with the 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, in 2022, the Oxford Commissioners determined that a Citizen Committee would be beneficial in assuring the work of the past ten years is carried into the future by educating themselves on the recent efforts of the town, reviewing the prepared studies and recommendations, acknowledging successes and identifying future challenges and also passing their knowledge on to future Committee members.

As the Committee began its work it has been realized that an expanded role of the Committee, its composition and functions would better help address a more sustainable and resilient Oxford.

### **CRC Mission**

To promote education, policies and activities that help mitigate current and future losses, costs, and human suffering caused by climate and/or other disruptions in the Town of Oxford.

To promote education, policies and activities that improve resilience and mitigate the impacts (economic, cultural, and human suffering) of climate-based and other disruptions to the citizens of Oxford.

### **CRC Description of Responsibilities**

Established by and reporting to the Oxford Town Commissioners, the Committee’s revised October 8, 2024 responsibilities shall include:

- The review and reporting of pertinent information from Oxford documents that relate to resiliency activities.

- The review and reporting of pertinent information from State, Federal, and privately developed informational studies and programs, with regards to climate change, sea level rise, and other resilience disruptions, that might benefit the Town of Oxford.
- Researching resiliency and mitigation activities occurring in other coastal communities to identify practices that might benefit Oxford.
- Serving as a reference for other Town boards/commissions when discussing resiliency efforts, as relevant or requested by them.
- Serving as a resource or providing advisory opinions for identified needs for Town staff, upon request.
- Reporting, at minimum on a quarterly basis, to the Oxford Commissioners on activities undertaken.

Other responsibilities could include:

- The Committee may organize and/or hold additional citizen meetings and workshops throughout the community, in accordance with its charge.
- The Committee may informally liaise with and call upon knowledgeable private citizens for a variety of purposes, including assistance with:
  - Identifying grant opportunities and preparing early drafts or components of grant applications, with Town approval.
  - Communications and educational opportunities to better inform the public, including event planning and organization.
  - Specific technical input (Engineering, Science, Architecture, Information Technology, etc.) and advise as needed.
  - Seeking and organizing input from specific neighborhoods on impact of flooding and related topics.
  - Citizen science and workday projects.
  - Other relevant issues.
- Members may serve as a liaison with outside experts in the field of resiliency but not as an official representative of the town.
- Members can review, discuss, and provide comments on resiliency efforts.

- Members may advise or participate in the preparation of grant applications, should the Town Management or Commissioners request.
- If called upon, members may advise on Oxford Economic Resiliency efforts.
- If called upon, members may assist the Town to liaise with Talbot County Emergency/Disaster Response officials.

### **Committee Composition**

Members will serve on a staggered basis for a term of three (3) years, renewable upon approval by a majority of the Commissioners. Voting membership will consist of seven (7) members who are residents of Oxford. Membership will also include a non-voting liaison from the Oxford Commissioners. The committee may also seek non-voting representation from one or more technical experts who are not Oxford residents, but regularly attend meetings and provide advice.

- Committee Chair (1) - CFM Town Planner
- Committee Members (6) –Oxford Full-Time Residents
- Commissioner Liaison (1) –Sitting Commissioner

The membership will be determined by the Oxford Commissioners and it is recommended that the membership represent a diverse knowledge base and/or expertise within the following subject areas.

- Flooding and Sea Level Rise
- Information Technology
- Emergency/Disaster Response
- Environmental Science
- Engineering/Architecture
- Business-Oriented and/or Project Management
- Economic Development

### **Committee Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Committee will occur at minimum, on a bi-monthly basis on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Friday at 10AM.

- November 15, 2024
- January 17, 2025
- March 21, 2025
- May 16, 2025
- July 18, 2025
- September 19, 2025
- November 21, 2025

Ad Hoc meetings may be called as needed.