NOTE: The social distancing imposed by the virus has precluded our in-person collaborations and we want to stay in touch with you. We will be sending a brief update on our programs and accomplishments every quarter.

Welcome to our fall 2020 newsletter. The Storm Surge organization is doing well and we are continuing with the work that was envisioned by the founders in 2013. In February, I was asked to help Storm Surge as the new chair, and we have been zooming along ever since. Thank you for your interest in our programs and continued support.

Bill Clary, Chair

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Speaker Series – Winter/Spring 2020** Held December, February events in person, and June via Zoom.
- **Speaker Series – Fall 2020** announced https://storm-surge.org/event-calendar/
- **Created and Distributed "Be Prepared" information sheets** to over 9,000 people in our region Click here to download.
- **Developed Educational Programs for Newburyport Schools** with content on Climate Change and the Great Marsh with grant from New England Biolabs
- **Welcome and Integration of New Volunteers**.

NEW VISION, MISSION and PURPOSE

Vision: For the residents, business owners and city officials of Newburyport to care for the ecosystems and communities of the lower Merrimack River and our coast, basing their actions on scientific knowledge of climate change and leading in the preservation, protection and adaptation of our environment.

Mission: To enhance the resilience of the coastal communities and ecosystems in the greater Newburyport area through science-based education and empowerment of all — youth and citizens.

Purpose: To empower our community to plan and take positive steps toward climate change mitigation and adaptation.

GOOD NEWS

Here is a great resource from the Yale Climate Connections with good news and podcasts. The article talks about the good things happening to impact Climate Change.

SPEAKER SERIES – Fall 2020 Program Schedule

For details please visit: https://storm-surge.org/event-calendar/

- **Thursday, November 19 at 7 PM**; Zoom Presentation; *"Triple Bottom Line Benefits of Green Infrastructure"*; Bob Uhlig, FASLA LEED AP BD+C; Vice President of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design at Halvorson | Tighe & Bond Studio
- **Thursday, December 17 at 7 PM**; Zoom Presentation; *"Planning for Resilience: With People, Place, and Planet in Mind"*; Steve Whitman, EdD, AICP; Founder and Principal of Resilience Planning & Design Teaching Lecturer and Sustainability Programs Manager at Plymouth State University, NH; and Elizabeth Kelly, M.S. in Ecological Design and Planning Planner and Designer, Resilience Planning & Design Board President of the Permaculture Association of the Northeast

We hope you will attend, participate, discuss, and involve your friends and family members in our work!

VOLUNTEER

Here are the Committees where you can contribute

Active committees: Volunteers, Administration, Education, Marketing, Speaker Series, Grant Writing

New Committee projects: Resilient Infrastructure, Carbon Footprint

If you would like to volunteer for our projects or you have a friend that would like to volunteer, please send an email to Bill Clary at stormsurge9@gmail.com.

We have several ongoing programs and future work that new volunteers can help with. I am pleased to report that our community has rallied behind our current programs and committees, which include:

- **Speaker Series:** The Fall Speaker Series started in October (Sheila Taintor – leader)
- **Education Content:** Develop educational content for Newburyport Schools with funding from New England Biolabs (Heather Lipp/Bob Young – leaders). This concept was explored in a New York Times article this week
- **"Be Prepared" Sheets:** Create and Distribute "Be Prepared" information sheets to over 9,000 people in our region. (Chris Czernik – leader)
- **Updating Website:** Change the look and feel of our website (Vern Ellis – leader)
- **Archives/Photos/Email:** Create information filing and storage systems for our images, presentations, and videos (Sarah Tappan – leader)
- **Placing Volunteers:** Get people interested in our projects and integrated with our committees (Bill Clary)
- **Writing Grants:** (Josh Chase)
- **Treasurer:** Management of our finances (Ken Ayvazian – leader)

Behind these groups our volunteers make a difference and help us work on these projects and programs to the community about the science of climate change and the impact we can expect in the coming years. In the coming year, we are looking to develop programs to help people estimate their

carbon footprint, investigate city infrastructure sites that are vulnerable to climate change, suggest options for building for resilience, and assist the city with its resiliency planning. Our goal is to educate people so they have the tools to make changes in their lives and advocate change in our community.

The effects of climate change are impacting our lives in many ways, which gives many of us our calling to join hands and help with the changes we need to make personally, as a community, a state, a nation, and for all life. We can see these changes taking place—more people biking and walking, eating locally, a new bus that services Newburyport, more solar production on homes, and large projects to harvest the wind in the ocean.

To you our volunteer members, thank you for your time and commitment. We can make a positive impact and create hope about the environment, while improving the resiliency of our community.

PS – If you would like to volunteer for our projects or you have a friend that would like to volunteer, please send an email to Bill Clary at stormsurge9@gmail.com.

Also, donations can be made via PayPal or contact Ken Ayvazian for details at stormsurge9@gmail.com.

Bill Clary, Chair – Storm Surge
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