

Charlestown Climate Resiliency Commission

06/13/24 Regular Meeting



1) Call to Order: 5:06pm D. Prescott

2) Attendance: D. Prescott, S. Racine, C. Beasley, M. Viola, K. Larrabee Invited Guests: S. Cooper, Chief D. Rathbone, K. Gallup, & C. Rooney.

3) Wildlife Safety Discussion: *RIDEM representative was unable to attend.*

Charlestown Fire Chief Don Rathbone outlines challenges related to wildland fire response in the town, including RIDEM Forestry's limited budget and ability to maintain and respond on lands RI owns.

Chris Rooney, Forestry Manager with RI Energy RI has no regulations related to clearing conductor lines, despite this, RI Energy takes fire safety and readiness very seriously. However, they have a limited pruning budget due to rate regulation by the RIPUC. Therefore, they must prioritize their clearing efforts; making remote single-phase conductor lines the lowest priority. Interstate transmission lines are federally regulated and therefore must be constantly monitored and maintained for access, maintenance, and emergency response. Largest hindrance to conductor line tree maintenance is lack of communication and coordination between the utilities (electric, communications, etc).

D. Prescott outlines the CCRC's responsibility/value in bringing this information to the public to make an impactful resiliency difference.

4) July Meeting Agenda: (July 11th) *Changes in the Charlestown Breachway*

5) Commissioner Updates: None

6) Adjournment: 7:00 pm

Minutes Recorded & Submitted Electronically by C. Fox