

Climate Resilient Carlisle

MVP Core Committee Meeting

Deep Dive Meetings: Initial Findings and Topics to Address

June 27, 2024, 10 am



Agenda and Framing

Agenda

- What we heard at the deep dive meetings
- Five broad topics
 - Concern
 - Potential solution(s)

Discussion topics

- Are we missing anything?
- Do the proposed solutions make sense?
- Which topics are you most excited to hear more about?

Deep Dive Meetings: What We Heard

Meeting	Date	Topics Discussed
Local Emergency Preparedness Committee	5/6/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Attendees were town staff (fire, police, public health, library, etc.)Fire risks: drought, water for firefighting, battery fire risksSocial resilience
Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals	5/9/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Risks related to water: storms and severe weather, flooding and wetlands, and groundwater protectionChallenges in implementing green stormwater managementSeptic utility
Housing and Historic Commission	5/15/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sustainable construction and demolitionLandscaping and household resource useLand use and density
Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC)	6/6/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Climate value of different land uses (green space vs. solar farms)Landscaping and household resource use

Five Broad Topics

- Healthy ecosystems and natural resources
- Resilient housing and household resource use
- Drought and wildfire resilience
- Flood resilience
- Resilient power and utilities

Healthy Ecosystems and Natural Resources

Concern

- Healthy (contiguous, unpolluted, native, diverse) ecosystems increase resilience to climate change.
- Carlisle's codes generally focus on each parcel or each issue individually, rather than considering the health of the entire ecosystem.

Proposed solution(s)

- Update codes to advance meaningful contiguity of ecosystems and overall ecosystem health and incorporate green stormwater infrastructure as a preferred option.
- Develop public education and training on green infrastructure and natural systems for homeowners and municipal staff.

Where we heard this concern:

- Planning Board
- ESC
- Conservation Commission

Resilient Housing and Household Resource Use

Concern

- Carlisle is primarily residential, so there are many opportunities to make residences more resilient.
- Houses in Carlisle are larger and on larger lots than average relative to the region, and therefore use more resources.

Proposed solution(s)

- Update codes to focus on resource use rather than housing type.
- Make connections between housing needs and resilience. Encourage salvage and consider how to protect historic structures from risks.
- Develop public education on home water and other resource use.
- Consider developing a septic utility to maintain local septic systems.

Where we heard this concern:

- Planning board
- Affordable Housing Trust
- Board of Health
- ESC
- Historic Commission

Drought and Wildfire Resilience

Concern

- Droughts are expected to increase in frequency and severity. Droughts increase wildfire risks, which are growing in Carlisle. They also increase the perceived need for landscaping water, raising risks of groundwater depletion.
- Board of Health's irrigation regulations do not consider drought.

Proposed solution(s)

- Update irrigation regulations to consider drought and watering bans.
- Develop public education and/or policies for public lands on drought resistant and native landscaping choices.
- Develop a forest management and wildfire protection plan.

Where we heard this concern:

- ESC
- Board of Health
- Conservation Commission
- Fire department

Flood Resilience

Concern

- Flooding is becoming more common, and the floodplain is widening.
- Carlisle's 1% annual chance floodplain (per FEMA mapping) does not account for climate change.
- Carlisle does not have a local Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

Proposed solution(s)

- Update regulations and zoning to incorporate the 0.2% annual chance floodplain.
- Develop a local Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations.

Where we heard this concern:

- ESC
- Conservation Commission

Resilient Power and Utilities

Concern

- Carlisle has a variety of emergency management needs related to utilities, communication infrastructure, and backup power.
- Many households in Carlisle have started to use backup battery power. These come with fire risks.
- Relationships with utility and their arborists could be stronger.

Proposed solution(s)

- Develop a forest management and community wildfire protection plan.
- Reduce risks to power and other emergency management infrastructure. Strengthen relationships with utilities.
- Develop public education on battery fire risks.

Where we heard this concern:

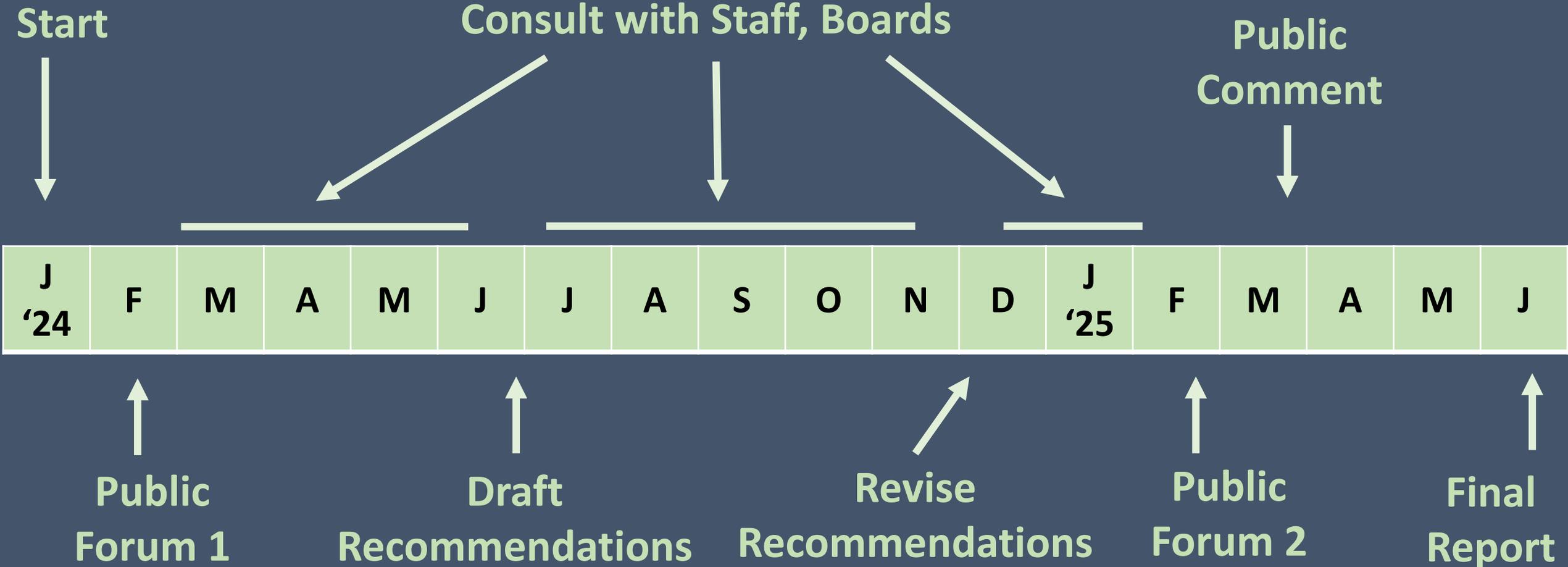
- ESC
- Conservation Commission
- Fire Department

Are we missing anything?

Which topics are most exciting?



Climate Resilient Carlisle – Timeline (Approx.)



Next Steps

SUMMER

- Sort proposed solutions by deliverable through this project
 - Full recommendation
 - Examples and suggestions to get started
 - Information on what we heard
- Start digging in!

BEYOND

- Fall: Meetings to discuss our specific proposed changes
- Winter: Public forum #2 and public comment
- Spring 2025: Develop final report/plan, with prioritization and roles

Questions?

Reach out if anything comes to mind!

Thank you!!

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