



# Town of Barrington

TOWN MANAGER

Barrington Town Hall | 283 County Road | Barrington, RI 02806

July 28, 2020

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman  
House Committee on Finance  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Honorable Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

The Town of Barrington is pleased to offer its enthusiastic support for the Governor's proposed \$7 million Municipal Resilience Program in the State's *Beaches, Clean Water and Green Economy Bond* initiative.

As one of the most vulnerable communities to storm surge, sea level rise and other climate change-related hazards, Barrington recognizes the urgent need for Rhode Island to take steps to become more resilient to the ever-increasing threat of natural hazards.

Barrington, in partnership with Warren, was among the first five communities in the State selected in 2019 for participation in the Resilient Rhody Municipal Resilience Program administered by the RI Infrastructure Bank. In September 2019, dozens of stakeholders from Barrington and Warren attended a joint Community Building Workshop conducted by the Nature Conservancy, in conjunction with the Infrastructure Bank. This process helped both towns identify priority actions to enhance resiliency, including installing stormwater facilities, enhancing natural buffers along the shore, fixing erosion that threatens infrastructure, improving communications, and strengthening evacuation plans.

The Town, as one of the MRP communities, was eligible to apply for the \$1 million in MRP Action Grant funding available through the Infrastructure Bank. Barrington is thankful to be awarded a \$201,000 grant that will fund an adaptation project at Walker Farm – a site threatened by sea level rise. The project includes the restoration of a degraded shoreline and the raising of a gravel access road that provides access to the Town's yard waste processing area – a critical facility for debris management following major storms. The grant also will fund two nature-based solutions near the Barrington River designed to capture and treat stormwater from adjacent streets.



Barrington is working to continue the momentum created by our participation in the Municipal Resilience Program. For example, we have hired a consulting resiliency planner to work on grants and implement projects, established a capital budget item for climate mitigation projects, and initiated development of a resiliency plan for Bay Spring, the town's most vulnerable neighborhood.

We are strong supporters of the Municipal Resilience Program – an opportunity to build community support for funding and implementing resiliency projects that are critical to the future of Rhode Island.

Respectfully Submitted,



J. J. CUNHA  
Town Manager



PHILIP HERVEY, AICP  
Director of Planning, Building and Resiliency