

**A RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE TOWN OF ELIOT TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
PARTNERSHIP
December 15, 2022**

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Maine is warming 99% faster than other oceans around the world, and ocean acidification and warming ocean temperatures pose a serious economic and cultural risk to Maine maritime industries, heritage, and tourism;

WHEREAS, the Town of Eliot experiences coastal flooding, intense rainstorms, riverine flooding, drought, high heat emergencies, and other natural hazards and seeks to better prepare for future conditions;

WHEREAS, shifting seasonal temperature and precipitation patterns threaten local natural ecosystems and economic activity, such as agriculture, tourism and seasonal recreation, including winter sports and other outdoor activities, and public health due to increased incidence of heat-related illness and tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme disease;

WHEREAS, the State of Maine's four-year climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait*, seeks to put Maine on a trajectory to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045;

WHEREAS, achieving these emissions and resilience goals will require Maine to act with urgency to slow the causes of climate change and prepare people, communities, and the environment for climate-related impacts to come; and

WHEREAS, the Community Resilience Partnership provides grants to municipalities and Tribal Governments for activities that lower energy expenses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase community resilience in alignment with the state's climate action plan and goals;

WHEREAS, the Town of Eliot is prepared to demonstrate leadership in reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing the resilience of people, infrastructure, and businesses;

WHEREAS, the Town of Eliot has completed the Community Resilience Partnership's Community Resilience Self-Assessment and List of Community Actions, and held a community workshop on October 25, 2022, which prioritized the following action areas: supporting alternative transportation modes, including bike and walking infrastructure; improving energy efficiency and weatherization of municipal and school buildings; and protecting open space in the floodplain to increase flood buffers and community resilience;

WHEREAS, planning for community and infrastructure resilience will protect people, preserve businesses and the local economy, and reduce the impact and costs of natural disasters;

WHEREAS, investing in energy efficiency and weatherization improvements is proven to lower municipal electricity expenses and make buildings more comfortable for employees and visitors;

WHEREAS, addressing climate change will present economic opportunities for the Town of Eliot as well as opportunities to invest in the public good and cost-saving practices;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Eliot commits to participating in the Community Resilience Partnership, which supports community leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resiliency to extreme weather and climate change impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Eliot designates Jeff Brubaker, Town Planner, to coordinate planning, implementation, and monitoring of energy and resilience projects and to be the primary point of contact to the Community Resilience Partnership.

Resolved December 15, 2022


Richard Donhauser, Chair


Bill Widi, Vice Chair


Robert McPherson, Clerk


Lauren Dow

Stan Shapleigh