

DRAFT CRAC STATEMENT:

The Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee encourages the directly involved parties (Baxter Road property owners, the Select Board, the Conservation Commission, and Town staff & consultants) to continue negotiating the process for managed retreat from the Sconset Bluff and relocation of Baxter Road due to the threat of erosion cutting off access and destroying infrastructure. The interests of the island community as a whole must also be kept in mind so that the efforts in this area do not place either adverse environmental impact or excessive cost burdens on island residents not in the project area.

Although geotubes and other erosion control structures are effective at reducing erosion at their specific locations while they are properly maintained with the addition of sacrificial sand, the possible harm to adjacent and 'downstream' properties from deflected wave energy or sand starvation and the high monetary cost, disproportionate allocation of sand, significant management time, and neighborhood disruption all speak against relying on such structures in highly dynamic and vulnerable environments such as the Sconset Bluff.

In addition, erosion of the bluff will continue to occur from other environmental factors such as wind, rain, runoff, and instability, and erosion of unprotected portions of the bluff will eventually affect currently protected portions as well, supporting a sense of urgency for the road relocation and managed retreat even if the portions of the bluff toe remain protected.

NANTUCKET COASTAL RESILIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TOWN OF NANTUCKET

MARY LONGACRE - COMMITTEE CHAIR
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
131 PLEASANT STREET
NANTUCKET, MA 02554

508-228-7230



6/21/2023

RE: Town of Nantucket CZM Grant Application – Letter of Support

This is a letter of support for the Downtown Neighborhood Flood Barrier Feasibility Study project, and we recommend the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management fund this grant application.

The Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee recently worked to develop an island wide Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) which was adopted by the Town. The Committee then unanimously voted on January 11th, 2022, that the Downtown Neighborhood Flood Barrier Phase 1 project in the Coastal Resilience Plan be the primary project to pursue for funding. This has led directly to this CZM application.

This grant application aligns with the overall goal of the Coastal Resilience Plan; specifically with the CRP Project 2-6 Downtown Neighborhood Flood Barrier - Phase 1 Project. This is also part of the broader CRP project 2-2 Downtown Neighborhood Flood Barrier - Later Project Phases.

We are pleased to see CRP Recommendation 2-6 progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Longacre". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mary Longacre, Chair, Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee

Signed on behalf of all committee members:

Gary Beller
Sarah Bois, Ph.D.
Peter Brace
Matt Fee
Ian Golding
Jennifer M. Karberg, Ph.D,
Mary Longacre
Joanna Roche