

Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee
Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020
Community Room, 4 Fairgrounds Road
*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

Members present: Gary Beller (phone), Sarah Bois, Peter Brace, Matt Fee, Ian Golding, Jennifer Karberg, Mary Longacre

Members absent: Graeme Durovich, Fritz McClure

Staff present: Vince Murphy

Others: Guthrie Diamond, Taylor Donovan, RJ Turcotte, Liz Trillos, Edie Ray, Tom Szydlowski, Annie Stackpole Menz, Rick Atherton, Shelley Dresser, Sam Kefferstan

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved 7-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Dec. 17, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved 7-0 with a minor addition by the chair.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

A. Update from first CRAC Education Sub-committee meeting

Ms. Bois reported that the subcommittee held its first recently, which she said was largely organizational and at which the group set its goals. She did not have those goals with her at the meeting, but she said she would present them at the Jan. 21, 2020 CRAC meeting. She added that their next meeting would be at the end of January. At this meeting, she reported that the committee would be reviewing educational methods and materials used by other coastal communities to try to adapt them to Nantucket.

Ms. Bois reported that they elected her chair, Ms. Durovich as vice chair and Ms. Longacre as secretary. She added that the committee also created its mission statement. Ms. Longacre said that since that last meeting, the CRAC minutes had been revised and the working group had been changed to a subcommittee.

B. Update on potential Civic League Forum participation

Mr. Murphy updated CRAC on this opportunity on Feb. 8 for two hours. Mr. Murphy committed to speaking at this even and is hoping Ms. Bois and Ms. Karberg will as well.

Mr. Szydlowski reported that this forum would be to address coastal resiliency and inform the public on this, the breadth of the issue and what the town is doing about it. It will be open to the public.

C. Update from Vince Murphy on Request for Proposals for the Coastal Resilience Plan

Mr. Murphy reported that the scope of services is the first draft and then asked the committee for any revisions of the document it could recommend to him. Mr. Brace said had found factual and editorial errors. Ms. Longacre agreed with Mr. Brace.

Mr. Golding disputed the statement that more than 30 houses have been lost to erosion and said it should be more than 80. Ms. Karberg said adding in number of houses moved inland from the shore would be a helpful number to have in the document.

Mr. Szydlowski left the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

Ms. Bois suggested that both the 2050 and 2100 timelines should be used within document because there may certain strategies for coastal resiliency that would benefit from each. Mr. Beller agreed with Ms. Bois in relation to rising water around the island and that there has to be balanced view because a lot strategies will have had to be implemented well before 2100. Ms. Longacre agreed, adding that multi-century is out of the committee's jurisdiction. Mr. Golding agreed, indicating that a 30-year timeline would be the most useful. Mr. Brace agreed with comments from his committee members but added that CRAC still needs to provide instructions for Nantucketers beyond the plan's

timelines. Mr. Golding also recommended that the 10-foot sea level rise forecast should be used by CRAC and the consultant. Ms. Bois suggested that the plan needs to have a multi-timeline that accommodates all strategies including those for infrastructure.

Many of the CRAC members lamented only having 24 hours, if that, to digest the document before the meeting.

Ms. Karberg said the purpose section of the document needed to be expanded beyond the infrastructure solutions. Maybe do bullet points of what is being asked of the consultants. She added more clarity would better help focus the consultants.

Mr. Murphy said he's concerned about the length of this document. Ms. Longacre said it should be as long as need be to get the job done.

Mr. Murphy asked the committee if it had any suggestions for the section on public engagement and data collection. Ms. Karberg recommended expanding data gathering to include state agencies with data on Nantucket and local knowledge. Ms. Bois agreed.

Because the committee only got the document 24 hours before the meeting, Mr. Golding moved that the committee have until the Jan. 21 meeting to fully review it and to also continue discussing it at the Jan. 14 meeting. Ms. Longacre seconded that motion. The committee engaged in an effort to get Mr. Murphy to understand that 24 hours was not enough for the committee to review and comment on the document. Mr. Murphy reluctantly agreed. The committee voted 7-0 to continue the discussion of the scope of services document beyond the current meeting's discussion and resume it at the Jan. 21 meeting.

Mr. Fee asked if there were any recommendations that could be cut out.

Mr. Murphy said he is attempting to have this plan "dovetail" with the Resilient Nantucket: 3D Digital Documentation and Sea Level Rise Visualization plan being developed by the Town, Preservation Institute: Nantucket and the Nantucket Preservation Trust. Ms. Bois noted that the consultants shouldn't rely on outdated plans on Nantucket related CRAC's plan. Mr. Fee stressed that Mr. Murphy was correct in trying work in possible principles, bylaws regulations that could pay for implementing the CRAC plan through its lifetime.

Ms. Karberg recommended that the document specifically which plans and data be used to create the various section of the CRAC plan.

In Section E., Mr. Fee recommended that the document reflect differences between Town laws and state laws.

Ms. Bois said that the recommended areas needed to include the interior areas that could be impacted by sea level rise and advocated for the plan to be island wide. Mr. Murphy said that the document is just a recommendation and that the consultant would decide how to do it. Mr. Fee said its important for the consultant to use island place names that everyone can agree on. Ms. Longacre said that once the consultant is hired, the committee needs to agree on impacted areas and then how to break them up. Ms. Karberg suggested the committee discussion how to break down the impacted areas at the Jan. 21 meeting. Mr. Fee suggested getting from the consultant what options there are for funding various strategies in the plan. Mr. Beller agreed that with Mr. Fee. Mr. Murphy said it is his responsibility to find funding sources. Mr. Beller stressed the importance of knowing if funding exists before deciding on one project or another.

Ms. Longacre asked if members of the public in attendance had any questions or comments on the proceedings.

Ms. Ray said she liked the idea of slowing this process down and having committee members email Mr. Murphy with their recommended changes is a really good idea.

Mr. Beller asked when the committee would be seeing the legal language of the contract. Ms. Longacre said the committee would not be seeing that language.

In response to Ms. Bois' query on interview and hiring protocol, Mr. Murphy explained both to the committee. Mr. Fee said members of the committee could be part of this process.

D. Discuss a recommendation to the Select board on Town review of development plans in coastal areas (ConCom jurisdiction, FEMA flood zone or others) to include potential Coastal Resilience strategies.

Mr. Murphy explained this item to the committee. Essentially, how town boards could review development proposals with coastal resiliency strategies in mind. He asked that the committee generate recommendation to the Select Board on how to do this.

Mr. Brace suggested a protocol for review boards to follow depending on which board would be reviewing applications for developments in low-lying areas to be impacted by sea level rise.

Mr. Murphy clarified that this effort would be to have a way address developments proposed before the Coastal Resiliency Plan (CRP) is written.

Mr. Fee this arose from the Brant Point Association asking the town for help with flooding issues and the town then asking the CRAC to help out. Ms. Longacre said the CRAC should develop some temporary guidelines. Mr. Beller agreed with this idea and acknowledged several development proposals in low-lying areas that could benefit from such guidelines.

Mr. Brace suggested that a good place to start this process from would be the downtown waterfront overlay zoning district that might be amended to include coastal resiliency strategies. Ms. Bois suggested working within existing bylaws and board protocol instead of introducing new bylaws and regulations before the CRP is written.

Ms. Longacre suggested a flood and erosion score card that board could use to determine potential for sea level rise impacts. Mr. Murphy said he didn't have the time to do this. Mr. Golding suggested expanding the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction beyond 100 feet from a wetland. Ms. Karberg, acknowledging that CRAC has no regulatory power, suggested keeping having review boards notify CRAC when proposals are submitted for sea level prone areas so the committee could at least track them and possibly send the developers the committee's guidelines. Mr. Brace suggested that town review boards require that developers of proposals attend CRAC meetings to get the committee's advice before proceeding with their plans.

Mr. Atherton agreed that having such a set of guidelines would be very helpful while the CRP is being written. He expressed support for Mr. Brace's waterfront overlay district suggestion and noted that in Kauai,

Hawaii and California, waivers are required from builders doing projects within high erosion areas along the coasts. Though Longacre said waivers wouldn't accomplish much in terms of coastal resiliency, Mr. Fee said at least the town would have developers accountable for their work in low-lying areas. He cited the new marine department building, which he said isn't going to be built high enough. Mr. Brace suggested that committee is heading toward some sort of island wide coastal resiliency overlay district.

Mr. Murphy asked that committee members email him their suggested guidelines before Jan. 17 so he can compile them for a discussion at the Jan. 21 meeting.

Mr. Atherton left the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

Ms. Ray agreed with guidelines idea, noting new houses under construction on the west side of Millie's Bridge.

Mr. Fee said the guidelines should be short and to the point

Ms. Stackpole Menz of the Madaket Conservation Association reported that this group is working on a plan to plant beach grass between the ocean and the south end of Hither Creek. She added they're also working on a future article for Town Meeting to prohibit oversand vehicles from driving through beach grass area.

Ms. Ray commented there needs to be enforcement of beach driving on town properties during the offseason, when the narrower winter beach forces beach drivers to drive into dunes.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

DISCUSSION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING SCHEDULE

OTHER BUSINESS.

ADJOURNMENT

Unanimously approved, 7-0, at 1:53 p.m.