

## Quarterly report from the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC) to the Select Board for April to June 2022.

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE QUARTER:**

- On June 28<sup>th</sup> Carolina Magina, newly hired Sustainability Project Manager for New England Development (owners of Nantucket Island Resorts) was a guest speaker. Carolina spoke about their plans to undertake sustainable projects and how they would like to coordinate with Town plans where possible. She will be available to attend future CRAC meetings as well.

### **COASTAL RESILIENCE PLAN (CRP) ACTIVITIES:**

On 4/14 CRAC held a special meeting for a public presentation from the Woods Hole Group (WHG) as consultants to The Trustees of Reservation (TTOR) and Nantucket Conservation Foundation (NCF). The WHG presented information on studies of potential breach points on Coatie, at Coskata Pond, and at the Haulover with potential solutions to make those areas more resilient. This project is directly related to CRP Recommendation **4-3 Coatie Erosion Mitigation and Dune Resilience**.

The Town's Coastal Resilience & Sustainability Interdepartmental working group commenced meeting on April 4th. CRAC will receive updates on the group's activities from Natural Resources Department as available. This is implementation of CRP Recommendation **1-5 Coastal Resilience & Sustainability Interdepartmental Working Group**

CRAC continued discussion on **Recommendation 1-14 Update Locally-adopted Sea Level Rise Scenarios and Best Available Flood Hazard Data** and requested additional information from Mass Dept of Transportation regarding availability of the Massachusetts Coastal Flood Risk Model data.

### **GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

CRAC was involved in several grant applications with and through the Natural Resources Department and also with other island groups:

- A grant application for a feasibility study and public outreach regarding under the CRP Recommendation **2-6 Downtown Neighborhood Flood Barrier - Phase 1 Project** was submitted to the Mass Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM).
  - This is a CRAC Priority project and follows on from the Q1 decision to pursue funding to progress this project forward.
  - Arcadis presented information on this grant application to the committee in May 24<sup>th</sup> and the committee provided direction, feedback and written comments.
  - After incorporating comments, the NRD submitted a grant application in early June to CZM to undertake a feasibility and design project, with a large public engagement component
  - CRAC provided a letter of support for this grant application.
- The NRD submitted a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program grant application to make Sesachacha Pond more resilient – part of CRP Recommendation **4-2 Polpis Road Raising, Culvert Expansion, and Wave Attenuation at Sesachacha Pond**. CRAC had a presentation from NRD's Leah Hill and provided a letter of support.

- The Trustees of Reservations submitted a grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for a further study on resilience on their Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket properties, with the Nantucket Conservation foundation as a co-applicant for the Nantucket portion. CRAC provided a letter of support for the portion of the project covering TTOR Nantucket properties as this project supports CRP Recommendation **4-3 Coastal Erosion Mitigation and Dune Resilience**
- NRD submitted a request for a Direct Technical Assistance Program from FEMA and that request was not successful. Direct Technical Assistance is a program that offers up to three years of assistance with grant applications, project development and project design to assist communities increase resilience. This program is aimed towards economically disadvantaged communities, indigenous people's communities and rural communities. Nantucket qualified as a rural community.
- With input from CRAC, the Natural Resources Department submitted a pre-application proposal for a National Fish and Wildlife grant for design work on Polpis Road at Folger's Marsh and Sesachacha Pond. Subsequently, the NRD was not invited to submit a full application. This project was intended to reduce isolation risk for the area between the project locations and may be put forward for alternate grants in the near future. This project sought to start two CRP recommendations, namely **4-1 Polpis Road Raising and Bridge Conversion at Folger's Marsh** and **4-2 Polpis Road Raising, Culvert Expansion, and Wave Attenuation at Sesachacha Pond**

### **Requests & Recommendations:**

- Are there current or upcoming issues that the Select Board would like the CRAC to address?
- The CRAC requests that the Select Board expand the Environmental Goal of the Strategic plan to include implementation of the 40 recommendations of the CRP in the next ten years as a specific goal.
- The CRAC recommends to the Select Board that the Town undertake shoreline stabilization in Madaket as recommended in the Design Thinking Workshop "Just Do It" project list. This does not have to be the full project as proposed in the CRP, rather a more targeted scope of work that may assist with stabilizing the Madaket Beach area at Chicago Street and to the corner of Madaket Road & Ames avenue to protect the intersection. This project can be built on and added to over time with neighborhood assistance.