



HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Resilient Nantucket

2 Fairgrounds Road
Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554

www.nantucket-ma.gov

Commissioners: Raymond Pohl (Chair), Diane Coombs (Vice-chair), John McLaughlin, Abigail Camp, Vallorie Oliver,
Associate Commissioners: Stephen Welch, Jessie Dutra, Carrie Thornewill

~~ MINUTES ~~

Friday, January 15, 2021

*This meeting was held via remote participation using ZOOM and YouTube,
Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Regarding Open Meeting Law*

Called to order at 1:00 p.m. and announcements by Ms. Coombs

Staff in attendance: Cathy Flynn, HDC Compliance Coordinator; Holly Backus, Preservation Planner
Attending Members: Coombs, Camp, Oliver, Welch, Thornewill
Absent Members: Pohl, McLaughlin, Dutra
Late Arrivals: Oliver, 1:15 p.m.
Early Departures: Oliver, 2:28 p.m.

Agenda adopted by unanimous consent.

Motion **Motion to Approve as drafted. (Camp)**

Roll-call Vote Carried 4-0//Camp, Welch, Thornewill, and Coombs-aye

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

II. CONSENT

Documentation Draft Resilience Toolkit; Coastal Resiliency Plan (CRP), CRP PowerPoint presentation

Consultants Lisa Craig, The Craig Group
Kimberly Rose, The Craig Group
Trevor Johnson, Arcadis, project manager for Coastal Resiliency Plan
Vincent Murphy, Town of Nantucket's Coastal Resilience Coordinator
Chuck Larson, Town of Nantucket's Manager of Strategic Projects

Discussion **Backus** – Introduced the Town's consultants, Ms. Craig and Mr. Johnson
Craig – Resiliency Toolkit is co-authored with Kimberly Rose, The Craig Group. It is available for use on the Town's website. Draft Design Guidelines should be available for HDC approval in February. A Guideline Forum should be held in March to talk about the future of rising seas in Nantucket. Presented the Toolkit: purpose, organization, Appendices, Federal tools, State tools, Local tools, individual planning, research, modeling and visualization, flood insurance Q&A, and glossary to resiliency terms.

Camp – We have sensitive areas around the Island; there are a lot pools going into these areas. Asked if Ms. Craig can address developments on dunes with pools and buildings.

Craig – There is great sensitivity in coastal historic areas to protect dunes, which are recognized as cultural resources in which historic structures are located. In England, 10% of their coast line is managed by National Trust for Historic Preservation UK; that might be good reading for HDC commissioners. Suggested HDC complete a cultural landscape survey to identify fragile historic areas. In Annapolis we addressed the aesthetic impact beyond archeological resources.

Coombs – She filled out a questionnaire about what we want to see downtown to protect historic buildings. Asked if that was put out by The Craig Group

Rose – That survey was put out by ReMain Nantucket in partnership with Acklimate Nantucket, with which she partners.

Coombs – Recently a reporter asked how to get this information out to the public; she suggested a section in the paper. It is important that all these questions and information get out to the public. HDC is stuck because our purview is what can be seen; but the pool mentioned is at the end of Smith's Point, which is a moving sand dune. Asked if Conservation Commission should join us in these meetings and when the dune wins over the pool.

Craig – Secretary of the Interior Standards 9 & 10 talk about the environmental setting; that the integrity of a resource includes the environmental setting. In communicating with the public, the easiest adaptation alternative is public awareness and can be done through meetings like this. Work with Acklimate and other partners to create a communication plan.

Johnson – Reviewed work toward developing the Town's CRP: goal, process, project mission statement, risks, scale of investigation, solution development, 5 tasks, schedule overview, community engagement, previous studies, questions that drive the process, roles and responsibilities, and what the CRP should accomplish. The community engagement approach is important; reviewed what that entails. A virtual Community Open House is scheduled for January 28th at

5:30 p.m. Reviewed the community engagement schedules. The next steps are risk and vulnerability assessment and develop scenarios.

Thornewill – Asked if this is leading to the ability for Nantucket to make local regulations. As an example, it would be nice to have rule that you can't build a pool in a dune that has shifted drastically over the past 10 years or that you can't lift a historic building to meet FEMA flood plains.

Johnson – It is within our remit to recommend policy and regulatory changes; we will be reviewing the zoning bylaw to recommend changes to be adopted by the appropriate regulatory body.

Craig – You can be stricter than the Secretary of Interior standards, but you have to look at the flood-plain management ordinance. There is the exemption for historic structures having to meet flood regulations; however, you do want to have a mid-ground to protect the structure.

Backus – We are a National Historic Landmark (NHL), which allows for exemptions.

Camp – She wants the Town to be aware of what was discussed today when passing zoning laws and how to get this information regarding fragile areas to real estate agents.

Thornewill – Where there are grey areas, they push envelope.

Craig – Getting CRP information and link to the website into Acklimate's newsletter would be terrific in getting information out.

Murphy – As we develop bylaw recommendations, it would be helpful to have return to HDC for further advice.

Welch – Broadcast that, HDC anticipates having input at draft stages of any recommendation that may be proposed.

Adjournment:

Motion

Motion to adjourn at 2:31 p.m. (Camp)

Roll-call Vote

Carried 4-0//Thornewill, Camp, Welch, and Coombs-aye

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton