

Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Via Zoom

*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

Members present: Mary Longacre, Gary Beller, Joanna Roche, Matt Fee, Peter Brace, Sarah Bois

Members absent: Jen Karberg, Fritz McClure, Ian Golding

Staff present: Vincent Murphy, Holly Backus

Others: Cecil Barron Jensen, Steve McKenna, Tim Braine, Claire Martin, Anne Dougherty, Brian Bouchard, Emily Molden, Brett Piercy, RJ Turcotte, Rob Anderson

1. Call to Order

10:05 a.m.

2. Meeting announcements

Ms. Longacre read the script for remotely conducting Open Meetings and announced that the meeting was being audio and visually recorded.

3. Discussion with Stephen McKenna, Cape Cod and Islands Regional Coordinator, from Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and the CZM grant program fit for Nantucket's Coastal Resilience Plan priorities, specifically the Downtown Neighborhood Flood Barrier.

Mr. McKenna explained the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) coastal resilience project grant program to the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee. Mr. McKenna explained that the FIT is a municipal grant program open to the 78 coastal Massachusetts communities and nonprofits that own coastal property open to the public. The grant is a one-year reimbursable grant, deliverable-based and requires a 25-percent in-kind or cash match. Mr. McKenna added that CZM caps the grant awards at \$1 million but might increase to \$2 million in 2022.

Mr. Brace joined the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Mr. Murphy said he spoke at length with Mr. McKenna on the downtown flood barrier as being candidate for this grant program. He added that he also discussed a feasibility study for this project with Mr. McKenna that would go for about one year.

Mr. McKenna said Vineyard Haven, Mass. did a similar study prior to a community outreach project to get the public on board.

Mr. McKenna said Nantucket has a head start on this process because Town funded a flood pathways study a few years ago.

Ms. Longacre asked how competitive the grant program is. Mr. McKenna said that CZM has been able to fund more than 50 percent of the proposals but that it gets more competitive each year and that it varies.

Mr. Turcotte joined the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Ms. Molden left the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Rob Anderson joined the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Dr. Bois asked how CZM views resilience projects close to being started vs. projects that require more study and planning before they're started.

Mr. McKenna said there's a preference to shovel-ready projects, but that because Nantucket is an island. Still, CZM would probably support whatever Nantucket's priority is.

Mr. Beller asked how much would this feasibility study cost and could the study actually be done within a year.

Mr. Murphy said the study might cost around \$300,000 with the Town kicking in \$75,000. He added that it's possible to get the study done in nine months. Mr. Beller asked if the grant was acquired for the study and the feasibility study was done, would this help secure the funding for the downtown flood barrier project?

Mr. McKenna said yes, most likely.

Mr. McKenna said that CZM can be consulted right up until the release of the request for response (RFR).

Mr. Murphy asked if the grant can fund the preliminary design and permitting process of a project if multiple grants are being applied for. He added that Nantucket can also apply for a two-year grant award.

Mr. McKenna left the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

4. Presentation from Claire Martin of ReMain Nantucket and Brett Piercy of EBP on the results of the recent Envision Resilience Nantucket Challenge Survey II

Ms. Martin, project manager at ReMain Nantucket, explained the purpose of ReMain Nantucket's latest survey. She said the respondents to this survey more than doubled over the first survey indicating a strong interest in sea level rise and the Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP).

Brett Piercy of EBP of Boston, MA explained the results of this second survey to the CRAC. Ms. Piercy explained that the first survey, Jan. 11-Feb. 1, 2021 was to gain baseline information and this second survey was geared to determine changes in attitude.

Ms. Piercy reported that more than half of the respondents were year-round residents with less than half being seasons residents and a much lower number being frequent visitors who don't own or rent. She added that the survey had a good representation across island neighborhoods with Town and Mid-Island logging around 100 each. She said that the age participation was highest in the 50-59 age group. Participation based on income was highest among those who earned \$200,000 or more.

Ms. Piercy reported that 88 percent of respondents are characterized as alarmed or concerned about the impacts of climate change on the Nantucket community.

Ms. Piercy said the survey indicated strong support for Nantucket's Town government and also strong support for the Town to create policies to address coastal resilience for Nantucket.

On the respondents' level of engagement with climate change and coastal resilience, 44 percent said they were somewhat or more engaged and that just under 70 percent of respondents increased their engagement due to weather and storm events.

Ms. Piercy reported that a lot of respondents said they're into doing minor adaptative actions at home including installing rain gardens, but she found there was a lot of support for public projects including tidal surge barriers, living shorelines and public rain gardens. She added a lot of the respondents wrote in their resilience suggestions.

D. Anne Atherton joined the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

For the CRP, Ms. Piercy reported 60 percent of respondents read or reviewed the plan and 36 percent strongly agreed with Town's policy to prepare for roughly nine feet of sea level rise by 2100. Ms. Piercy indicated that there was strong support for a new funding model to fund the CRP's projects.

Ms. Longacre asked if ReMain planned to continue doing the survey.

Ms. Martin indicated that ReMain doesn't have set plans to continue this survey.

Ms. Martin said ReMain was most interested in level of participation in the survey and concern about the impacts of sea level rise.

Mr. Fee asked how representative of Nantucket the survey is.

Ms. Piercy said the results were those you'd get if one just picked 10 people off of the street.

Ms. Longacre asked if the survey was in Spanish and how many respondents. Ms. Martin said ReMain got one for the first survey and four for the second survey.

Mr. Fee complimented the survey efforts by ReMain.

Ms. Piercy said the millennial age group and younger people weren't well represented in this survey.

Mr. Beller said he was impressed that there was 40-percent participation from non-residents. He added that people don't always think about rising tides and storm surge, but on Nantucket people do connect the dots between climate change and rising tides/storm surge.

Ms. Roche said ReMain should survey island high school students and send it out to the families of the children who go to the Nantucket Boys & Girls Club.

Mr. Brace asked if ReMain was satisfied with number of respondents, if they would be surveying again and would they be taking suggestions for getting the survey out to different groups. Ms. Martin said she felt they got enough respondents but that ReMain is open to continuing the survey, maybe starting in five years.

Ms. Jensen said that 679 responses was a very good sample of Nantucketers. She added that ReMain would help CRAC do its own survey. Ms. Longacre said she liked the idea of the CRAC taking the survey over specifically to learn whether attitudes were different in

different areas of Nantucket. Ms. Jensen stressed ReMain's two surveys could serve at the baseline data for whatever the CRAC did with future surveys.

5. Begin drafting a recommendation to the Select Board regarding the future composition, mission, and purpose for the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee and what we want to ask for action to extend the term of the CRAC beyond the current expiration of 6/30/2022. Questions to consider:

Ms. Longacre explained the purpose of this item to rest of the members of CRAC.

Ms. Martin left the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Dr. Bois agreed the CRAC should continue in some form and that its focus would change. She added the CRAC could be more "hands-on with the next steps of the CRP". Dr. Bois touted the huge talents of all of the committee's members. Dr. Bois said she wants to remain on the CRAC.

Ms. Roche said she agreed with Dr. Bois and that the CRAC should be a permanent committee. She added that she'd like the committee to remain intact with some additions from the Town.

Mr. Brace agreed with Dr. Bois and Ms. Roche. Mr. Brace said participating in the Design Thinking Workshop March 7 and 8 showed him the Town is already on board with the CRP. He said the board should stay intact and that he wanted to remain on the CRAC and that it should be a permanent committee.

Mr. Beller said it seemed unlikely to him that the CRAC would morph into a regulatory committee but that it's important that the Town not ignore this committee.

Mr. Brace said that he didn't think the CRAC would be ignored by the Town and the Select Board. He added he also learned from the Design Thinking Workshop that the Town is all in on seeing the CRP through. Mr. Fee agreed that the CRAC should continue. He added that he'd be a bit worried about the CRAC not focusing on the big ideas and that it should focus on the hard issues. He said the committee will evolve over time.

Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Fee if the CRAC could advise other boards and departments through the Select Board. Mr. Fee indicated this could prove challenging.

Ms. Longacre asked for how the CRAC should continue to exist.

Ms. Roche recommended continue on permanently with the Select Board appointing this committee. She said the CRAC should be influencers, not regulators.

Mr. Brace said the CRAC would take a lot more heat and negativity related to resilience projects if it became regulatory and that being a muse, a committee of influencers would be much more effective. He added that the CRAC doesn't necessarily have to expand but can invite people to attend meeting advice the CRAC as needed.

Ms. Roche said it might be beneficial to workshop ideas once a month.

Mr. Murphy said he needed as much feedback as he can get, including comments from Ms. Karberg, Mr. Golding and Mr. McClure, who missed this meeting so he can write a recommendation to the Select Board on how CRAC should continue.

Dr. Bois reminded the CRAC to keep in mind what its new goals are beyond creation of the CRP and that the CRAC is action-oriented.

Mr. Fee suggested asking the Select Board for an extension of one to two years with the new people appointed every year.

Ms. Backus said there's room for the CRAC to "advise and advocate" on many coastal resilience fronts.

Mr. Beller stated that each member representing a Town board or committee can be re-appointed to the CRAC every year. Ms. Longacre agreed and said the three at-large members would be re-appointed by the Select Board.

Ms. Longacre did a recap of what the committee agreed on for the CRAC moving forward as a permanent committee.

6. Public Comment

No comments.

7. Approval of CRAC minutes from 2/22/2022 and 3/15/2022

Draft minutes of Feb. 2, 2022

Approved 5-0. Mr. Brace abstained.

Draft minutes of March 15, 2022

Approved 6-0.

8. New business, Committee & Natural Resources Dept. reports from Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board, Select Board, Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Tax Payers, and other committee members.

- **Vince is preparing the first quarterly report from the CRAC to the Select Board**

Mr. Murphy explained the contents of this quarterly report.

9. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics:

The CRAC agreed to meet on April 5, 2022.

10. Motion to adjourn

Approved 6-0 at 11:45 a.m.

YouTube meeting link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3HiKDV_1Pc&list=PL49sKqpy7VAiUk-g5h2jIuAn_2jqocI2L