

Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 26, 2022
Via Zoom

*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

Members present: Jen Karberg, Joanna Roche, Sarah Bois, Matt Fee, Peter Brace, Mary Longacre, Gary Beller (joined at 10:15 am)

Members absent: Ian Golding

Staff present: Vince Murphy, Holly Backus, Leah Hill

Others: RJ Turcotte, Doug Rose, Christie Kickham, Rachel Freeman, Emily Molden

1. Call to Order

10:05 a.m.

2. Meeting announcements

- Script for remotely conducting Open Meetings, read by the Chair
- The meeting is being audio / visually recorded

3. Changes to CRAC membership:

- **Fritz McClure has resigned from the Planning Board and therefore also as the Planning Board's representative to the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee, effective immediately. The Planning Board will likely appoint a replacement at their June 13 meeting, after the vacancy has been filled on that Board.**
- **At its April 6, 2022 meeting, the Select Board approved the CRAC request to be made a permanent committee. At-Large members will need to re-apply for their seats, should they wish to continue serving, and the seats will be awarded for staggered three-year terms. At-Large members should have received a letter and form from the Town inviting them to**

reapply. The seats will also be open to the public to apply and the Select Board will choose the At-Large members in June for terms to begin July 1, 2022.

- **The Select Board also approved the addition of two seats to the CRAC, one to be a Land Bank representative, and one to be a representative from either the Finance Committee or Capital Program Committee. Those seats will be created effective July 1, 2022 with the new fiscal year, and the respective organizations will appoint their representatives.**

Ms. Longacre reported that the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee's (CRAC) request of the Select Board that two additional members be added to the CRAC; one from the Nantucket Islands Land Bank and the other from either the Finance Committee or the Capital Program Committee, approved. The Select Board also approved the CRAC's request to remain a permanent committee whose at-large members, with staggered terms, will be appointed by the Select Board.

The CRAC voted unanimously, 6-0, to draft a letter to Mr. McClure thanking him for his service on the CRAC.

4. Call for nominations for a new CRAC Secretary to serve until June 30th, 2022.

Ms. Longacre asked for nominations for CRAC secretary. The CRAC voted unanimously, 6-0, to elect Mr. Brace to serve as acting secretary until all executive positions are voted on in July.

5. Request from the Natural Resources Department for a Letter of Support for Sesachacha Pond MVP grant application– See packet

Ms. Hill reported that this project will install reef balls, which attract oysters and fish, and ultimately would create an artificial reef in this pond in front of the section of Polpis Road along the pond. The reef

would serve to both protect the road from washing out and enhance the wildlife and habitat in the pond. Native plants and marsh plants would be planted in this area as well. Ms. Hill requested a letter of support from the CRAC for the Natural Resources Department's (NRD) attempt at securing this grant.

Dr. Karberg said she supports this project and is in favor of the letter. Ms. Backus said she would also write a letter of support and that she supports this effort.

The CRAC voted unanimously, 6-0, to have Mr. Murphy write this letter.

6. Vince to present National Fish and Wildlife Fund pre-application information – See packet

• Application is by invitation only and we find out in May if the Town is invited to apply.

Mr. Murphy explained the application process for this coastal resilience grant to fund three coastal resilience projects on Nantucket including the raising of Polpis Road at Folger's Marsh and adding larger culvert with a possible bridge, the Sesachacha Pond/Polpis Road Project, which would raise the level of this section of Polpis Road and increase the flow of water between the pond and the marsh on the west side of the road and the reef ball project in Sesachacha Pond near Polpis Road.

He added that he would find out at the end of May if the CRAC has been invited to file a full application for this grant.

Dr. Karberg said she supported this effort for this grant and said the Nantucket Conservation Foundation (NCF) is partnering with the NRD on this grant application because NCF owns the south and north sides of Folger's Marsh.

Mr. Beller joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Mr. Murphy said these three projects would cost roughly \$650,000 with the Town putting up approximately ten percent of the cost in in-kind such as staff time and services.

Mr. Murphy said the work must begin within six months of the grant being awarded.

Dr. Bois praised the collaboration between the Town and NCF in making this grant application happen.

Dr. Karberg explained how the process of applying for grant such as this one works.

Ms. Backus said she supported this grant effort.

Ms. Roche said the Maria Mitchell Association also applied for a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Fund.

7. Vince to present CZM grant information developed by Arcadis for the Downtown Flood Barrier Feasibility Study – See Packet.

• Committee feedback and overall opinions requested

Mr. Murphy explained that there was a bit of funding to develop this, but that the rules for applying for this grant have yet to be released to the public. He asked for the CRAC's help with three of the sections of this grant application starting with Section 5, Project Description.

Ms. Longacre asked why the term "barrier" is being used because it implies a wall being built in Nantucket Harbor. Mr. Murphy agreed that this term could be changed for the grant application. Mr. Fee said a storm surge barrier could be played up if properly explained. Mr. Brace said that "flood management" sounded too vague, He added that what is being proposed should spell out what is being proposed. Dr. Bois agreed this word should be changed and the language in Section 5 changed to reflect reaching out to all parts of our island community.

Mr. Murphy detailed Section 6, Public Benefits and Interests, and said how to convince the public that this project is worthy of the public's support. How to put the message out there is Mr. Murphy's biggest challenge.

Mr. Murphy stressed the importance of being able to work with some major players including the Steamship Authority, the Harbor & Shellfish Advisory Board, NCF and the other island conservation organizations.

Dr. Karberg said the ecological value of projects need to be balanced with needs of these major players. Mr. Murphy asked for letters of support from the Select Board and the Harbor & Shellfish Advisory Board (HSAB).

Mr. Murphy asked for critiques on the grant from the CRAC. Mr. Murphy said the feasibility and design of this project could take one to two years. Ms. Longacre recommended that the early design phase all potential aspects of the project should be included. Mr. Beller said the committee he represents, the Non-Voting Tax Payers, would likely want to write a letter of support for this grant.

8. Discussion of Shoreline Change Monitoring Program reporting and how the committee can use the information being collected.

• Options include putting data on the Town's website, providing regular updates at CRAC meetings, and/or to issuing an annual report

Mr. Murphy explained the Shoreline Change Monitoring Program reporting to the CRAC. He explained that in the first phase of this program island shorelines are being monitored simply, with posts on the beach marking the retreat of the shoreline. He added that the second phase of the program will employ a professional global positioning system for more comprehensive monitoring.

Dr. Bois recommended that Mr. Murphy might put the collected data into an annual report or do it after three years.

Mr. Beller asked how many monitoring sites and how often the data is being collected, and said he wanted the CRAC to see quarterly reports from Mr. Murphy and that the reports didn't necessarily have to be made public until enough data exists to paint an accurate picture for the public. Mr. Murphy said there are 14 "at-risk public infrastructure" sites along the south shore from Tom Nevers to Madaket and that he collects data monthly. He added that his goal is to learn which parts of this shoreline have seasonal erosion and which parts experience constant erosion year-round. Mr. Brace suggesting adding the Madaket Beach to the monitoring sites because it's a heavily used beach on the south shore. He suggested that whatever reports are generated should be put on the CRAC page on the Town's website.

Dr. Bois suggested that Mr. Murphy use a map showing each site and write on the map where the shoreline change is. Mr. Murphy said he hoped to use drones to photograph these sites. Ms. Longacre agree with

this approach. Dr. Karberg supported the use of a drone as well. Mr. Murphy said two staff members at the NRD are learning to become drone pilots.

9. Public Comment

No public comment.

10. Approval of CRAC minutes from 3/22/2022 and 4/5/2022

The CRAC unanimously approved the 3/22/2022 draft minutes 6-0 with Dr/ Karberg abstaining. The CRAC unanimously approved the 4/5/2022 draft minutes 7-0.

11. 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 presented an update to the Select Board on April 6th regarding actions related to the Coastal Resilience Plan recommendations as part of the report on the Design Thinking Workshop that was presented by Arcadis**

Mr. Murphy explained how he did this presentation at this Select Board meeting.

12. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics

Ms. Longacre said the next CRAC meetings are scheduled for May 10 and May 24.

13. Motion to adjourn

Unanimously approved 7-0 at 11:37 a.m.

YouTube meeting link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8RnhzX0o2A&list=PL49sKqpy7VAiUk-g5h2jIuAn_2jqocI2L&index=2

