

Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Via Zoom

*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

Members present: Mary Longacre, Peter Brace, Ian Golding, Gary Beller, Sarah Bois, Matt Fee, Jen Karberg, Joanna Roche (joined at 10:05 am)

Members absent:

Staff present: Vincent Murphy

Others: D. Anne Atherton, Brian Bushard, RJ Turcotte, Elizabeth Trillos

1. **Call to Order**
10:01 a.m.

2. **Meeting announcements**

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

3. **Presentation of draft quarterly report to the Select Board – See packet.**

Ms. Longacre gave a brief explanation of the quarterly report. Ms. Longacre asked for critique of the report from the members of Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC).

Joanna Roche joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Dr. Bois said there should a brief explanation on why we need funding for the downtown flood barrier and include that the money is for a feasibility study. And under “Update Locally-adopted Sea Level Rise Scenarios and Best Available Flood Hazard Data”, Dr. Bois stressed that CRAC keep basing its decisions on this data set over that of the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) sea level rise data.

Mr. Golding noted in “Highlights from the Quarter” that “wildly successful” should be replaced by “was well attended”. Mr. Brace said well attended didn't accurately represent how well the Design Thinking workshop went. Ms. Longacre agreed with Mr. Golding. Dr. Bois said her and Mr. Beller not being allowed to attend the workshop didn't warrant it as successful since the entire CRAC wasn't invited to attend. Dr. Bois felt that the phrase “well attended” didn't accurately represent how the workshop went.

Dr. Karberg suggested that some of the “productive ideas” that came out of the workshop should be mentioned in this report. Ms. Longacre said the report doesn't need to tell the Select Board what it already knows since the workshop results have already been presented to the board. Dr. Karberg suggested that one or two “bulleted outcomes” from the Design Workshop”. Mr. Golding suggested listing the members of CRAC who did attend the workshop. Ms. Longacre suggested, and Mr. Golding agreed, that the committees and Town departments and private nonprofit organizations represented at the workshop be listed instead of people's individual names as a footnote.

Mr. Brace explained that he attended the workshop because Ms. Longacre couldn't attend and so as vice chairman, Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Brace to go in her stead.

Ms. Roche said it would be good to seek feedback from the Select Board on the outcome of the workshop and maybe have them choose five priorities. She added that it was significant that it was the first time she'd seen that many Town employees in one place discussing the issue of sea level rise and resiliency strategies.

Mr. Fee said his sense was the goal was to bring people together to discuss these issues and that the workshop was open to the public. He added that the three short-term projects to prioritize were projects on Polpis Road near Sesachacha Pond, First and Second Bridge in Madaket and Millie's Bridge on Ames Avenue.

Ms. Longacre said the CRAC should have a follow-up meeting on the Design Workshop.

Mr. Beller said Vince’s quarterly reports are an “excellent idea”. Mr. Fee agreed and said the Select Board is relying on the CRAC to work its way through the Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP).

Mr. Brace said that the Select Board should alert the CRAC and Mr. Murphy of any CRP topics that arise at their meetings.

Dr. Karberg agreed with this idea. Ms. Longacre suggested that the Select Board expand the environmental focus of its strategic plan. Mr. Fee agreed this is a good idea. Ms. Longacre suggested that anything coming out of Town Meeting, such as the timeline for the filling of the new public outreach position, could be an update from the Select Board to the CRAC.

Mr. Fee suggested that every article that goes onto the Town Meeting warrant go through a coastal resiliency filter. Possibly in the future, CRAC should be reviewing relevant articles, commenting on them and offering positive or negative recommendations. Ms. Roche agreed with Mr. Fee’s idea and suggested that the CRAC take the lead on this idea. Mr. Golding suggested that a CRAC member ask the important questions relative to sea level rise at Town review board meeting including the Historic District Commission (HDC), Planning Board and Conservation Commission (ConCom).

Ms. Longacre asked if after she and Mr. Murphy revised this report CRAC would like review it again. Ms. Roche and Mr. Golding said they yes. She added that all CRAC members should advocate for the CRP in their daily lives and speak up.

4. Discussion of update on IPCC & NOAA reports released in February 2022.

- <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/sealevelrise/sealevelrise-tech-report-sections.html>
- Downloadable in sections
- <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>

Mr. Murphy presented on recent sea level rise reports; the NOAA report and the IPCC report.

On the IPCC report, Mr. Murphy said this document was too long and that it was mostly focused on a national government level, specifically carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. He noted that one graphic in particular alerts readers that the planet must significantly curtail emissions by 2030 or else.

Dr. Karberg agreed with Mr. Murphy, adding that she found the website for this report with its fact sheets easier for the general public to digest. She added that this report reinforces the data the CRAC is currently using.

On the NOAA report, Mr. Murphy noted the four key messages from this report, which focuses more on 2050 as a deadline for goals. He said he tried to focus on the Northeast, noting that sea level rise in the Northeast is ahead of the global average. Mr. Murphy noted that the report states that there will be a 10-fold increase in flooding in the Northeast between 2020 and 2050 from Table 3.2. Mr. Murphy shared the report's sea level rise scenarios in feet for 2020 through 2100 and showed the 2017 data as well and, summarizing with a graph he created of the data and saying the new data provided a "terrific refinement" of the data.

Ms. Longacre said she felt good that this 2022 data is congruent with the Massachusetts sea level rise data in that it's not "as extreme on the high end".

Dr. Karberg said it was really helpful to see all the new data lined up and see where Nantucket is, as accurately as possible. Mr. Golding said he would still like the CRAC and Town to adhere to the highest possible scenario. Ms. Longacre indicated she was with Item 5 on the agenda becoming a part of the discussion of Item 4. Mr. Brace, noting that the previous extreme sea level rise height of 9.25 feet being reduced to 6.66 feet would certainly prompt the plan's detractors to point out that things aren't as bad as the CRAC and the Town have presented them, and that the CRP isn't necessary. Mr. Murphy said although the numbers did drop, it's important to plan based on the extreme of 9.25 feet. Dr. Karberg said messaging to the public is key to staying on top of

communicating the ever-changing numbers as revised NOAA and IPCC reports are released. Dr. Bois said she'd like to see the projections together on a different table. She asked how the flood data would be used. Mr. Golding pointed out that it needs to be made clear how much uncertainty there still is in future sea level predictions. Mr. Brace said the CRAC should never lower the urgency of its message regardless of prediction fluctuations over time.

5. Continuing the discussion of updating the CRAC recommendation to the Select Board on sea level rise projections.

Discussion of Item 4 on the agenda included Item 5's topic.

6. Public Comment

No public comment.

7. Approval of CRAC minutes from 4/14/2022

Unanimously approved, 7-0, with Mr. Golding abstaining.

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.

No reports.

9. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics

Ms. Longacre said the next meeting is on May 24, 2022 and that she didn't have an update on whether remote CRAC meetings would be extended beyond July 2022. Mr. Murphy said he's trying to get Arcadis to attend to present on the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant application. He asked the members of CRAC be prepared to comment on this application.

10. Motion to adjourn

Unanimously approved 8-0 at 11:27 a.m.

YouTube meeting link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLu3pnuB8_0&list=PL49sKqpy7VAiUk-g5h2jIuAn_2jqocI2L&index=1