

Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 24, 2022
Via Zoom

*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

Members present: Gary Beller, Peter Brace, May Longacre, Sarah Bois, Ian Golding, Jen Karberg, Joanna Roche

Members Absent: Matt Fee

Staff present: Vincent Murphy, Chuck Larson

Others: Trevor Johnson, Emily Kilvert, Devon McGhee, Brian Bushard, D. Anne Atherton, Tim Braine, Burton Balkind, Claire Martin

1. Call to Order

10:02 a.m.

2. Meeting announcements

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

3. Discussion with Trevor Johnson from Arcadis of the Town of Nantucket's grant proposal to the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Coastal Resilience Grant Program FY23 for the Downtown Neighborhood Flood Barrier (Phase 1) Feasibility Study – See Packet.

Mr. Johnson presented this grant proposal in detail for the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC).

Mr. Beller asked why the graphic of just the main part of the downtown waterfront was used in the presentation.

Mr. Balkind joined the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Mr. Johnson said the focus is on the short-term projects such as this flood barrier and because the long-term project are currently permissible under current laws.

Ms. Martin joined the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Ms. Longacre said she found the grant proposal to be “kind of vague”. She added that she didn't see that there was a definite focus on the risks the island faces, the existing conditions, number of people affected and although she appreciated the noting of all the workers who transit daily to and from Nantucket, Ms. Longacre said she appreciated the mention of all the second home owners who are Massachusetts residents. She added that she didn't find the proposal compelling and that to her, it wouldn't stand out among a large number of such proposals.

Mr. Johnson said he would take all suggestions and edits to make this a better proposal. Mr. Longacre said she would definitely provide Arcadis with her edits.

Mr. Beller said Ms. Longacre made good points, but offered that a few word changes would punch up the proposal in the way she wanted it to, and he suggested a bit more hyperbole.

Mr. Johnson reminded the CRAC that the Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP), the results of ReMain Nantucket's survey, letters of support from various town departments and boards, and relevant organization would be attached to the proposal. He added that these attachments could help convey Ms. Longacre's and Mr. Beller's concerns to CZM.

Ms. Longacre agreed that these attachments would help the proposal, but she said a strong statement at the beginning of the proposal was needed early in the proposal and not later in it.

Dr. Bois agreed with Ms. Longacre's comments and said most of Mary's changes could go on Page 6 and added all of the elements of what Mr. Longacre said were already in the proposal and just needed to be shifted to the right places in the proposal. Specifically, she added under the “Need for Assistance” is where the powerful language should go.

Mr. Johnson said the first sentence of this section could be adjusted.

Dr. Bois said that the CZM needs to be reminded that Nantucket is one of the most vulnerable municipalities in the state.

Dr. Karberg said on there's not mention in the bulleted items on the first page of nature-based solutions, the natural world and the history of the island, and that these are major things that would catch the CZM's eyes because these are environmental issues since this state agency's focus *is* the environment.

Ms. Longacre said the results of the most recent The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) and Nantucket Conservation Foundation (NCF) Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge vulnerability study should be included. Ms. Longacre asked if it would be helpful to list some of the current short-term CRP projects being funded for the next fiscal year. Mr. Johnson said this might be helpful and it should be listed on the page of ongoing activities and projects the town is working on funding, permitting and pursuing.

4. Discuss potential reassignment of a CRAC seat from a Planning Board to an NP&EDC representative – See packet.

Ms. Longacre said this an open question as to whether an NP&EDC member would best serve the CRAC over another Planning Board member to replace Fritz McClure. She made the point that members of the NP&EDC sit on other committees while the Planning Board members do not.

Mr. Brace, acknowledging that all five Planning Board members also sit on the NP&EDC, said that the CRAC needs a Planning Board member on this committee because the Planning Board is directly involved with the development planning of Nantucket, which will be crucial as the CRP is applied during rising sea level. He added if Mr. McClure's replacement came from the NP&EDC but wasn't a Planning Board member, the CRAC would lack a serious contribution to its efforts in the planning realm on Nantucket.

Mr. Golding agreed.

Mr. Geller agreed as well.

5. Final review of the first Quarterly review to the Select Board – See Packet.

The CRAC unanimously approved this review, 7-0.

6. Public Comment

No public comments.

7. Approval of CRAC minutes from 4/26/2022 and 5/10/2022

Ms. Longacre asked for, and received, the CRAC's support without taking a voice vote for moving the vote on the minutes to the next meeting.

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 that because Select Board does its committee appointments on June 22, 2022 and the Planning Board will be making its appointment to the CRAC on July 11, 2022 so no new members would be joining the CRAC until after July 11, 2022.

Ms. Longacre asked for CRAC members to propose changes to the Select Board recommendation by the next meeting on June 14, 2022.

10. Motion to adjourn

Unanimously approved, 7-0, at 11:06 a.m.

YouTube meeting link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRTG3kyek-4&list=PL49sKqpy7VAiUk-g5h2jIuAn_2jqocI2L&index=1