

Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee
Tuesday, June 28 2022
Via Zoom

*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

Members present: Gary Beller, Mary Longacre, Jen Karberg, Sarah Bois, Peter Brace, Matt Fee, Ian Golding

Members Absent: Joanna Roche

Staff present: Vincent Murphy

Others: Bruce Mandel, Carolina Magina, Doug Rose

1. Call to Order

10:03 a.m.

2. Meeting announcements

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

3. Approval of CRAC minutes from 4/26/2022, 5/10/2022 and 5/24/2022.

4/26/2022

Unanimously approved, 6-0.

5/10/2022

Unanimously approved, 7-0.

5/24/2022

Unanimously approved, 7-0.

4. Introduction to Carolina Magina, Project Manager, Sustainability, for New England Development (owners of Nantucket Island Resorts) regarding coastal resilience for their properties.

Ms. Magina explained that New England Development (NED) began in November gearing up to work with the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC) and the Town in developing its own coastal resilience plan for its Nantucket properties.

Ms. Longacre suggested that a meeting be held with NED, CRAC, Nantucket's harbormaster, the Great Harbor Yacht Club (GHYC) and the Nantucket Yacht Club (NYC) to learn what everyone's sea level rise, climate change and Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) are. Ms. Longacre asked how NED gauges the threat of sea level rise to its properties.

Ms. Magina said NED is planning flood guards, there are no basements in any of NED's building and its hotels haven't been flooded yet. She added that the Wauwinet has hurricane-protected windows. She added NED doesn't yet have plans to protect its retail properties.

Mr. Beller asked if NED is incrementally adapting their facilities to what is forecast for sea level rise by making such improvements when renovations are being done. Ms. Magina said that NED is starting think about how to do this now. She did says that NED does have flood insurance. Mr. Brace agreed with Ms. Longacre's idea and said it was good that NED is starting to think about how to adapt their properties to sea level rise, but he stressed that NED needed to get up to speed expeditiously.

Ms. Magina agreed with Mr. Brace. Dr. Bois agreed with Ms. Longacre's idea. She praised NED for getting going on this.

Ms. Magina indicated that NED isn't so much thinking about "building a wall" around its properties as it is working on ways to redirect the water as it rises. Dr. Bois offered the help of the CRAC and asked that NED, owning so much waterfront property on the island and on the mainland, help the CRAC by sharing its experiences and ideas.

Dr. Karberg encouraged Ms. Magina read the CRP to ensure that the Town's and NED's plans work together. She also offered help from the CRAC.

Mr. Murphy said the Town's departments have organized an inter-departmental working group focused on sustainability and coastal resilience and added that he would help Ms. Magina in any way he could.

5. Updates on grants and grant applications.

- **Thank you for the letters of support for the Town's CZM grant application from: Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee, Select Board, Steamship Authority, Nantucket Land Bank, Chamber of Commerce, Civic League, Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Taxpayers, ReMain Nantucket, Brant Point Association, Linda Loring Nature Foundation, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Nantucket Land Council, Nantucket Historical Association.**

Mr. Murphy reported he got 13 letters of support for the grant offered by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). Mr. Murphy reported that he also sent in a letter of interest for grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a DTA grant for technical assistance for rural communities, but the Town didn't get this grant. Mr. Murphy reported he applied for a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NWF), but he was not invited to submit the full invitation.

On the CZM grant, he filed it on June 10, 2022. Mr. Murphy also assisted to submit a grant application to the state's Municipal Vulnerability Program. He added that the Natural Resources Department (NRD) is applying the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a grant related to Sesachacha Pond.

Mr. Murphy reported that the Trustees of Reservation (TTOR) is applying to the NFWF for a grant for design solutions for the east end of Coskata Pond and the east end of Haulover Pond for Coastal erosion management and dune resilience and asked for a letter of support from the CRAC. The CRAC voted unanimously to approve a letter of support for TTOR.

Mr. Golding apologized for the Conservation Commission (ConCom) not getting a letter of support to Mr. Murphy in time for the CZM grant application submission deadline.

The CRAC voted unanimously to have Ms. Longacre write a letter of support for TTOR's grant application.

6. Continued discussion of updated sea level rise recommendation to Select Board – See packet

Ms. Longacre asked for comments and questions from the CRAC.

Dr. Bois said she's concerned about having the state's sea level rise data in this recommendation because of it not being very accessible to the public and not being updated regularly. She recommended that this information belongs in a supporting document on the website, but not in this recommendation because it's confusing. Dr. Bois also recommended that there be links to all the images in the appendices, but not the images themselves because she felt they didn't belong in the recommendation.

Mr. Murphy gave a brief explanation of the recommendation. Mr. Murphy said the state sea level data is publicly available on the TTOR's website. Mr. Murphy argued to keep the images in the recommendation because they can be reduced down in increments of 10 feet at a time. He also put an image in the recommendation showing the Town Building at 16 Broad St. to show people building everyone recognizes. Dr. Karberg asked if this layer into the Town's geographical information system (GIS) maps. Mr. Murphy said he would need permission and then said the size and power of this program would likely crash the Town's servers.

Ms. Longacre said the CRAC's core recommendation doesn't change, as Mr. Murphy had said. Dr. Bois said she wasn't trying to remove data from the recommendation document. She advised that anyone should be able to look at and use this tool without crashing servers, and that the Town should try make it available to the public. Mr. Brace agreed with Dr. Boise and said that it's vital to make this data work as another layer of information in the GIS maps. Mr. Golding asked to add a caveat in the section under the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) mentioning that there are uncertainties that may affect sea level rise in the future. Mr. Brace agreed with Mr. Golding. Dr. Karberg said a statement that says the best available data is being used to make the prediction for sea level rise impacts. Mr. Fee agreed with Mr. Golding, adding that the statement shouldn't be threatening and crazy, but is factual and Mr. Golding's point made simply. Mr. Beller agreed with Dr. Karberg and added that the purpose of the CRP is to get

the public to act. He added that the CRAC shouldn't worry about being held accountable for its predictions in the CRP.

Ms. Longacre asked if the state data was easily accessible to the public, should it be left in this recommendation and the NOAA data removed.

Mr. Golding said no, leave both in. Dr. Karberg agreed with Mr. Golding.

Mr. Murphy said he *wants* the public to be able to use the state data. The Town's departments already have the ability to use it.

7. Discussion of potential ideas for follow-up on Design Thinking Workshop, March 7 & 8, 2022, (see report at Nantucket Coastal Resilience Plan Design Thinking Workshop - March 2022)

Mr. Murphy asked for advice from the CRAC on how to move forward on three "Quick Projects" including at Washington & Francis streets, Polpis Road (at Folgers Marsh) and Sesachacha Pond, and Ames Avenue & Madaket Road.

Mr. Fee said the Madaket Conservation Association would be a good group to work on getting things going on the Ames Avenue project. Dr. Karberg Mr. Murphy what would be helpful to him from the CRAC. Mr. Murphy said generating a good plan or being the squeaky wheel. Dr. Karberg said such motivations should come from inside the Town. Mr. Mandel, a member of the Madaket Conservation Association (MCA), said speaking as a member of the Madaket public and not as a MCA member, that he agreed with Mr. Beller's comment that the purpose of the CRP is to get the public to act. He added that the CRP's 40 recommendations seem heavily focused on the downtown area. He said there is a monitoring point in the downtown area and that there needs to be one out in Madaket. Mr. Mandel said the CRP needs to consider how it deals with neighborhood concerns and that these areas are not getting the attention they need. He added that access to Smith's Point, the house in the preceding neighborhood and Jackson Point. He said "we can't do it ourselves. We can do a lot, but we can't do it ourselves".

Mr. Golding said he doesn't understand why the Town hasn't put aluminum stairs down to the beach at Madaket Beach. Dr. Bois also asked what is being asked of the CRAC to help Mr. Murphy get things

going and what means for the CRAC, what exactly is being asked of CRAC. And, how should CRAC get the Town working on these projects. Mr. Fee reported that Sesachacha project is already going as is the Washington & Francis streets project. He agreed with Mr. Mandel that Madaket is not getting the attention it needs. He added that the Town isn't putting a ramp down to Madaket Beach is that much of the parking area that existed there last year eroded away, so the town doesn't want to attract the public to this beach where parking is extremely limited. Mr. Fee reported that lack of Town staff to manage these projects due to a lack of housing is another limiting factor. Mr. Mandel said the Town has said it would not put lifeguards on this beach because the lifeguard stand and the ramp would be in danger of being washed away. He questioned why the Town is posting signs saying the beach is closed but then providing parking on Macy Road off of Chicago Street. He added that the dunes are being destroyed because of this. Dr. Bois said it would be good to have a public workshop show what's come from the CRP to date. Mr. Beller said if these projects are indeed "quick", then there ought to be a way to make them so. He agreed that the Madaket Beach situation was a disaster and a potential liability. Mr. Brace disagreed with the term disaster in describing Madaket Beach and stated that the Town's harbormaster, Sheila Lucey, is only doing what she's directed to do by the Select Board. He added that because astronomical high tides are washing again the bank making lifeguard stand and a ramp not possible because the beach actively eroding. Mr. Murphy agreed. He added that he has installed a sea level rise monitoring station at Madaket Beach. Dr. Bois suggested posting some sort of educational signs at this location and other erosion hotspots to engage the public at favorite coastal areas, both telling why the area is closed and informing them on what the Town is doing to adapt to sea level rise, and about the CRP. Mr. Beller agreed Dr. Bois' idea and said the best way to get the public's attention is to have them use their own eyes.

Ms. Longacre asked for public comment.

8. Public Comment

Ms. Longacre asked for public comment.

9. 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.

- **Two ‘10-20 year’ rainfall events June 9 and 13 caused stormwater flooding in multiple locations.**
- **June 13, 0.76 of an inch of rain fell in less than an hour**
- **Nantucket is currently categorized as “Abnormally Dry” by NOAA’s US Drought Monitor, dated June 14th. This is a step before “Moderate Drought”.**

Mr. Murphy reported on Nantucket’s existing drought situation and stumped for a climate action plan getting going.

Mr. Golding reported that the ConCom is currently reviewing a bulkhead maintenance proposal for 18 Washing Pond Road so the property owner can rebuild their eastern groin. He mentioned this situation and that the installation is going to be blocking public access in the near future because he felt that the CRAC needs to be ready to deal with this and other such erosion abatement structures that will eventually block public access along the island’s beaches. Mr. Murphy said sea level rise, as recommended in the CRP, needs to be brought into the planning arena. Mr. Fee suggested, and Mr. Golding agreed, that a letter from the CRAC to the ConCom on the importance of maintaining public access would help this situation. Mr. Brace clarified the fishing, fowling comment by Mr. Golding, by adding the word navigation to what is the Public Trust Doctrine of 1691. He asked for information showing that the public can walk in between mean low and high tide lines. Mr. Golding said he would provide Mr. Brace with Chapter 91 information to help explain this to him. Mr. Brace reported that the Harbor & Shellfish Advisory Board has been discussing the large amount of bark mulch that is washed into storm drains during rain events and into the harbor.

10. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics

- **Next meeting is July 12th. CRAC will welcome new members and elect a Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary**

Dr. Bois expressed a concern over the length of terms for CRAC members. Mr. Fee said that Erika Mooney would be handling this.

11. Motion to adjourn

Unanimously approved, 7-0, at 12:20 p.m.

YouTube meeting link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmqcrHA8EDw&list=PL49sKqpy7VAiUk-g5h2jluAn_2jqocI2L&index=1