

Nantucket Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC)
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
Via Zoom

*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

Members present: Gary Beller, Dr. Sarah Bois, Peter Brace, Matt Fee, Rachael Freeman, Dr. Jen Karberg, Christy Kickham, Doug Rose, Abby De Molina

Members Absent: Tim Braine, Joanna Roche

Staff present: Leah Hill, Vince Murphy, Florencia Rullo, Hayley Cooke, Jeff Carlson

Members of the public: R.J. Turcotte, D. Anne Atherton, Rick Atherton, Will Kinsella

Recording available here: <https://youtu.be/A2OmrS6KMOC?si=LPbOmVGUPxUpSCga>

1. Call to Order – 10:02am

- the meeting was called to order by chair Peter Brace

2. Meeting announcements

- Script for remotely conducting Open Meetings
- Meeting is being audio/visually recorded

3. Public comment

- R.J. Turcotte, speaking on behalf of Nantucket Land & Water Council, urged CRAC to lend its support for proposed updates to Nantucket's wetlands regulations.
 - *Brace asked for latest draft of proposed updates; Carlson agreed to provide the latest change summary to Hill for distribution to the committee.*
 - *Fee asked about timing; Carlson responded that public input is still ongoing, and that the proposed changes could potentially come in two phases, with setbacks taking more time to resolve.*

4. Review of discussion CRAC's purpose (charge)

- To clarify the discussion from the 9/12 meeting, Brace reviewed CRAC's Mission and Purpose statements, and stated that the committee is pivoting from overseeing creation of the CRP to weighing in on all aspects of its implementation.
 - *Beller underlined that the language explicitly confirms CRAC's purview on matters relating to funding.*
 - *Kickham anticipates that CRAC could be very helpful in advising CapCom on the capital demands of CRP projects.*
 - *Bois asked Fee through chair how Select Board views the scope of CRAC's charge; Fee stated that its mission is fairly broad.*
 - *Rose senses an eagerness within the committee to take a proactive stance regarding CRAC's advisory role.*
 - *Brace concurred.*

5. Brief Overview of Town of Nantucket Communications Office

- Florencia Rullo, Town of Nantucket Communications Manager, and Hayley Cooke, Public

Outreach Coordinator, provided an overview of the Communications Office's capabilities, and advised on how CRAC can best leverage them.

- *Tools include Town website; relationships with NCTV and with local media; TON social media platforms; Town Manager's e-newsletter;*
- *In-house capabilities include press releases, surveys, graphic design, and videography; these can be augmented with third party resources, if appropriate.*
- Guidance: Rullo urged CRAC to start by thinking through as clearly as possible what its target audience(s), messaging priorities and timing look like.
 - *At a high level, what are the coastal resilience topics that the community needs to better understand/know more about?*
 - *Rullo stated that the Communications Office is 'here to help'.*
- Committee comments/questions:
 - *Bois asked whether CRAC should have its own social media platform; Rullo advised caution on that due to logistics (must be managed by a TON employee), and the insatiable demand for content.*
 - *Hill suggested that CRAC could work together to develop content that could someday become a newsletter or be posted on the Natural Resources' social media accounts.*
 - *Instagram: @NRDACK*
 - *Facebook: Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department*
 - *Cooke urged CRAC to give thought to defining its most critical target audiences.*

6. Presentation on draft CRAC education and outreach plan by Doug Rose

- Rose presented a working draft of an education & outreach plan for CRAC, intended to begin discussion.
 - *Rose opined that while there's broad public awareness of climate change and sea level rise, there's far less awareness specific to Nantucket: of the CRP, of what specific actions have been proposed to make Nantucket more resilient in the long term, and of what steps individual property owners can take to make their homes and businesses more resilient in the short term.*
 - *The draft plan included some basic building blocks:*
 - ◆ *1) aligning on a calendar of key messages,*
 - ◆ *2) developing some simple messaging tools and other content intended to help educate the public and capture attention,*
 - ◆ *3) setting some initial exposure goals, and*
 - ◆ *4) tracking progress.*
- Discussion/comments:
 - *Bois*
 - ◆ *Encouraged committee to leverage **existing** content/data, and to 'chunk out' pieces of the CRP so that it can be pushed out in digestible form, to create new messages and stories. CRAC annual report could be another example of worthwhile content.*
 - ◆ *Supportive of surveys.*

- ◆ *Also be looking for opportunities to address topical questions (e.g., responding to letters to the editor), etc.*
- *Karberg*
 - ◆ *hears many questions from the public about ‘what is being done?’ Progress reports could be a good way to answer those questions.*
 - ◆ *Suggestion: each committee member should identify the top two topics that we want people to learn about in the next six months.*
- *Beller*
 - ◆ *Reminded that we do have an annual report, which could be leveraged.*
 - ◆ *Advocated that CRAC should push for updated wetlands regulations.*
 - ◆ *Brace confirmed that this topic (writing a letter in support of updated regulations) will be revisited at an upcoming CRAC meeting.*
- *Brace*
 - ◆ *Resurrected the discussion of a survey of homeowner associations (and beyond); Fee asked for clarity on purpose; Brace and Hill will report back at next meeting.*

7. Presentation on Town’s funding process by Jeff Carlson, Natural Resources Director

- *Outlined existing process for*
 - *Long-term capital projects – described how they are scoped by department heads, plugged into the long-term (10-year) capital improvement plan, and ultimately through Capital Committee (CapCom) to Town Meeting*
 - *Operating budgets – a similar process that proceeds through Finance Committee (FinCom)*
 - *The grant process, including assessing staff bandwidth to administer and manage*
 - *Private gifts and donations (including collaborations with Land Bank)*
 - *Encouraged CRAC to help with public outreach on capital-intensive CRP projects*
- *Brace asked for more clarity on CRAC’s role vis a vis providing advice to CapCom, FinCom*
 - *Carlson endorsed the thought of adding to the written record (i.e., CRAC writing a letter to ConCom regarding the regulations update).*
 - *Also reminded that this is also the value of having representatives sitting on other committees like Conservation Commission (ConComm), FinCom, CapCom, etc.*
 - *Carlson stated that a Town grant writer position has been and continues to be actively considered. He pointed out the extremely broad scope of grants that the Town applies for each year, the deep subject matter expertise that is often called for in many of these applications, and how that breadth and depth creates some complexity.*
 - *Hill reminded the committee that another public forum for CRAC to provide recommendations is in her quarterly reports to Select Board.*
- *Karberg requested that Carlson share with CRAC the long-term capital plan*
 - *Carlson will send the Capital Plan to CRAC*
- *Freeman asked how often the projects from CRP are reviewed, and whether CRAC participates in that prioritization*

- *Carlson encourages CRAC to play an active role in how CRP projects shift in terms of priority*
- 8. Reconsideration on necessity of sub-committees**
- Hill shared feedback from Town Admin and Town Counsel
 - *If a subcommittee is already formed, two members cannot meet, unless it's posted, minutes taken, etc*
 - *If there is no subcommittee, then two committee members can meet to discuss not deliberate a subject, and report the outcome at an upcoming meeting*
 - After discussion, Committee voted to disband the Funding subcommittee – moved (Rose), second (Beller), approved unanimously (8-0)
- 9. Approval of Minutes from September 5th and 12th, 2023**
- Moved (Karberg), second (Rose), approved 8-0 (Kickham, Bois abstained)
 - Moved (Kickham), second (Bois), approved 8-0
- 10. New business, Natural Resources Dept. & Committee reports from Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board, Select Board, Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Taxpayers, and other committee members.**
- Hill provided a storm report following Hurricane Lee
 - *Pre- and post-storm monitoring: at the sewer beds one station lost 6 feet*
 - *Significant scallop stranding event; 6.5M scallop seed were saved*
 - *At Sesachacha near shore oyster reef designs in development*
 - *Update to Hazard Mitigation Plan in progress*
- 11. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics:**
- Next Meeting is October 10, 2023, on Zoom.
 - Bois offered future site visit suggestions
 - *Folger's Marsh area*
 - *Millie's Bridge area*
 - *Any other areas that are coming up for potential funding*
- 12. Motion to adjourn: moved (Rose), seconded (Fee) and approved unanimously (8-0).**