

**Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, February 22, 2022  
Via Video Conference and Recorded**

**Members Present:** Mary Longacre, Gary Beller, Fritz McClure, Matt Fee, Ian Golding, Sarah Bois, Jen Karberg and Joanna Roche. Sarah Bois joined the meeting at 10:06 AM and Joanna Roche left at 11:12 AM.

**Members Absent:** Peter Brace

**Staff Present:** Vince Murphy

**Consultants Present:** None

**Speakers:** Ms. Courtney Rocha  
Southeast Regional Coordinator  
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program  
MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

**CALL TO ORDER.**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM. Roll Call made.

Link to Recording <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPb5xI3xqXU>

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

Unanimously approved and Covid Announcements were made by Chair.

The meeting is recorded and the recording is available on the Town's YouTube channel.

**DISCUSSION.**

1. **Discussion with Courtney Rocha from the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs about the MVP Program.** She briefly described the program and her thoughts regarding discussions with Vince Murphy on a grant request for the downtown roadways and barriers project. There are nine (9) Program Core Principles (copy attached to these Minutes) <https://www.mass.gov/doc/mvp-core-principles/download>. The Town has submitted an Expression of Interest for a one year feasibility study with a projected budget of \$300,000 of which 75% would come from the MVP grant and 25% from the Town. She emphasized that additional details were needed, including the costs, the effect on homeowners and a determination of whether the project is doable. MVP emphasizes nature based solutions (Green Solutions). Building walls is not a long term single solution as seen by the Town of Scituate's experience. MVP favors an "adaptive" strategy, including the removal of homes and relocating infrastructure. Many questions followed: **Mary Longacre** - Are site visits part of the review process? Ans: No, time is too limited. The evaluation begins in March and ends in June. Is our status as a National Historic Landmark taken into account? Ans: Not to any significant extent. **Matt Fee** - Should we highlight the increasing wetlands in the Brant Point Area? Ans: Yes **Jen Karberg** - Should we highlight nature based solutions being suggested for Children's Beach and

Washington Street? Ans; Yes. Gary Beller - Can we assume that the reviewers will be aware of the two years of work involved with the CRP? Ans: No, there are many reviewers and we should not assume the reviewer will be familiar with the development of the CRP. The reviewer will evaluate the fitness of our proposal for the MVP . Is the project viable? Is the project permissible? Two very important considerations.

2. Beginning Discussion of Coastal Resilience Plan Recommendation 1-2 regarding "Updates to the zoning by-law to encourage resilient design and limit investment in areas of high coastal risk." The Chair noted that representatives from the Planning Department were invited to participate in the discussion, but they were not available. Vince hopes to schedule them for a future meeting. The implementation date is scheduled for 2025 and will require approval of the voters at the Annual Town Meeting in 2025. Discussion followed:

Fritz McClure - Are we pioneers? Other communities must have had some experience.

Joanna Roche - We need the input from the Planning Department. The Town needs to hire a professional grant writer.

Matt Fee - We can not assume that the Planning Department is more informed than the Committee. We need to know how to regulate so we do not make the problem worse.

Jen Karberg - There seems to be an information gap between the Planning Department and the Committee. Maybe we need outside help.

Ian Golding and Jen Karberg - The amendment of Wetland Ordinances and regulations may be another avenue to regulate outside not Zoning.

Sarah Bois - Are we gathering information from Planning or are they gathering information from the Committee?

Jen Karberg - Can the Committee gather information separate from Planning?

Rick Atherton (from the public) - In 2015 and 2019 he submitted a Citizen's Article addressing Coastal Liability Waivers. In both cases the Planning Board recommended that the Town take no action on the Article because they wanted more time to study the matter.

3. Beginning Discussion on Future of the Committee - The term ends June 30, 2022.

Gary Beller - Yes, we should continue for purpose of providing "focus."

Ian Golding - Yes, we should ask for extended terms.

Matt Fee - Yes, otherwise the implementation of the CRP could stall.

Mary Longacre - We should discuss whether a fixed term or an indefinite term for the Committee. Should member terms be staggered?

**PUBLIC COMMENT. None**

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

The minutes from January 25, 2022 and February 8, 2022, as amended, were approved unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS and COMMITTEE REPORTS.

1. NOAA announced that the 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report entitled "Global and Regional Sea Level Scenarios for the United States" is available at:

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/sealevelrise/sealevelrise-tech-report-sections.html>

The report will be on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

2. Baxter Road Project. Vince Murphy reported on the Conservation Commission Workshop attended by members of the Select Board and the Conservation Commission

and by Kate Edwards, Jennifer Lachmayr and Vince Murphy from Arcadis Group. There is nothing new to report on the road relocation other than to say work is ongoing by staff, the Select Board and other members of the Town Administration. Matt Fee stated that the Town was working with homeowners and there are a lot of aspects to the project.

**3. Shoreline Change Monitoring Program (Recommendation 1-4 of the CRP).**

Vince Murphy reported that the Airport and Madaket have been added to the existing program and more test locations have been identified. The Town will need to purchase additional GPS measuring equipment. The sewer beds have been identified as the area experiencing the most erosion recently.

**4. Additional Grant Programs.** Vince has been having conversations with Trevor Johnson from Arcadis to identify other potential grant programs.

**5. March 8th CZM Grant Planning Workshop.** Vince stated that there will be a Webinar/Workshop on Coastal Resilience Planning Grants from 1:00-2:30 PM

**FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TOPICS.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on March 22, 2022 at 10:00 AM. Remote meetings will continue through April 1. Thereafter, meetings will be held either in person, or by zoom, or both, depending on the will of the state legislature. The Chair expressed the hope that meetings will continue to be recorded.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 AM.

**NOTE.** There were 14 attendees at the beginning of the meeting, including eight committee members and one staff.