

**Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 27, 2021
Via Video Conference and Recorded**

Members Present: Mary Longacre, Fritz McClure, Sarah Bois, Graeme Durovich, Jen Karberg and Peter Brace. Gary Beller joined the meeting at 10:12 AM.

Members Absent: Matt Fee, Ian Golding

Staff Present: Vince Murphy and Holly Backus

Consultants Present: None.

Meeting recording <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4e4ARMTmT1U&t=1s>

CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. Roll Call made.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Unanimously approved and Covid Announcements were made by Chair.
The meeting was recorded and recording is available on the Town's YouTube channel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Announcements were as set forth in the Agenda to the Meeting with one addition.
The Trustees of the Reservation will be holding a webinar entitled "The State of the Coast Report" on the evening of April 27th.

DISCUSSION TOPIC. "Coastal Resilience around Nantucket Harbor."

Speakers:

1. Tom O'Shea, Director of Coast & Natural Resources, The Trustees' of the Reservation spoke about the Trustees' experience and plans for Coaue. His Power Point presentation is attached to these minutes. The four projects (he Haulover, Coskata Pond, the Gulls and the Second Point Ranger Camp) are in partnership with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation.

2. Dr. Jen Karberg, Research Program Supervisor, and Neil Foley, Interpretive Education Co-ordinator/Ecologist at the Nantucket Conservation Foundation spoke about conditions and projects on Coaue, the Haulover marsh migration, Pocomo Meadows and Folger's Marsh. Both of their power point presentations are attached to these minutes. There has been considerable loss of vegetation and sand buffer on Coaue. Second Bend is one of the most vulnerable areas and several of the sand roadways are at risk.

3. Andy Lowell, Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board representative, spoke about his personal perspective of the change to the Coaue area. His family has owned a cabin there since 1962. The harbor is becoming shallower and the eel beds are being effected by increase in volume of sand coming into the harbor. The erosion along the shore has accelerated since 1991.

4. Leah Hill, Town Biologist, Brant Point Shellfish Hatchery, spoke about the shellfish habitat in the harbor. Storm events are a major factor with loss of eelgrass. Wind and waves push scallops into areas not suitable for growth. Raising temperature, acidity and

the algae tides at the head of the harbor starve the shellfish. Sand sediment is increasing in the Shimmo salt marsh. She noted that the eelgrass density has declined from 37% to 17% since 2017.

5. Simon Edwards, Nantucket Shellfish Association representative, spoke about the impact on Oyster farming in the harbor. The water temperature in the upper harbor reaches 80 degrees in the summer. There is less flow of water out of the harbor since the work on the jetty 4 years ago. The split on 5th bend is moving toward Pocomo. The dredging in the Polpis Harbor has already filled in after only 6 months. He suggested that dredging of sand bottom and relocation of sand to eroding areas may help.

6. Area Homeowners Associations:

Wauwinet - John Rowe requested a summary of comments and reports.

Pocomo - representative not present.

Polpis - representative not present

Shimmo - Vince Murphy read a letter of support from Steve Anderson.

Monomoy - Steve Leinbach noted the loss of beach in the last 5 years. Most of beach is now underwater at high tide. There used to be 75-100' of beach. He hopes there might be an easier permitting process for private interests interested in preserving the shoreline - beach nourishment projects. He said "it is time to consider what we are willing to give up to protect what we have."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ginger Andrews from Shellfish Advisory Board commented that we must all work in concert to resolve issues and alternate points of view are helpful.

Jen Karberg ask a question about plans for future dredging. Vince Murphy responded that the Town's plans for dredging are 1-2 years away.

Holly Backus noted that Resilient Nantucket's last forum was held last week and it is available on the website. Their grant project ends in June but the organization will continue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

The minutes from March 23 and April 13 were approved with minor edits.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

None made.

NEW BUSINESS.

Next meeting is May 11 at 10:00 AM and thereafter on the second and fourth Tuesdays in May and June.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38.