

Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Via Zoom

*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

Members present: Mary Longacre, Gary Beller, Carl Borchert, Sarah Bois, Peter Brace, Joanna Roche, Christy Kickham

Members Absent: Ian Golding, Matt Fee, Rachael Freeman, Jennifer Karberg

Staff present: Leah Hill

Others: Ashley Erisman, RJ Turcotte, Burton Balkind, Elizabeth Trillos, Doug Rose, D Anne Atherton, Tim Braine

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0imOLO7GUfE>

1. Call to Order

10:00 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 ConCom representative of coastal resilience impacts from proposed new Wetland Regulations.

Ms. Erisman stated that the updates to the regulations include components from the CRP and definitions such as sea level rise. She added that the Conservation Commission is proposing to increase resource area buffer zones for no structures from 50 to 75-feet in coastal areas. In addition, they are considering banning pools from within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage. Mr. Beller complimented Ms. Erisman on her work and asked what is necessary for these revisions to be enacted. Ms. Erisman provided an estimated timeline stating that there is an additional public meeting that needs to be scheduled, probably in late July, and then she is hoping that the Commissioners will be able to vote on the new regulations. The vote is then followed by a period of time before the new regulations are enacted.

4. Authorization of re-issuance of Coastal Zone Management grant application support letter and request for feedback on grant application. See packet.

Ms. Longacre stated that the current grant name, date and list of committee members would be updated on the Letter of Support. Discussion continued about the request for funding and the letter itself. A motion was made by Mr. Borchert and seconded by Mr. Beller to approve the support letter with the recommended changes. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Continued discussion on next best steps for Sconset Bluff coastal resilience. See packet.

Ms. Longacre asked whether there were comments or questions from members regarding the letter and Mr. Beller stated that he felt the letter should be submitted as is. Ms. Bois added that

she would prefer a shorter letter that simply supports the CRP and perhaps eliminates portions of the second paragraph. Ms. Longacre also suggested a potential modification to the second paragraph. Discussion of the second paragraph continued with Mr. Kickham adding comments and Ms. Bois suggesting that it could be removed. The second paragraph was moved to be the third paragraph. Mr. Borchert stated that he may be an outlier but that he does not support managed retreat in this area but instead advocates for coastal engineering structures and geotubes in this area. Ms. Bois followed-up by encouraging the CRAC to not make any comments about coastal engineering structures as a whole but instead only in reference to the Sconset Bluff. Ms. Bois went further by adding that she does not feel that coastal engineering structures would be able to save the bluff. Mr. Brace expressed support of Ms. Bois' comments and also wanted to understand how the sacrificial sand required to maintain the geotubes would be paid for. Mr. Borchert responded that sand could be pumped from offshore and that this has been going on and historically has been occurring in other locations.

Ms. Longacre read page 210 from the CRP to ensure that the Committee is in agreement that we should be supporting and including this wording. Additional edits were made and a motion was made by Mr. Beller to approve the letter and send it to the Select Board. Ms. Roche seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Mr. Borchert voting no and Ms. Longacre abstaining. To see the final letter titled "CRAC's statement to the Select Board on best next steps regarding Sconset Bluff": <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/1522/Coastal-Resilience-Library>

6. Introduction to the zoning bylaw review tool published by the EPA's Southeast New England Program and Mass Audubon, see <https://snepnetwork.org/bylaw-review/>

Ms. Longacre thanked Mr. Borchert for being willing to explore this website and provide an overview. Mr. Borchert read components of the website and summarized the purpose of the tool. However, he noted that he was unable to fully utilize the website because of the level of complexity of the information required. Therefore, it may be useful to include the PLUS department in these assessments.

Mr. Borchert reviewed the highlights of the spreadsheet and provided local examples of some of the topics. He discussed the duck bill flaps that are used on the Easy Street stormwater pipes to reduce surcharge. Mr. Kickham reminded people of the stormwater enterprise fund and the CMOM program that will be a very important step forward. Mr. Borchert added that an infiltration study in the Brant Point area allowed the stormwater department to greatly reduce the amount of saltwater entering into the stormwater system.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Turcotte, on behalf of the Nantucket Land Council, stated that there are no areas in Massachusetts where offshore sand is being pumped onshore. Mr. Balkind and Mr. Turcotte suggested that perhaps there could be a different process for public comment so that comments can be made at the appropriate and relevant time.

8. Approval of Minutes

No minutes to be approved.

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.

- Update from Peter Brace on Nantucket and Madaket Harbor Plan

Mr. Brace reported on the Coastal Resilience table at the Nantucket and Madaket Harbor Plan table and read specific questions and comments that were asked by people who visited the table he was sitting at.

- Ms. Roche stated that from 4:30-6:30 the Clean Water Coalition is presenting an opportunity on July 11th and August 28th to come and learn about water quality on Nantucket.

- Mr. Brace stated that July 18th the Nantucket Land Council will be hosting their State of the Harbor address.

- At the July 5th Select Board meeting, Mary Longacre and Leah Hill will present the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee's updated recommendation regarding sea level rise, which was approved at the 9/13/22 CRAC meeting.

10. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics: Next Meeting is July 11th, 2023 on Zoom. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary will need to take place. Please email your expression of interest to Leah Hill, lhill@nantucket-ma.gov. Additionally, per the Town of Nantucket Committee Handbook "If the Chair leaves a public meeting, then the Vice Chair or another Committee member designated by the Chair may preside over a meeting. If the Chair or Vice Chair is not present at the beginning of a public meeting, and there is a quorum, then any member of the board or committee may call the meeting to order. If this happens, then the Committee should immediately elect a Chair pro-tem to preside over the meeting. The pro-tem Chair will serve until the regularly elected Chair or Vice Chair enters the meeting or another Chair pro-tem is elected."

Mr. Beller suggested that the CRAC start discussing that Tucket Holland says only 4% of the land on Nantucket is developable and whether or not it makes sense to use Land Bank land for affordable housing. Ms. Longacre reminded everyone that this topic could not be discussed further without it being an agenda item.

Mr. Borchert suggested that there be consideration given to having extra funding for CR projects. Ms. Roche agreed with this suggestion and added that the CRAC consider bringing back Brian Turbitt. In addition, she would like to advocate for hiring a grant writer.

11. Motion to adjourn at 11:23 am