

Nantucket Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC)
Tuesday, August 22, 2023
Via Zoom

*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

Members present: Gary Beller, Peter Brace, Tim Braine, Abby De Molina, Matt Fee, Rachael Freeman, Dr. Jen Karberg, Christy Kickham, Joanna Roche, Doug Rose

Members Absent: Dr. Sarah Bois

Staff present: Leah Hill, Vince Murphy

Speakers: William Kinsella, chair, ACKclimate

Others : Peter Morrison, D.Anne Atherton, Rick Atherton, R.J. Turcotte, Judy Sanni, Sarah Davis, Laurie Webb, Dede Traynor, Kim, MCF, Helen Weeks, Bob Dobies, Anthony Ian, Pamela Suan, Barry Alpert, Kim, Daniel Weber, John Judy, Nancy Anne Forster, Kit Murphy, Margaret Vandeusen, Kim Bepler, Paddy Farrell, Kat Hiloughlin, Will Aarsenault, JG Snouffer, Julie Meade, Helen Strong, Matthew Raymond, Debbie Raymond, Doug Raymond, Tim Cashman, Claire Martin, Susan Golden, KN Kins, Elizabeth, Priscilla Roosevelt, Meridith Moldenhauer, Martha, Zenas Hutcheson, Mark Burlingham, Emily, Tom Loughlin, Karel, Aleks, George

Recording available here: <https://youtu.be/1v50v20J7uo?si=4pRdWLIUDZ9jp1JZ>

1. Call to Order – 10:04am

- 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
- Abby de Molina introduced herself as the newest member of CRAC, representing the Planning Board

3. Continued discussion on Coastal Resilience Districts (CRDs) with Vincent Murphy, Town of Nantucket's (TON) Sustainability Programs Manager

- V. Murphy reviewed a synthesis of committee 'homework' from the 8/8/23 meeting
 - *As initially envisioned by Select Board, purpose of CRD focuses on the funding of localized coastal resilience projects.*
- Two broad schools of thought within CRAC:
 - *Track 1: (long term) one whole island CRD, with sub-districts defined as needed*
 - *Track 2: (short term) multiple defined CRDs within the island*
- Committee members offered a variety of comments:
 - *Beller urged a whole island approach, with multiple sub-districts created as needed. Focus should be on funding island-wide infrastructure.*
 - *Rose argued that the primary purpose of a CRD should be to enable TON to more effectively plan, fund, construct, and maintain high priority coastal resilience projects, and that a well-crafted Home Rule Petition might help accomplish that goal.*
 - *Roche is supportive of an island-wide CRD as a long-term track, but expressed concern over our lack of a clear strategy for funding CRP projects in the immediate*

term (e.g., FY'25).

- Fee agrees that high priority CRP projects should be put into the capital funding cue as soon as possible. Focus should be on betterments, and how robust can they be to manage long term operations and maintenance.
- Brace expressed concern over the costs of local projects becoming a burden on all island taxpayers. Asked for a clearer definition of funding: betterments, grants, and town funding.
- Roche argued to focus on what projects are being put forward with regard to the \$1 million/year that has been allocated.
 - ◆ Murphy later answered that these funds are being used as matching funds in grant applications.
- Kickham argued to maintain capital funding for island wide projects, and betterments for localized projects.
- Beller clarified that any island-wide CRD would include localized betterment districts.
- Brace urged that we provide as refined feedback as possible.
 - ◆ Murphy later opined that we would be best served to focus on small scale, local projects.
- Karberg expressed interest in an island wide CRD that gives TON the authority to establish, plan, fund, construct and ongoing maintenance of localized projects. She also urged that we clarify who owns the intervention project.
- Fee again urged CRAC to focus on optimizing existing tools, sees no need for an island-wide CRD at this time.
- Murphy walked through the bullet points to refine the list.
- Discussion shifted to requesting an extension of the 9/1 deadline
 - Fee expressed confidence that extra time would likely be granted.

4. Review ACKclimate Nantucket's Climate Change Awareness Month proclamation with ACKclimate Chair Will Kinsella

- Moved (Rose), seconded (Beller), and approved unanimously (10-0)
- Roche appointed as CRAC representative to ACKclimate by unanimous vote (10-0)

5. Discussion of subcommittees:

- Murphy advised that:
 - all subcommittee meetings must be publicly posted
 - members must be mindful to avoid discussion of subcommittee matters whenever a quorum is present outside of a meeting
 - subcommittees should have an odd number of members
 - subcommittees can invite experts to advise in a non-voting capacity
- Capital planning strategy subcommittee
 - Roche, Kickham and de Molina volunteered
 - moved (Beller), seconded (Karberg) and approved unanimously (10-0)
- Education/outreach subcommittee
 - Rose expressed reservations about the need for establishing a formal subcommittee

- *Brace suggested topic be deferred to future meeting*
 - *Moved (Roche) seconded (Fee) and approved unanimously*
- 6. Discussion on proposed Wetland Regulations Update by Conservation Commission**
- Chair suggested that discussion be deferred to future meeting.
 - *Beller made motion to approve recommendations of ConCom, Kickham seconded.*
 - *Hill pointed out the recommendation is not finalized by ConCom.*
 - *Beller withdrew motion.*
- 7. Public Comment**
- Chair clarified that public comment in this meeting will be limited to topics not on the agenda.
 - Peter Morrison, speaking on behalf of Nantucket Civic League (NCL), requested that CRAC keep NCL posted on the potential development of a Coastal Resilience District strategy for Nantucket, as it is a topic of interest to its members.
- 8. Approval of minutes from August 8, 2023**
- Moved (Fee), seconded (Karberg), approved unanimously (9-0) (Freeman abstained).
- 9. New business, Committee & Natural Resources Dept. (NRD) reports**
- Karberg reminded CRAC and public of upcoming NCF events:
 - *NCF Coskata-Coatue documentary film & discussion at Dreamland 8/24 @5-7pm*
 - *Nantucket Climate Change Summit, 9/6 @4:00-6:30pm, GHYC*
 - Murphy updated CRAC on the recent joint meeting of ConCom and HDC to review proposed plans for Sandbar at Jetties Beach and the Hungry Minnow at Children's Beach.
 - *Fee asked if there were details*
 - *Rose encouraged CRAC members to watch it on YouTube*
 - Brace provided progress report on Harbors Action Plan
 - Brace provided an update on Harbor & Shellfish Advisory Board (HSAB) public awareness efforts.
- 10. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics:**
- Next meeting is September 12, 2023 on Zoom.
- 11. Motion to adjourn: moved (Fee), seconded (Beller) and approved unanimously (10-0).**