

**Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022**  
**Via Zoom**

\*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

**Members present:** Mary Longacre, Peter Brace, Ian Golding, Jen Karberg, Joanna Roche, Gary Beller, Joe Topham, Rachael Freeman

**Members Absent:** Christy Kickham, Matt Fee, Sarah Bois

**Staff present:** Vincent Murphy

**Others:** D. Anne Atherton, William Kinsella, Doug Rose, Elizabeth Trillos

Meeting Recoding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GpcW16zGYA>

**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. Approval of Minutes from Aug. 9**

Ms. Longacre requested to revise the minutes with respect to Item 4 (**Discussion of Proclamation of September as Climate Change Awareness month and associated activities**).

Ms. Longacre asked to include that Mr. Topham was unavailable to vote for Item 4. Minutes were approved (7-0) with Mr. Golding abstaining.

**4. Update on CZM Grant**

Mr. Murphy reached out to the Office of Coastal Zone Management who stated that it would be an additional 1-2 weeks before information regarding grant recipients was disseminated. Mr. Murphy added that the Natural Resources Department had received a Southeast New England FEMA Zone Grant for \$158,465.00 for resiliency work in Sesachacha Pond. The CRAC had submitted a letter of support for their proposed oyster reef and land grading project.

**5. Continued review and discussion of revisions to CRAC Sea Level Rise recommendation to the Select Board**

Ms. Longacre requested comments and suggestions to the draft CRAC Sea Level Rise recommendation document included in the meeting packet. Mr. Brace responded that he thinks it is complete and cautioned the Committee against “overdoing” the document. Ms. Longacre and Mr. Brace both emphasized the importance of brevity and clarity. Mr. Brace made a motion to approve the document as written and Ms. Roche seconded the motion. The motion was approved (8-0). Mr. Beller asked what happens after the CRAC provides a recommendation such as this to the Select Board? Ms. Longacre responded that it is then up to the Select Board to adopt the recommendations outlined in the CRAC Sea Level Rise document and provide it to the public.

Mr. Murphy indicated that this document was important as it includes the new MC-FRM data. Mr. Beller suggested that an executive summary be included that highlights the major changes from last year's CRAC Sea Level Rise recommendations to the Select Board. Mr. Murphy agreed that he would add bullet points highlighting the new information.

## **6. Overview from Vince Murphy of Falmouth plan “Coastal Resiliency Planning for the Surf Drive Area”**

(<https://www.falmouthma.gov/1052/Coastal-Resilience-Planning-Surf-Drive-A>)

Mr. Murphy shared Falmouth's webpage detailing their Surf Drive resiliency project. Specifically, Mr. Murphy called attention to the Recommendation and Implementation Story Map page, which contains a decision-making tree for the Falmouth project that he felt could be applied to Nantucket projects. Baxter Road, Madaket, the Sewer Treatment Plant, Codfish Park and others are all projects where this decision tree could be implemented. Ms. Karberg added that this is a great tool for educating the public about the reasoning process that underlies the project. Ms. Longacre stated that the tree demonstrates multiple options and shows the path taken to get to the preferred option. Mr. Brace wondered if there was a way to make this type of information for Nantucket projects more accessible to the public? With that in mind, Ms. Roche asked if anyone was tracking the existing Capital Projects that contain Coastal Resiliency components? Mr. Murphy responded that he has a spreadsheet. Ms. Freeman asked whether this was a job for the Coastal Resiliency Sustainability Interdepartmental Working Group and Vince responded that yes, it was and he is working on scheduling an upcoming meeting with quarterly meetings being the goal. Ms. Roache asked where and how projects could be tracked and Ms. Longacre suggested speaking with Mr. Kickham. Ms. Longacre suggested an action item could be to review the TOWN outlays from last Town meeting and begin tracking capital projects that have CRP components.

## **7. Review of Priority 1 Projects from the CRP Design Thinking Workshop “Just Do It Projects”**

Mr. Murphy reviewed the “Just Do It” items. (Include List). Ms. Longacre suggested that the CRAC committee recommend in their quarterly report that the Coastal Resiliency Sustainability Interdepartmental Working Group meet again as well as reviewing all development projects pertaining to the CRP. Mr. Murphy stated that the last 3 “Just Do It” projects were infrastructure related. He noted that the Washington Street project was being worked upon collaboratively by the Land Bank, ReMain and Town, and the Sesachacha Pond and Polpis Road project was in progress as it had been partially funded by a grant. However, the Ames Avenue and Madaket Road project hasn't been addressed at all so this should be included in the quarterly report and recommendations to the Select Board. Mr. Brace added that Mr. Mandel of the Madaket Conservation Association said that group is ready to help on Ames Ave and Madaket Road so the CRAC may want to get their thoughts on this project at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Karberg asked what Mr. Murphy felt would be helpful to move the Ames Avenue and Madaket Road project forward? Mr. Murphy described the entire dune restoration that was listed in the CRP and then considered what it would look like if there was a focused effort to build an artificial dune with planted grass only in the core area. Ms. Longacre asked about timing for this project (design, permit, install) and Mr. Murphy responded that it would be 2 years. Ms. Karberg suggested that CRAC recommend to the Select Board breaking down this project into smaller

sections and advise the Select Board to quickly engage an engineer to examine the most critical components. She also described watching people climb over intact dunes and suggested that this may not be productive. Mr. Murphy noted that there is a balance between maintaining habitat and allowing public access as there was a massive public backlash when the Madaket Beach access was closed due to erosion in early summer 2022. Mr. Golding asked whether Mr. Murphy would consider an emergency application to the Conservation Commission to prioritize the Ames Ave Madaket Road area and fast track this project. Mr. Murphy said that he would consider this but that there are limited resources for project managers that may slow the project as well. Mr. Topham and Mr. Golding further supported the idea of moving forward with creating additional dune structure in Madaket.

#### **8. Discussion of Checklist for Evaluating Coastal Projects for Resilience – continued from prior discussion of shoreline access issues.**

Mr. Murphy worked with Ms. Roche to create the document “Guidelines for Passage Along Beaches with Coastal Engineering Structures”. Highlighted in this document were ADA accessibility and how to make public beach access compliant, identification of pre-1978 structures, directional signage as a way to show that an access is public and not private, and yearly maintenance and annual reporting as important components. Mr. Beller suggested that the Conservation Commission was the appropriate group to enforce these recommendations because CRAC does not have any regulatory authority. Ms. Longacre suggested that a Town bylaw is another option for enforcement. Mr. Golding would like to see Mass DEP come down to Nantucket and inspect bulkheads that are out of compliance noting that the DEP definition of a passable beach is the area between the mean high tide line and the low water mark. Mr. Golding thanked Ms. Roche and Mr. Murphy for their efforts on this document. Ms. Freeman recommended that the CRAC familiarize themselves with the AAB regulations before requiring that public beach access comply with AAB as implementation could be challenging. Mr. Golding requested that Mr. Murphy share the Chapter 91 Compliance Questions and Request for Inspections letter that was sent to DEP from the Conservation Commission. He described the purpose of the letter and how the Conservation Commission was limited in their ability to enforce Chapter 91 issues. The letter was forwarded to all CRAC members. Ms. Karberg supported public access regulations being enforced by the Conservation Commission and contemplated the practicality of installing stairs or ramps on existing coastal engineering structures and how that would impact neighboring properties. Ms. Longacre suggested that the CRAC consider a case study to examine ways to create public access on existing coastal engineering structures. Mr. Topham proposed that CRAC have a zoom meeting with MA DEP as they must have experience with similar issues in other areas of Massachusetts. Mr. Murphy suggested again that this may be a Conservation Commission issue. Ms. Freeman added that Mr. Fragata is a good contact for the MA DEP Wetlands and Waterways program. Mr. Golding described Chapter 91 license requirements for public access and the Storm Smart Properties Fact Sheet (include in minutes). Mr. Golding also stated that the Conservation Commission is not always aware of Chapter 91 issues or applications and therefore he would like the CRAC to send a letter to MA Waterways to reinforce the Conservation Commission's letter and to have the DEP come down to the island. Ms. Longacre made a motion that the CRAC recommend to the Select Board that they send a letter to MA Waterways and Mr. Topham seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**9. Public Comment**

Ms. Longacre asked for public comment. Ms. Atherton made 3 points:

1. Ms. Longacre will forward a plot plan to Mr. Murphy showing that there is Town owned land at the corner of Ames Ave. This could simplify the process of moving the Ames Ave corner away from the beach.
2. WPI students compiled an interactive database of all the coastal erosion structures on Nantucket and Ms. Atherton will send this to Mr. Murphy.
3. One of the primary recommendations of the CRP was a sediment transport study, Town meeting allocated over \$500,000 for this project. Ms. Atherton was wondering what the status of this project was.

Mr. Murphy said that they are actively writing the scope of services for the sediment transport study.

**8. 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.**

Ms. Longacre indicated that WPI students will be working on a project relating to Coastal Resilience this fall. In addition, she listed a number of events coming up for Climate Change Awareness Month. AckClimate, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, and Linda Loring all have events happening relating to climate change. NPEDC has Liz Durkee presenting the Martha's Vineyard Climate Action Plan at the upcoming meeting, and ReMain and the Nantucket Conservation Foundation are hosting a book club.

Mr. Brace stated that ACK Rats informed the Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board that wind turbines were detrimental to the environment. Specifically, ACK Rats are concerned that there would be excess sediment deposited in the harbor as a result of this project.

Mr. Topham will be reaching out to CPC to suggest they fund a project to GPS all Town trees so they are in the Town GIS system and everyone can have access to this information.

**9. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics**

Ms. Longacre said the next CRAC meeting was scheduled for September 27, 2022 at 10 a.m.

**10. Motion to adjourn**

1:25pm