

Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee
Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021 at 10 a.m.
Via Zoom

Members present: Mary Longacre, Peter Brace, Ian Golding, Sarah Bois, Jen Karberg, Gary Beller, Matt Fee

Members absent: Joanna Roche

Staff present: Vincent Murphy

Others: Trevor Johnson (Arcadis), D. Anne Atherton, Howard Dickler,

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BkFcYNmEEk>

1. Call to Order

Ms. Longacre called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

2. Meeting announcements

- Script for remotely conducting Open Meetings, read by the Chair
- The meeting is being audio / visually recorded

3. Acknowledgements:

Ms. Longacre announced that there were hundreds of people involved in the creation of the Coastal Resilience Plan. She then thanked the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee members, Town staff, the project team, local organizations, members of the public who attended meetings or provided comments, and external speakers including RP Eddy, Dr. Chip Fletcher, Julia Knisel, Tom O'Shea, and consultants from Fuss & O'Neill for their participation in creation of the Coastal Resilience Plan

(CRP).

4. Presentation and discussion by the CRP Project Team to provide an overview of the FINAL Coastal Resilience Plan including coastal resilience recommendations for Downtown, Brant Point, North Shore Jetties to Eel Point, Madaket, South Shore, Sconset, Nantucket Harbor and Coatie, and recommendations that apply across all areas of Nantucket County.

Ms. Longacre noted that the final CRP is available on the Town's website at

<https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40525/Nantucket-Coastal-Resilience-Plan-PDF>

This is presented in the single page view and can be changed to a two-page view through the 'View – Page Display' settings in Acrobat to see the larger two-page spreads in context. (Also make sure that "Show Cover Page in Two Page View" is checked off as an option so that the page spreads display correctly.)

Mr. Beller joined the meeting at approximately 10:04 a.m.

Mr. Johnson gave an overview of the final version of the CRP focusing first on the executive summary and then looking at next steps for the CRAC working on implementation of the

CRP.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Murphy for his help in coordinating the creation of the CRP and he also thanked the members of the public for all of their input.

Mr. Johnson reported that most of the public comments were people asking for clarification, which really helped Arcadis write a much better plan.

Mr. Johnson noted that Nantucket is among the most civically-engaged communities that he's worked in over his career, Mr. Johnson said the Coastal Risk Assessment of Nantucket section of the executive summary is where the public can really learn what the CRP is all about. He added that a majority of the 40 recommendations in the plan are adaptation themed. He said the recommendations are in two categories, island-wide and focus areas including downtown, Madaket, Coatsue, Nantucket Harbor/, North Shore Jetties to Eel Point, 'Sconset, Brant Point, the South Shore and Polpis.

Mr. Johnson said many of the island-wide strategies can begin immediately guided by ongoing conversations.

Acknowledging that not everything can be saved on Nantucket, Mr. Johnson clarified that the island-wide projects are the highest priority projects and that Arcadis recommends implementing them within the next 10 to 15 years. Mr. Johnson

reported that the total cost of implementing these projects is \$830 million to \$900,000 while stressing these are planning-level estimates. Mr. Johnson told the CRAC that much of the costs can be covered by state and federal grants, and even private funding. He then offered some examples of cost-effectiveness for some of these benefits.

Mr. Johnson stressed implementation of the CRP depends on all Nantucket residents knowing risks and taking steps to mitigate them. “If each person does their part, the overall resilience of the island is going to be increased and the overall risk is going to be reduce.”

Ms. Longacre asked for clarification on what a pilot project is. Mr. Johnson said that a pilot project is in one in which there is an opportunity to learn from different strategies used within a project to achieve its stated goal.

Mr. Beller stated that the priority for the Town going forward is protecting the island’s infrastructure. He added that this priority is not stressed enough in the CRP.

Mr. Fee joined the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. Johnson, in answer to Mr. Beller’s statement, said that the projects that highlight infrastructure in the CRP are a high priority and that Mr. Beller’s point was well taken.

Dr. Bois said that it’s important to state to the island that the

CRAC serves the entirety of the island.

Ms. Longacre asked of Mr. Johnson and received confirmation that the downtown area's projects are more extensive and expensive because of the vital importance of this part of the island to Nantucket. He added that there's a strong case for protecting the downtown area because it can't easily be moved.

5. Public comment

Ms. Longacre asked if there were any members of the public who had a comment.

Ms. Atherton asked for explanation on what dune restoration means within the CRP context.

Mr. Johnson said dune restoration is in Section 6 of the CRP. He said Dune restoration means both natural restoration employing sand and vegetation, and restoration utilizing hard armoring to protect critical infrastructure.

Mr. Dickler said he agreed with Mr. Beller, modifying his emphasis on infrastructure by suggesting the addition of "critical" before infrastructure. He added that the sustainability of certain projects needs to be factored into whether the Town can afford them.

Stating that the ferries might not be able to operate all the time if the Town installed the proposed barrier to protect the

downtown waterfront, Mr. Golding asked how this would work. Mr. Johnson explained that during storm events with the barrier gates closed, the ferries wouldn't likely be running anyway. And, he said the ferry terminal and wharf might be relocated outside of the barrier.

For next steps, Mr. Johnson asked what the next steps should be.

Ms. Longacre said the CRAC's immediate next steps included writing a letter to the Select Board presenting the plan to Select Board and recommending that it officially adopt the plan.

Mr. Golding stressed the importance of getting help from Arcadis on acquiring the huge volumes of sand that will be needed for many of the recommended projects in the CRP.

Mr. Murphy said Mr. Johnson could give a brief presentation at the Select Board meeting when the CRAC officially presents the CRP to the Select Board.

Mr. Beller said one of the priorities for taking next steps is to get in as early as possible, applications for funding from state and federal sources to acquire sand and to fund the projects.

Ms. Longacre recommended that the members of the CRAC representing Town committees, commissions and boards present the CRP to their respective entities and ask for comments on it to be relayed back to the CRAC.

6. Updates on other related and concurrent coastal resilience projects (if available):

- **Baxter Road Engineering Feasibility Assessment – by Vince Murphy**
 - **Select Board joint meeting with the Conservation Commission on Nov. 1**

Mr. Murphy deferred to Mr. Golding. Mr. Golding had nothing to report.

- **Sheep Pond Road access for residents and future relocation – by Vince Murphy**

Mr. Murphy reported that Sheep Pond Road property owners will be meeting with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation to discuss a route for this road away from the eroding shoreline in a few weeks.

- **The Trustees of Reservations & Nantucket Conservation Foundation resilience plan – by Dr. Jennifer Karberg, NCF**

Ms. Karberg reported that the Trustees of the Reservations met with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation's consultant to show them the Trustees' plan for making four locations within the Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge more resilient. The NCF made its comments to the consultants, who will be getting back to NCF in a few weeks.

Ms. Karberg added that Massachusetts is one of the only states not allowing offshore dredging of sand.

Mr. Fee said the Town can expect the state to change its laws on dredging of sand from offshore shoals because the needs of that sand for coastal resilience projects. He added

that we should not lose hope that this would change.

7. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics:

- **November meeting dates**

The CRAC decided to meet on Nov. 9, 2021 with the option to also meet on Nov. 16, 2021.

8. Approval of CRAC minutes from 9/14/21 and 10/12/21

The CRAC approved the minutes of 9/14/21 5-0 with Mr. Golding abstaining, as he did not attend this meeting.

The CRAC approved the minutes of 10/12/21 5-0 with Ms. Karberg abstaining, as she did not attend this meeting.

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.

- **Report on effects of the Oct 26-28 Nor'easter**

Mr. Murphy reported on the impacts of this storm on Nantucket.

- **Coastal Resilience Technician new hire**

Mr. Murphy reported that the Natural Resources Department recently hired Morgan Sayle as its Coastal Resilience Technician.

10. YouTube meeting link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5zLRkLBOdA&list=PL49sKqpy7VAiUk-g5h2jIuAn_2jqocI2L&index=3

11. Motion to adjourn

Unanimously approved, 6-0, at 11:35 a.m.