

CRAC

Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:45 AM

Attendees

Committee Members Present:

Mary Longacre, Joe Topham, Matt Fee, Gary Beller, Ian Golding, Joanna Roche, Christy Kickham, Peter Brace

Committee Members Absent:

Jennifer Karberg, Sarah Bois

Staff:

Vince Murphy

Others:

Lauren Sinatra, Izzy Gaw, Elizabeth Trillos

Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGquyJXQDoc>

1. Call to Order

10:00 am

1. Meeting Announcements

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Longacre requested to revise the minutes by eliminating the joining and leaving of guests.

4. Update on Events of Climate Change Awareness Month

Ms. Gaw presented an update on Acklimate's roll in Climate Change Awareness month . Acklimate hosted events and provided information through the following mechanisms:

- International Coastal Cleanup Day 9/17; beach cleanup in 'Sconset
- Bike parade to highlight alternative transportation
- Acklimate partner gathering at 33 Washington street on 9/28
- Virtual scavenger hunt; ends at end of September
- Instagram posts about climate change related topics
- Climate change awareness toolkit posted on Acklimate website

5. CZM Grant Application Update

Mr. Murphy stated that the grant request was not funded for the feasibility assessment of the downtown flood barrier. Mr. Murphy has asked CZM for feedback on the grant application. After looking through awards granted in this round of funding, Mr. Beller was disappointed and surprised that the application wasn't funded and wants to understand the rationale behind not awarding any portion of the grant. Mr. Murphy replied that the funding decisions are not politicized but based strictly on a point system and in the feedback, it will become apparent where points were lost. For example, Nantucket couldn't get points for project impacts to disadvantaged communities. Ms. Longacre asked if Mr. Murphy knew how many projects weren't funded and Mr. Murphy responded that he did not.

6. Discussion of Climate Action Plan history and opportunities

Ms. Longacre suggested that the committee review Nantucket's historical efforts pertaining to climate change and included a discussion with Ms. Sinatra about the Draft Climate Action Plan that was developed in 2010.

Ms. Sinatra began her work with the Town in 2012, at which time, the Climate Action Plan became the Energy Action Plan. The Draft Climate Action Plan was never adopted because many of the emissions calculations were based on general nationwide averages or California standards, which weren't considered pertinent to Nantucket. Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) research projects have revisited this plan over the past few years. In 2020, a WPI project looked at Nantucket's baseline of greenhouse gases. Although this plan was not adopted, there have been many gains. The Town has become a green community, Nantucket has an energy reduction plan, there is an efficient fuel purchasing policy, but Ms. Sinatra added that none of these pieces are looking at the entire scope of the

community. ([WPI Project Center - Town of Nantucket Energy Office \(ackenergy.org\)](#))

Ms. Longacre added that there is a recording available ([Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission - September 19, 2022](#)) of the Martha's Vineyard Climate Change Planner, Ms. Liz Durkee, presenting the Martha's Vineyard Climate Action Plan (The Vineyard Way [Martha's Vineyard Climate Action Plan \(thevineyardway.org\)](#)) to the Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission (NPEDC) last week.

Mr. Beller asked how Nantucket's 2010 report was initiated and Ms. Sinatra responded that Sustainable Nantucket came to the Town with its own funding and consultant that drafted this report. Mr. Brace added that Sustainable Nantucket struggled to get buy in on the Climate Action Plan and that he felt it was clear from the beginning that this report was destined to end up on a shelf. Ms. Longacre replied that the Town did move forward with other things and views it as a 3 legged stool model (climate action, sustainability, coastal resilience) and she has seen forward progress and participation in the development of the CRP.

Christy Kickham joined at 10:22

Mr. Golding remarked that the level of denial of climate change is surprising based on our fossil fuel dependence and that it is a hard ask of this island to become energy conservationists. Ms. Sinatra reminded everyone that politics in 2010 were very different and that the Energy Office was created from this plan. She emphasized that the island has come a long way in the last decade and creating a climate action plan is important, and maybe now is the right time to bring this forward. Mr. Murphy pointed out that the Coastal Resilience Plan is a type of Climate Action Plan because it deals with issues like sea level rise, erosion etc. He added that he enjoyed reviewing the Vineyard Way due, in part, to the fact it encompasses 6 towns. The Vineyard Way amalgamated everything into one standing plan and have a lead organization to be head of each component. He emphasized that this is great way to get grassroots community engagement. However, Mr. Murphy mentioned that the drawbacks were that the broad scope can lead to difficulty understanding costs associated with projects and so they had to take a broad brush approach to cost estimates (high, med, low) and that can lead to funding issues.

Mr. Fee referred back to the Draft Climate Action Plan and stated that he was struck by the amount of the "to-do" list that is complete. He added specific examples such as retrofits on buildings and a high rate of constituent participation in Mass Save. He feels that at least half of the list is underway or complete and due to Ms. Sinatra's work, the Town recognizes the need to do more. Ms. Sinatra continued, stating that Nantucket has gone above and beyond and cited a number of examples of how we are working to be net zero by 2050. She added that we know what we need to do, we know what we need to get, and how to get there. Ms. Longacre asked Mr. Kickham whether the climate action plan informs capital programs? Mr. Kickham admitted that this was an area they could be more cognizant of as they don't see too much come across their desk in the way of energy efficient projects or energy efficiencies.

7. Checklist for Evaluating Coastal Projects for Resilience (continued discussion)

Ms. Longacre stated that there is no new information but this topic was held over for further discussion from the previous meeting.

Mr. Golding suggested that the CRAC build on the executive summary and include that nature based strategies and minimizing ecological impacts and maximizing public access should be a priority. He also recommended that CRAC ask the Select Board to put more pressure on Mass Waterways because there are a number of private bulkheads that are impediments to public access in the intertidal zone. Mr. Murphy mentioned that he had only made minor changes and edits to the current document.

Joanna Roche Joined 10:36 am

Mr. Murphy highlighted the section of the document that refers to a passable beach and stated that it is important to define what this means as this has come up in Baxter Road. Mr. Golding responded that for Chapter 91 purposes, public access pertains to structures in the intertidal zone and public access stops

at the high tide line, which is why it is important to have DEP come down to start evaluating structures that are out of compliance. Mr. Brace suggested that there is some ambiguity on what is passable and how that will change over time. He specifically referenced the 'Sconset Bluff geotube project as an example of issues with passability as sea level continues to rise. Mr. Fee added that the 'Sconset Bluff project is required to keep a "walkable beach" and that he is pleased the Committee is working on maintaining public beach access. Mr. Brace mentioned that over time, compliance may be an ongoing issue as has been seen with the 'Sconset Bluff project. Mr. Golding conquered that there are a number of issues with compliance by SBPF that are causing public access issues along the beach. Mr. Fee asked whether the Conservation Commission could request to set aside a Notice of Intent application until they are able to have DEP review the project? Mr. Golding stated that this is a good question and he would be happy to bring this issue up at the next Conservation Committee meeting.

8. Discussion about Priority Projects for Madaket from the Design Thinking Workshop (continued discussion)

Ms. Longacre asked whether there were any additional thoughts from Committee members and there were none.

9. Public Comment

Ms. Trillos noted that she walks the beach in 'Sconset all the time.

10. New Business and Committee Reports

Natural Resource Department

Mr. Murphy surveyed all the existing erosion stakes prior to going on leave. He has not been out since the latest storm to check. However, they have added some stakes and are looking for more locations to monitor.

Capital Projects Committee

Mr. Kickham stated that they are early in their meetings with Department Heads and he will make sure to take note of anything that is relevant to the CRAC.

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board

Mr. Brace stated that this Committee will be submitting quarterly reports to the Select Board and Ms. Gibson, which can be distributed to the CRAC if the information is relevant.

11. Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Dates and Topics

Ms. Longacre stated that the next upcoming meeting dates are 10/11 and 10/25.

12. Motion to Adjourn

11:02 am