

Nantucket Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC)

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Via Zoom

*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

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

Members Absent: Dr. Jen Karberg

Staff present: Leah Hill, Vince Murphy

Speakers: Courtney Rocha, Daniel Padien

Members of the public: Ian Golding, Rick Atherton, D. Anne Atherton, RJ Turcotte, Susan You, Shelly Lockwood,

Recording available here: <https://youtu.be/cnFUzwwhTqg?si=bupzemS8Ad673GTy>

1. Call to Order – 10:00am

- 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

3. Public comment on topics not on the agenda

- None

4. Presentation and discussion with Courtney Rocha, Southeast Regional Coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP) about MVP's action grant program (see 11-14-2023 packet)

- Rocha presented an overview, and answered questions from committee members:
 - *MVP core principles generally align with Nantucket's CRP*
 - *FY25 Action Grant Round*
 - ◆ *Applications March-May '24 for project windows Sept '24-June '25*
 - ◆ *avg award \$100-200k, on reimbursement basis*
 - ◆ *up to \$3M per project for single communities*
 - ◆ *25% minimum matching requirement (cash/in-kind)*
 - *MVP-Funded Coastal Resilience Projects*
 - ◆ *Includes planning, capacity building, regulatory/zoning updates, among them:*
 - *Mashpee: a recent example of wetlands reg update*
 - *Cape Cod: low-lying roads assessment*
 - *Hull: Climate adaptation roadmap for vulnerable neighborhood*
 - *Falmouth: sewer infrastructure improvement/relocation options*
 - *Plymouth: saltwater intrusion into wells based on SLR*
 - *Plum Island: cost/benefit evaluation of maintaining causeway*
 - ◆ *Hill and Bois requested further information on several MVP-funded projects*

- *Recommendations re: Nantucket Coastal Resilience Action Items*
 - ◆ *Urged CRAC to prioritize projects clearly*
 - ◆ *MVP typically does not support dune restoration and beach nourishment as they are short term in nature*
 - ◆ *MVP would find the following CRP projects as particularly relevant for grants:*
 - *1-1: Community outreach re Property Owner Best Practices*
 - *1-4: Strategic Retreat and Relocation Program*
 - *6-2: Surfside Wastewater Plant - relocation alternatives*
5. Discussion with Danial Padien, Waterways Program Chief at Division of Wetlands and Waterways Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, about the letter CRAC sent to MASS DEP in December 2022, as well as coastal resilience related topics and regulation updates from the State.
- Padien acknowledged delayed response, and provided background on Chapter 91
 - *Chapter 91 history dates back to the 1800s*
 - *regulates tidelands up to the historic high-water mark*
 - *virtually all structures require Chapter 91 licenses*
 - *have been working on updating regulations (last updated in 1990)*
 - *until then, have been assessing projects on case by case within current regulations*
 - Brace asked how Nantucket should understand Ch 91's public access requirement
 - *Padien stated that under current regulations, providing public access is an increasing challenge, but as sea level rises, and as incidence of erosion and flooding increases, "that obligation does not go away".*
 - *New regulations will likely require forward looking estimates of water levels.*
 - Fee and Beller asked questions regarding enforcement of Chapter 91 licenses
 - *Padien suggested the best first step would be to identify the license that pertains to the structure in question*
 - ◆ *If a specific public access provision exists, this simplifies enforcement*
 - ◆ *DEP will provide NRD/ConCom with full data on existing licenses for Nantucket*
 - ◆ *Padien stated that state jurisdiction extends to the historic high-water line*
 - *Braine asked for clarification on whether all coastal structures on Nantucket (groins, docks, geotubes, seawalls etc) should have Chapter 91 licenses.*
 - ◆ *Padien reiterated that any structure that is seaward of the historic high-water mark should be licensed.*
 - *Golding brought up a previous letter from ConCom dated August 11, 2022*
 - ◆ *Described bulkhead repair at 18 Washing Pond Road*
 - ◆ *Padien: typically no trigger for inspection, but licenses typically require maintenance*
6. Review CRAC annual report (see 11-14-2023 packet)
- Motion to approve (Rose), seconded (Bois), and approved (9-0); Fee abstained
7. Public outreach ideas/strategies from committee members

- Hill provided a recap of lessons learned from first three posts
 - *Looking to expand reach by collaborating with other organizations, and also with video content via reels*
 - *Recommended drafting posts at 8th grade reading level*
 - Rose reviewed media scorecard
 - Bois suggested that we clearly identify each post as coming from CRAC, and to remain ready to create topical posts as opportunities emerge
 - Discussion on how best to extend coverage with independent media outlets
 - *Hill confirmed that Inky and Current are being tagged on each post*
 - ◆ *Braine offered to reach out to Bill Farrell at Daybreak*
 - ◆ *Brace offered to speak with Jason Graziadei at Current*
 - *Roche suggested that we put out a press release to all local media outlets*
 - ◆ *Hill suggested that a draft post to be discussed at next meeting*
 - Hill indicated that the Communications Office has offered to continue translating each post into Spanish, and also recommended translating the entire CRP
 - *Brace supportive*
8. Discussion of draft coastal resilience survey for homeowner associations (see 11-14-2023 packet)
- Hill reviewed the current draft
 - After discussion of various wording changes, committee consensus was to move forward with the survey
9. Approval of minutes from October 24, 2023
- Moved (Beller), second (Braine), approved (9-0), Fee and Freeman abstained
10. New business, Natural Resources Dept. & Committee reports from Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board, Select Board, Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Taxpayers, and other committee members.
- Hill provided the following update
 - *CZM grant is out for bid; hope to have contract to Select Board for approval by 12/6*
 - *Will be appearing as a guest lecturer at Brown University resilience class*
 - *Met with Shelly Lockwood re: having a continuing education program for realtors*
 - *Met with CZM regarding new plan for more coordinated coastal resilience planning efforts under the banner of "Coastal Resilience Districts"*
 - De Molina stated that Nantucket Historical Commission has expressed interest in greater coordination with coastal resilience plan
 - Fee commented that coastal resilience is getting to be more prominent in the Select Board's strategic planning process
11. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics:
- Next Meeting is November 28, 2023, on Zoom

12. Motion to adjourn:

- moved (Kickham), seconded (De Molina), approved unanimously