

**Nantucket Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC)**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

**Via Zoom**

\*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

**Members present:** Gary Beller, Dr. Sarah Bois, Peter Brace, Tim Braine, Rachael Freeman, Dr. Jen Karberg, Doug Rose; joined in progress: Matt Fee, Joanna Roche, Abby DeMolina,

**Members Absent:** Christy Kickham

**Staff present:** Leah Hill, Town of Nantucket Coastal Resilience Coordinator, Natural Resources Department (NRD)

**Scheduled Speakers:** Trevor Johnson, Bill Casey, , Michelle MacDonald and Julie Conroy of Arcadis; Vince Murphy

**Members of the public:** D.Anne Atherton, Rick Atherton, Karel Greenberg, Shelly Lockwood, Tom Loughlin, Charley Walters

**Recording available here:** <https://youtu.be/-mdGKBX5IyM?si=LNTR0bTV07rXfO0J>

**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. Update and presentation on the Downtown Neighborhood Flood Barrier- Initial Phase by Trevor Johnson, Arcadis Senior Resilience Planner, Bill Casey, Arcadis Project Manager, Julie Conroy, Arcadis Senior Resilience Specialist, Michelle MacDonald, Arcadis Project Engineer – see packet.**

- Purpose: initial design stage for flood mitigation measures along Easy Street, from Steamboat Wharf to Old North Wharf
- Funded by a 2-year grant from the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)
- Closely coordinating with Nantucket Land Bank vis a vis Washington Street project
- Goals and success criteria: discussion with committee members
  - *Beller: ensure dependable access to Steamboat Wharf*
  - *Roche, Brace: coordination with Steamship Authority (SSA) is critical*
  - *Karberg: maintain and enhance public access to the historic resources*
  - *Bois: preservation of the working waterfront; regarding messaging to the general public, many overlapping projects are in progress, many consultants are involved*
  - *Brace: coordination with Nantucket & Madaket Harbors Action Plan committee*
- Tasks and Deliverables:
  - *Existing Conditions (Childs Engineering) and Flood Assessment (WHG) – under way*

- *Design Alternatives and Regulatory Feasibility*
  - *Community Engagement – will include conceptual representations to spur input*
  - *Preferred Project and Basis of Design Report*
  - *Honor and complement the historic resources of the downtown area*
  - *Enhance natural resources*
  - *Questions/Answers*
    - *Karberg, Beller: asked about time horizon (i.e., short term/long term), and how that will influence design choices. Johnson confirmed that some solutions might be preferable in the short term, whereas others might be better in the long term; these will be key factors to be weighed in the design process.*
    - *Braine: suggested that a foot traffic analysis would be an important consideration.*
5. Update and discussion on bylaw and home rule petition for Island's Coastal Resilience Districts by Vincent Murphy, Town of Nantucket Sustainability Programs Manager.
- Motion to continue to next meeting due to schedule conflict (Rose), second (Beller), approved 9-0.
  - Beller suggested that next meeting would be an opportunity to revisit the betterment discussion. Fee suggested Brian Turbitt might be appropriate.
6. Discussion on developing an informational sheet regarding coastal risks and coastal resilience issues on Nantucket to hand out to homebuyers - see packet.
- Committee comments:
    - *Brace: inform buyers of the reality of SLR; list vulnerable areas of the island; explain the CRP and provide links to any video(s) relating to it; FEMA flood insurance program.*
    - *Beller: excerpts from executive summary.*
    - *Fee: include link to flood risks.*
    - *Braine, Karberg: alert people to ConCom regulations.*
    - *Karberg, Bois: include homeowner resilience best practices.*
    - *Bois: include links to the most up-to-date information.*
  - Public comment:
    - *Lockwood: no need to censor facts, the goal is to share important information; urged brevity. Note: setbacks are already disclosed.*
  - Hill to aggregate all the input and appropriate links, and bring revised draft back to CRAC for approval.
7. Review of letter to Select Board on Nantucket Wetland's Bylaw amendments concerning expansion of buffer zones - see packet.
- Hill shared current draft. Comments include:
    - *Rose submitted proofreading comments via email.*
    - *Bois, Karberg, Fee suggested refinements to wording.*
    - *Brace confirmed the plan is to seek approval at the 2/14/24 Select Board (SB) meeting.*

- *Freeman, Fee called out that resilience strategies may evolve to include living with water, which would call for further evolution of wetlands regulation; Karberg cautioned that a local regulatory body cannot be more permissive than the state.*
  - Motion to accept the letter with edits as discussed (Bois), second (Beller), approved 8-0.
8. Update on 2023-2030 CRP recommendations that have not been started and discuss a prioritization list – see packet.
- Committee members provided input via email; Hill reviewed the tally. Comments included:
    - *Fee advocated that ‘betterment/CRDs’ should be elevated to #1; Bois, Rose argued that funding strategies should follow project priorities.*
    - *Roche suggested organizing priorities in buckets (A, B, C, etc). Fee suggested buckets could segregate physical projects from planning initiatives. For example, ‘Planning’ could include funding strategies, zoning, retreat & relocation. Bois made a motion to that effect; no second.*
    - *Hill suggested that the value of priorities could be leveraged to secure funding with grant applications, CapCom, etc. It would also be helpful to revisit every 6 months.*
    - *Hill offered to present new re-rank based on the tally at the next meeting; approved by consensus.*
9. Initial discussion on coastal resiliency recommendations to be included in the Nantucket Harbors Action Plan – see packet.
- Bois suggested that CRAC would benefit from a more targeted list to react to.
  - Brace offered to provide the current matrix of priorities from Urban Harbors Institute.
10. Public outreach ideas/strategies from committee members.
- Rose provided a brief update on the media scorecard. Weeks 1-13 running total: 140k impressions.
11. Approval of Minutes.
- None available to review.
12. New business, Committee & Natural Resources Dept. reports from Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board, Select Board, Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Taxpayers, and other committee members.
- Hill advised of another flooding/erosion event today.
  - Rose asked for an update regarding the SBPF/TON NOI at ConCom; Braine advised that no independent attorney or expert has yet been secured.
13. Discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics: Next Meeting is March 12, 2024, on Zoom.
14. Motion to adjourn - (Fee), second (Rose), approved 8-0.

