

**Nantucket and Madaket Harbors Action Plan Update
Committee**

Monday, March 18, 2024 at 1 p.m.

Meeting trailer, 131 Pleasant St., Nantucket, MA 02554

***NMHAPUC meetings are video-recorded and
available at Nantucket Government TV on YouTube**

Members present: Dave Fronzuto, Seth Engelbourg, Emily Molden, Peter Brace (secretary), Steve Leinbach, Linda Williams (chair), Phil Smith (vice chair), Jesse Bell, Samantha Denette

Members Absent: Roberto Santamaria

Natural Resources Dept (NRD): Jeff Carlson, Tara Riley,

Urban Harbors Institute (UHI): Jack Wiggin, Kim Starbuck, Kristin Uiterwyk, Alan Bartels, Dack Stuart, Allison Novelly

Others: Holly Backus (Preservation Planner for the Town), Gerry Connick Leah Hill (Coastal Resilience Coordinator), members of the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC): Christy Kickham, Abby De Molina, Sarah Bois (vice chair), Peter Brace (chair), Tim Braine, Doug Rose (secretary), Gary Beller, Jesse Bell

1. WELCOME

(Jeff Carlson/Tara Riley/Linda Williams/Peter Brace)

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Smith read the script for remotely conducted open public meetings and called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

a. Harbor Plan Update Committee

Mr. Smith called the roll of NMHAPUC members in attendance and noted that CRAC had enough members present for a quorum.

b. Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee

Mr. Brace called the roll of CRAC members in attendance and noted that CRAC had enough members present for a quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Smith called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Brace made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Smith seconded that motion. The NMHAPUC voted 8-0 to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of March 4, 2024 and draft minutes of July 24, 2023

Mr. Smith called for a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Mr. Leinbach made a motion to approved both sets of minutes. Mr. Engelbourg seconded that motion.

Ms. Williams joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

The NMHAPUC voted 7-0 to approve both sets of minutes.

3. Discuss issues and recommendations

a. Coastal resiliency

Ms. Starbuck explained how the NMHAPUC and the CRAC would work together at this meeting with hers and UHI's guidance. She clarified that they would mostly be focused on coastal resiliency for infrastructure. Ms. Starbuck reported on where the NMHAPUC is in updating the plan and how the NMHAPUC goes through the issues and then proposes solutions.

Mr. Bartels explained the first issue for discussion, the cohesion between the Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) and the NMHAP. Mr. Bartels then ran through and read UHI's suggested solutions for this issue. Mr. Bartels asked if the CRAC had any solutions it would like to either reiterate or add to draft NMHAP.

Ms. Hill said to add in cohesion between the Town and the Steamship Authority's (SSA) resilience planning that the SSA is hoping to begin in the next year. She noted that 19 of the 40 recommendations within the CRP are targeted between present day and 2030. Ms. Backus said that in addition to the CRP, the Town also has its Hazard Mitigation Plan and noted that Nantucket is a

Municipal Vulnerability Program community, and she encouraged that there be cohesion between the state and the Town's plans along with green plans. She added that Nantucket is first coastal community in the country, with its resilient Nantucket guidelines, to develop guidelines for flooding and adaptation in a joint partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mr. Rose said the NMHAPUC should consider the CRP as a fluid document. He added that he hadn't seen any study on groundwater rise and have that included in both plans. Mr. Carlson said that Wannacomet Water Company has been working on such a study that looks at groundwater and sea level rise together, but he added that they didn't have any results to share yet. Ms. De Molina asked, from her Planning Board perspective, how groundwater rising issues would work with historic preservation during sea level rise. Mr. Brace stressed that there should be sea level rise plans for the Hyline dock and the boat basin, adding that these entities' plans need to be in synch with the CRP. Mr. Smith said that Nantucket Yacht Club (NYC) formed its own sea level rise committee and would be trying to keep their plan in line with whatever the SSA does. Ms. Williams said someone needed to reach out to all the major downtown waterfront property owners. Mr. Carlson said one of the seats on the NMHAP implementation committee should be a member of CRAC. Ms. Williams said these properties should be invited to a future NMHAPUC meeting to see what their issues are and learn about their coastal resilience plans. Mr. Brace said the NMHAPUC should be aware of the timeframe of each entities' plan...

Mr. Kickham said it would be a good idea to track the progress of this entities' work on their respective plans. Ms. Hill noted that communication with all of these group is key to coordinating upcoming coastal resilience projects along the downtown waterfront. Ms. Bois said she doesn't see CRAC's job as being major oversight all of these groups but as advisors. She added that the reverse should be true, that these groups come speak to CRAC on their own. Mr. Fronzuto suggested that Ms. Starbuck contact

these groups and tell them that the NMHAPUC is updating the harbor plan. Ms. Uiterwyk said she and the UHI staff would contact these groups to inform them of the planning process and see how they want to coordinate with the NMHAPUC to help with the update from their perspective. Ms. Molden said that maybe the committee should be creating a recommendation that has the Town oversee all of these entities. Mr. Leinbach said there should be a link in the updated harbor plan to the CRP. Ms. Uiterwyk asked to what extent should private property owners be contacted. Ms. Williams said none. Mr. Brace said UHI should only reach out to the private property owners with marine structures such as piers, bulkheads, docks and erosion control installations. Mr. Smith suggested reaching out to the Nantucket Civic League for help reaching more property owners. Ms. Bois asked what questions would be asked of these groups and individuals. Mr. Brace explained how the NMHAPUC ran an online survey last summer and about the summer in-person public input meetings. Ms. Williams said the NMHAPUC wants to ask the larger entities what they're doing now or plan to do in terms of coastal resilience. Mr. Leinbach said he disagreed with speaking with private property owners because they've had to their chance to offer their input. Mr. Kickham said it's critical to know the players are, public and private. That said, he does favor being "overly inviting" to the public because all involved might critical the big picture when it comes to the funding the various projects.

Ms. Bell joined the meeting at approximately 1:47 p.m.

Ms. Bell asked how all the coastal resilience projects to be done by the Town and non-governmental entities will coordinate so that resilience efforts work in concert with each other. And, she stressed the importance of creating regulations that require all work along the island's shoreline to tie in with an understood standards and plans for coastal resilience. Mr. Engelbourg said the discussion had gone off track and he reminded the group of the NMHAPUC's charge, and that all of the data has already been

gathered so the harbor plan can be updated. He added that in another step after the plan is created, the plan will be implemented. Ms. Williams ended the discussion on Item 1 and moved the group on to Item 2, Rising sea levels. Mr. Bartels explained this item and the potential solutions that UHI had already come up with.

Ms. Hill said she would send updated sea level rise trend numbers to Mr. Bartels. Ms. Bois said that on CRAC, the committee is careful to use the most up to date numbers. Ms. Hill noted that the Select Board has adopted the highest sea level forecast data from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and suggested adding this into this section. Ms. Williams ended the discussion on Item 2.

Ms. Williams moved the NMHAPUC onto Item 3, Infrastructure protection and prioritization. Mr. Bartels explained this item for the NMHAPUC. Ms. Williams referenced the Sea Street sewage pumping station's protective wall around this building. Ms. Backus said this building's sea level rise protection is used as an example of how to protect historic structures from sea level rise. She also noted that 37 Washington St. Town building would probably have to be removed because it is a "slab on grade" structure. She also referenced the tool kit within the CRP for protecting buildings downtown from sea level rise. Mr. Brace noted that first paragraph of Item should have a solution that references the coastal resilience district (CRD) funding mechanism that the CRAC and the Select Board worked on during 2023 and 2024. Ms. Hill said to add the words "update as risks change" to the end of the first solution.

Ms. Williams moved the NMHAPUC onto Item 4, Private vs. public cost. Mr. Bartels explained this item and its proposed solutions. Ms. Williams said the ferry embarkation fee increase needs to be followed up on along with a broadening of the revenue distribution. Mr. Engelbourg agreed. Mr. Fronzuto said he would resend his write up on this issue to the NMHAPUC. Ms. Hill said add the words "and develop procedures for public private partnerships. She also asked to add "incorporate CRP

recommendations with other capital plan”, which is part of the Select Board’s strategic plan.

Ms. Williams continued the discussion of Item 5 to the April 1, 2024 meeting. Ms. Williams asked if the members of CRAC wanted to send their ideas to Ms. Hill in anticipation of the next meeting and at the same time extended her invitation to the members of CRAC to attend that meeting. Mr. Brace and Ms. Hill confirmed that they would be there in person.

4. Discuss eelgrass management plan

Ms. Molden noted that the last harbor plan update spawned the Shellfish Management Plan, so she is hoping for a similar effort for an eelgrass management plan. Ms. Molden said such a plan would speak to existing conditions, existing eelgrass beds, their health, look at long-term monitoring strategies, restoration options and opportunities and create a way to have the town and other entities work together on eelgrass protection with this plan as a guide. Ms. Molden acknowledged that eelgrass will be covered by the natural resources section of the NMHAP. Ms. Molden said she didn’t feel that an eelgrass management plan had to be created before the NMHAP is finished and that a recommendation to create this plan could be put into the NMHAP. Mr. Leinbach asked if Harbor & Shellfish Advisory Board (HSAB) is working on such a plan. Ms. Riley said that the HSAB is not working on an eelgrass management plan. She added that the Town has been kind of working on a plan like this and said she is in complete support of creating this plan. Ms. Williams asked if the NMHAPUC had to vote on what Ms. Molden is proposing. Mr. Carlson said no, so Ms. Williams took a sense of the meeting. The sense of the meeting was unanimous. Mr. Smith said he felt this effort would be supported by the Nantucket Shellfish Association (NSA) and Ms. Denette confirmed this. Mr. Fronzuto said he would resend all of his proposed recommendations to Mr. Carlson to distribute to the NMHAPUC.

5. Next steps (All)

a. Next committee meeting

Ms. Starbuck said the next meeting is April 1, 2024

ADJOURN

Ms. Williams called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brace seconded that motion. The NMHAPUC voted 10-0 at 2:32 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Brace called for a motion to adjourn the CRAC meeting. Mr. Kickham made a motion to adjourn the CRAC meeting. Ms. Bois seconded that motion. The CRAC voted 3-0 to adjourn its meeting.

YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HC1XRr95w0s&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhtfTnajKC38HEDIJx7asi0&index=23>

Future Meetings:

April 1 and April 15

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary

