

Nantucket and Madaket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee
Monday, 2024 at 1 p.m.
Meeting trailer, 131 Pleasant St., Nantucket, MA 02554

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

Members Absent: Roberto Santamaria

Natural Resources Dept (NRD): Jeff Carlson

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

Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC) Leah Hill (Coastal Resilience Coordinator), Peter Brace, Rachael Freeman, Tim Braine, Abby De Molina

Others: Duane Jones, Gerry Connick

Recording available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAjYTkMe0J8>

Packet available here: https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_04012024-13663

1.WELCOME

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

2.CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Mr. Smith called the roll of members in attendance.

With not enough members of the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC) in attendance for a quorum, CRAC's chairman, Mr. Brace, acknowledged the members in attendance and then determined a quorum did not exist for CRAC to call its meeting order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 18, 2024 and June 23, 2023

Ms. Williams called for a motion to approve both sets of minutes. The NMHAPUC voted 8-0 to approve both sets of minutes.

3. Discuss issues and recommendations

a. Coastal resiliency (finish)

Mr. Bartels read the text of item five, regulatory updates, to the meeting.

Mr. Engelbourg said the type of construction to be limited in sea level rise-vulnerable coastal areas on Nantucket needs to be better defined. He added that half of this battle is

prevention and creating incentives for building in safer island locations is the other half. Mr. Engelbourg added that some in the Town don't have faith in the Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model (MC-FRM) and that the committee might consider a reference in the NMHAP to another sea level rise model depending on how the CRAC might advise the NMHAPUC on this issue. Mr. Brace said that the CRAC said a model needs to be specified and adhered to. Mr. Engelbourg agreed. Ms. Freeman agreed with Mr. Engelbourg and that a one size fits all approach doesn't work when referring to sea level rise models. Ms. Freeman recommended that the NMHAPUC table this issue until the committee could get a full understanding of the issue. Ms. Hill explained the misconceptions about the MC-FRM including that this model is not a sea level rise projection. It takes sea level rise into consideration. Ms. Hill also said that the Town should use the best available science experts to back up the MC-FRM. Ms. Hill said the CRAC had decided at its last meeting to have the NMHAP refer to the Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) as often as needed when matters of sea level rise and coastal resilience arose including to the online document itself and or specific page numbers and sections. Jesse Bell joined the meeting at approximately 1:20 p.m.

Ms. Hill mentioned that the word "retreat" was a sticking point for the CRAC. Mr. Brace said the CRAC preferred the word "relocation" over "retreat". Ms. Hill added that there should be a way to require height consistency of abutting shoreline properties along the island's shoreline. Ms. Williams suggested using a different word other than "triggers" here. Mr. Engelbourg said the Town's regulations are science-informed, not science-based and that the Town uses available modeling and scientific data to inform on how policies are created and applied.

Ms. Williams moved on to section six, but Mr. Bartels said there was still some more issues to cover in coastal resilience. Ms. Williams stressed the omnipresence of public education in the document including this section, section five, and the importance of it. Mr. Leinbach asked if the Town would be taking over flooded private properties and what the policies might be. Ms. Williams suggested removing the words "take over" and replacing them with something like "working with property owners". Mr. Carlson said this whole paragraph could be condensed to something like "develop strategic retreat and relocation plan". Mr. Leinbach agreed with this language.

Ms. Williams moved the NMHAPUC onto section six; community involvement in planning for climate change. Mr. Bartels expressed the thinking behind this section. Ms. Hill suggested the creation of an informational guide for property resilience. She also suggested reaching out to members of the Environmental Justice Community on the island to get them involved in this issue. Mr. Engelbourg, in reference to Ms. Hill's comment that the phrase "citizen science" be used to describe the collection of local climate change and sea level rise data, said that community-based science should replace citizen science in the plan.

Ms. Williams moved the meeting onto section seven: green vs. gray infrastructure, Mr. Bartels explained this section is more on nature-based solutions. Mr. Brace suggested a title for this section that easier to understand. He also suggested a glossary be included in the plan. Mr. Engelbourg said the section title should be nature-based vs. coastal engineering.

Mr. Bartels switched to section 8: education and explained this section. Mr. Leinbach suggested having a reference to the CRP in this section since the CRP already

has action items for section 8. Mr. Carlson said there should some sort of public outreach plan developed to coincide with the release of the NMHAP. Under the section on CRP projects in the harbor plan, Mr. Smith said he felt these projects are already in the CRP, are beyond the scope of the NMHAP. Mr. Brace said there should be language in this section referring to the CRP. Ms. Hill clarified, saying that the CRP projects within the jurisdiction of the NMHAP could be listed in this section with reference to the CRP and the Coastal Resilience Coordinator.

b. Boating, navigation, dredging

Ms. Williams introduced this topic to the NMHAPUC.

Ms. Hill, Ms. Freeman, Mr. Braine and Ms. De Molina left the meeting at approximately 1:58 p.m.

Ms. Novelly noted the recommendations from the 2009 NMHAP that the committee hasn't discussed yet. Ms. Novelly asked the committee if it wanted to keep these recommendations in the updated plan. On the first objective, keeping the carrying capacity of the harbor and the number of moorings, 2,100, at the current level, the NMHAPUC agreed with Mr. Fronzuto that this number can't be exceeded. Mr. Fronzuto said the harbor plan needs to encourage boat owners to use environmentally friendly moorings to protect eelgrass and essentially, how the Town does a better job of managing the existing moorings in the harbor. Mr. Leinbach said Town needs to crack down on illegal moorings. Mr. Fronzuto agreed. Mr. Brace said the Town's harbormaster, Sheila Lucey, should be attending the NMHAPUC meeting while this discussion continues. Mr. Brace said checking for illegal moorings should be regular part of the Marine Department's weekly duties. In response to Mr. Leinbach's comment about there being more boats in the harbor beyond the 2,100 moorings in slips constituting the carrying capacity of Nantucket Harbor, Mr. Fronzuto said the boat slips at both yacht clubs, the Town Pier, Easy Street Boat Basin and the Nantucket Boat plus the 2,100 moored boats are the carrying capacity of the harbor. Ms. Williams said she regularly sees large boats anchored east of First Point. Mr. Fronzuto said this is an enforcement issue. Mr. Brace said Ms. Lucey places anchoring boats where she can fit them, which means frequently on the north side of Coatue.

Ms. Williams asked if the Town had completed recommendation two. Mr. Fronzuto said it had been finalized. The NMHAPUC agreed that this recommendation did not need to be included in the updated NMHAP.

Ms. Williams moved on to recommendation five. Mr. Fronzuto explained that this recommendation, the prohibition of very large cruise ships anchoring in the harbor. This recommendation set a 120-foot limit on the size of cruise ships. Mr. Fronzuto said this recommendation had been completed. Mr. Williams and the rest of the NMHAPUC agreed that this recommendation did not need to be included in the updated NMHAP. Mr. Fronzuto said that recommendation on boat fuel pertaining to harbor safety and the moving of the tank farm out of town had been completed. Just to ensure the above recommendations remain completed, Mr. Leinbach suggested adding language that carries into the update of the NMHAP specifying that these actions continue.

4. Next steps (All)

The NMHAPUC agreed with Mr. Fronzuto that the next recommendation, objective five, was too detailed to tackle in the remaining two minutes of the meeting.

a. Next committee meeting

The NMHAPUC agreed that the next meeting will be on April 22, 2024.

ADJOURN

Ms. Williams called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brace made a motion to adjourn meeting. Mr. Smith seconded that motion. The NMHAPUC voted 8-0 at 2:31 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

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Future Meetings:

April 22 and May 7

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary