

Response to public comment on May 14, 2024

Mr. Connick,

Thank you for your comments in letter form to the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC). Our committee feels strongly that keeping Nantucket Nantucket is a group effort.

We appreciate you understanding the need for creating a coastal resilience district (CRD) that applies to the entire island. The CRD map which will be a result of Article 69 passing, is the first step in identifying potential project areas and then help fund coastal resilience adaption projects for the protection of our island's infrastructure used by all Nantucket residents. The CRD mechanism also funds the continuing repair and maintenance of these projects.

However, I'm unclear about your disdain for the more targeted CRDs, the subdistricts, whose projects would be funded by those property owners living within these areas who would benefit the most. I'm not sure I understand your objection to them. As a taxpayer and property owner on Milestone Road, personally I don't think I should pay for a CRD betterment for a project along Sheep Pond Road or extending the geotubes in front of Baxter Road because I rarely use those areas. I don't see how I benefit from a CRD created to protect properties along the low-lying dirt portion of Low Beach Road, properties on Tennessee Avenue in Madaket, or any of the areas within the storm pathways of Miacomet Pond, Hummock Pond, Long Pond and Hither Creek because I don't use those areas.

Personally, I would gladly pay a betterment tax that funded and maintained coastal resilience projects for Washington Street, the Downtown area, the airport, the Surfside Sewage Treatment Plant, the ferry terminals, raising of Polpis Road over Folgers Marsh, shoring up Polpis Road along Sesachacha Pond, and raising Madaket Road from the

third DPW entrance to past Second Bridge, and building actual bridges there, all which are incorporated into the Town's Coastal Resilience Plan.

I'm also not sure what you mean by "unregulated committees".

The Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee was appointed by and answers to the Select Board. We have one member of that board on our committee. We also are monitored by and answer to Jeff Carlson, the director of the Town's Natural Resources Department, as well as Vincent Murphy, Sustainability Programs Manager and Leah Hill, our Coastal Resilience Coordinator.

In addition to tasking the CRAC with creating the Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP), the Select Board also directed the CRAC to explore CRDs and then recommend to that board how to proceed. As we are one of the Town's advisory boards, which advise the Select Board, we don't have the power to do anything other than advise.

Another misunderstanding from your communication to our committee I need to clarify is that in your May 10, 2024 letter, your opening sentence reads: "Article 69 is a general bylaw that allows un-regulated town committees to establish and classify districts and sub-districts so that these red-lined areas can be eventually taxed to pay for betterments that would possibly improve the coastal resilience of the entire island." You should know that the CRAC doesn't have the authority to "establish and classify districts and sub-districts". We are, as I just mentioned, a Town advisory board. Yes, we have the Select Board's ear because it asks for our advice, but that's all it is. The Select Board can certainly ignore or modify our recommendations before establishing CRDs. It would be the Select Board that would establish the CRDs based partly on CRAC's advice once the intended bylaw detailed within Article 69 is enacted.

As written and approved, Article 69 merely gives the Select Board the power to delineate CRD maps for the entire island and also specific, targeted areas of the island. It does not, however, provide the power to

actually establish these CRDs and levy the betterment tax. That ability was in Article 67, which was tabled at Town Meeting.

Under the Town's existing betterment system coastal resilience projects could happen and betterments could be assessed, but they'd have to be approved by Town Meeting voters to happen. Repair and maintenance of them wouldn't be covered by the betterment tax. It is important to note that with coastal resilience project operation and maintenance is imperative to keep the project functioning. Keep in mind that time literally is of the essence. Climate change and sea level rise are inanimate dynamics without the capacity to care about our 112-foot high island's efforts to remain above sea level or not. The water is coming up regardless, so the proposed Article 67 would remove the yearly requirement of having to go to Town Meeting and expedite the coastal resilience project process to the benefit of all Nantucketers.

Right now, the Select Board, working with CRAC's advice, can create all of the CRD maps it wants to, but these maps have no teeth until a Home Rule Petition article (what Article 67 was) is created by the Select Board, adopted by a two-thirds majority vote at a future Town Meeting, approved by the state legislature and signed into law by the governor. If such an article is adopted at the special Town Meeting in the fall, it'll likely be two years more before the Select Board could get the power to put CRDs into action.

I hope I have addressed all of your concerns.

Peter B. Brace,

Chairman of the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee

From: [conn](#)
To: [Leah Hill](#)
Subject: Re: Article 69
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024 8:04:05 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you , We were unable to connect via Zoom for the first part of the meeting , unknown reason ' Sorry.
Gerry Connick

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 09:43:08 AM EDT, Leah Hill <lhill@nantucket-ma.gov> wrote:

Hello Gerry,

I read your letter during the public comment portion of the meeting which is at the very beginning of the meeting. It sounds like from your email you missed that part. The meetings are recorded and you can access them on the Town's Youtube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-sgxA1fdoxteLNzRAUHlxA> The recordings are generally up a few days after the original meeting.

I need a bit more clarify on what your talking about regarding the Fin Comm and Select Board. If you are referring to the conversation at CRAC yesterday, the motion was for CRAC to ask the Select Board if it was ok to look at current regulations and see if any of them *could* be updated to incorporate coastal resilience. Currently, the Conservation Commission is updating their regulations to incorporate coastal resilience along with other topics.

Sincerely,

Leah Hill

Coastal Resilience Coordinator

Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department

131 Pleasant Street – Upstairs

Nantucket, MA 02554

508-228-7200 ext. 7603

[Nantucket's Coastal Resilience Plan](#)

Instagram: @NRDACK

Facebook: Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department

From: conn <gconnick@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 5:25 PM
To: Leah Hill <lhill@nantucket-ma.gov>
Subject: Fw: Article 69

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Dear Ms. Hill,

Really expected to have my letter be read at your meeting today. Is there some problem with reading the note?

Also we were unable to connect by Zoom to the first 15/20 minutes of your meeting. We are also concerned about

approaching the Select Board with any planning without first having the Select Board by a majority vote accept the Finance

committees motion regarding said planning. in adding to the Code of the Town of Nantucket Chapter 66A.

Regards,

Gerry Connick

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: conn <gconnick@aol.com>
To: Leah Hill <lhill@nantucket-ma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 09:01:56 AM EDT
Subject: Re: Article 69

Dear Ms. Hill,

Sorry I forgot to enclose cover letter. We would like to have you read at today's meeting as medical conditions do

not allow me right now to attend your meetings or comment on line (Zoom). We are very concerned about the mapping

of any kind of sub-districts for any type of taxation (red-lining) areas. We will set up a meeting with you when I am able in July.

Thank you for your concern,

Regards,

Gerry Connick

On Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 08:41:24 AM EDT, Leah Hill <lhill@nantucket-ma.gov> wrote:

Hello Gerry,

Thank you for sharing and I received your certified mail copy late yesterday. I need a little clarification, is this something you want me to read into public comment at today's Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee meeting or did you send it to a newspaper to be printed and just want to share with me?

Also, I am happy to meet with you and talk more about Article 69. I attached the article which starts on page 3. Article 69 authorizes the Select Board, a regulatory board, to map the sub-districts. Although we are going to be the first in the state to have Coastal Resilience Districts mapped, this is not unique to Nantucket. The same concept is occurring in New York, Virginia, and other southern states. Again, there are no mapped sub-districts yet, we are just at the beginning of this very long and detailed process.

Article 67 failed at Town meeting and that would have authorized the Select Board to charge betterments, without having to go to Town meeting every year, for specific projects that are street level or neighborhood- wide. This article would have reduced the cost on the entire island tax base for projects that do not have a benefit island-wide. For example, residents of Sconset would not be paying for a project in Madaket that only benefits specific Madaket homeowners.

Please let me know if you want to set up a meeting to talk about this or all things coastal resilience.

Sincerely,

Leah Hill

Coastal Resilience Coordinator

Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department

131 Pleasant Street – Upstairs

Nantucket, MA 02554

508-228-7200 ext. 7603

[Nantucket's Coastal Resilience Plan](#)

Instagram: @NRDACK

Facebook: Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department

From: conn <gconnick@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2024 12:24 PM
To: Leah Hill <lhill@nantucket-ma.gov>
Subject: Fw: Article 69

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: conn <gconnick@aol.com>
To: GERRY CONNICK <gconnick@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2024 at 11:36:12 AM EDT
Subject: Article 69

TO: Letter to the Editor
FROM: Gerry Connick
RE As Concerns Article 69
DATE: 10 May 2024

Article 69 is a general bylaw that allows un-regulated town committees to establish and

classify districts and sub-districts so that these red-lined areas can be eventually taxed to pay for betterments that would possibly improve the coastal resilience of the entire island.

The taxation assessment is to be based on the classification of taxpayers and exempt properties in these sub-districts. The article does not outline who in the town is going to create this system or how much it will cost. The Article was approved by 229 voters out of 344 voters attending the 9 May 2024 Town Meeting.

This vote is just the beginning of a new basis for establishing a system to tax property owners by where they live not considering the intrinsic future marketable value of these selected properties with the only representation the taxpayers might have in the establishment of these sub-districts is the decision of unelected town committees or outside off island paid consultants.

The first example of this type of classification is the 24th of January 2024 Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Nantucket and the Land Bank sharing the design costs of \$500,000.00 for two Washington Street projects, thankfully signed off by these selectmen.

Any project that is undertaken on the coast of any small island affects ALL the people of said island and the cost of those projects ought to be shared equally by ALL the citizens of this island.

Regards,

Gerry Connick
56 Washington Street
Nantucket, MA 02554
Email: gconnick@aol.com

PS: This letter will be followed up by signed copy (not possible on my computer) by priority mail.