

Nantucket Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC)
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Via Zoom

*Meetings are audio- and video-recorded

Members present: Gary Beller, Peter Brace, Sarah Bois, Tim Braine, Doug Rose, Jen Karberg, Joanna Roche, Matt Fee

Members Absent: Rachel Freeman, Christy Kickham, John Kitchener

Staff present: Leah Hill

Scheduled Speakers: none

Members of the public: Jackson Bonnen, Gerry Connick, Carter Alday, Claire Martin, Shelly Lockwood, D.Anne Atherton, Duane Jones, RJ Turcotte

Recording available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25QzVh2kR1w&list=PL49sKqpy7VAiUk-g5h2jluAn_2jqocl2L&index=2

Packet available here: https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_11122024-14462

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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

No public comments.

4. Approval of minutes

- Minutes for October 8 were approved.

5. Review and approve Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee's 3rd quarterly report

- Hill gave a presentation of the report. (The full report is included in the packet)

Report Topics were: St. Francis Beach improvement Project, Presentation on Easy Street Flood Mitigation by Arcadis, Downtown Resilience Planning Community Open house, Highlights from the Quarter, Presentation on New Visualization Tools by Climate Central, Status Update on CRP Recommendations, Discussion on Planning Board and Town Regulations with Coastal Resilience in Mind, Input to the Nantucket Harbors Action Plan Update, Nantucket Harbors Sediment Transport and Dredge Plan, Discussion on Funding Mechanisms for CRP projects, Public Outreach, Requests and Recommendations. Discussion was as follows:

- Brace: Possible Recommendation: Appoint a Flood Plain Administrator as recommended but Shannon Hulst.
- Hill: That would need to be one in the next quarterly report since the Hulst recommendation was in October.
- Hill: Do we want to add in the funding piece as a recommendation?
- Brace, Braine agreed.
- Matt Fee: Re: sand sourcing...it will be questioned by the public.
- Sarah Bois: We should make it clear to the public that the St Francis Beach and Easy St projects are not CRAC projects:
- Beller: Confused by the logo on the presentation because it's not an official CRAC logo.
- Hill: Will replace it with the CRAC logo and QR code for CRAC web page.
- Beller: Do we need to request that the Select Board focus on getting a grant writer for CRAC.
- Roche: \$200k was in the Town budget for assistance with grant writing but not a position for grant writing. Would suggest either a town position or money dedicated to CRAC grant writing.
- Fee: We should make a specific recommendation for CRAC so it can't be ignored.
- Roche: We should recommend they budget \$50k for Natural Resources for consultants grant writing for applying for grants for CRAC.
- Karberg: agreed with this approach.
- Rose: If question of zoning reg changes comes up, we should not try to make the next ATM and we should not be rushing it. Also remind the Select Board that we think they should focus on Limited Liability issue. Does the group feel comfortable with this?
- Hill: This would have to be in the 4th quarter report
- Beller: Believes we did talk about this in the 3rd quarter and could present it now.
- Fee: Put parameters around it and present it in a more focused way.
- Hill: recommends it go in 4th quarter.
- Vote was taken and the 3rd quarter report was approved.

6. Refine Suggestions to incorporate coastal Resiliency into the zoning bylaw.

- Hill explained documents in packet.
- Doug: Got lost in all the versions and appreciates the clarification. Also commented that Shannon Hulst's presentation was excellent. We have a solid starting point now.
- Brace: This exercise was good because we're more fluent in this topic.

- Rose: The limited liability issue should be part of our list, not put in retreat and relocation topic and put it off until later.
- Fee: Agree with Doug and we should think about how we're positioning it.
- Brace: Need a good explanation
- Beller: It could be separate from zoning or could be in a zoning law. Is this really a zoning issue?
- Brace: This issue is triggered as the water comes up so it becomes a zoning issue...all connected. We haven't seen this in zoning law because we haven't had this circumstance before.
- Rose: This liability issue should be either a zoning or building code issue. Ask town counsel or Planning. It's a land use issue.
- Beller: Remember that a zoning law change requires a 2/3 vote...higher threshold.
- Braine: Agrees with Doug.
- Roche: Needs an explanation of where the waiver should go.
- Rose: We should explore means by which anyone building in an at risk area should sign a waiver. Lets include it in this list and not wait.
- Brace: Hulst's suggestion was to prohibit building seaward of the high tide line...different way to attack it.
- Bois: What are we doing with this document? Is it for our thinking or a presentation to the Select Board? Also, she is confused and needs more time if we're going to vote.
- Hill explained the document further. The goal is to eventually provide this to Planning so they can use it to examine regulation changes.
- Fee: The details will be important...who's department would this end up in? Building? Zoning? Need to think about that. Need to think of this on a macro level.
- Hill: Suggests continuing this to next meeting so we have time to edit.

7. Discussion and vote on a Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee member to work with an internal work group on proposed zoning bylaw update.

- Hill explained that an internal group might consist of one CRAC member, one Planning board member and associated staff. They would meet to discuss CRAC recommendations and figure out how to incorporate suggestions; it would be vetted by town legal; counsel; eventually would go to ATM in 2026. The CRAC committee member would report back to CRAC on progress.
- Brace: Praised the idea.
- Fee: Also praised the idea.
- Hill: This is nothing new and is generally the process for changing bylaws.
- Brace: Asked if anyone would want to be on this committee. Suggested Doug.
- Rose: Interested in doing it. And doubts that other CRAC members would want to...except Gary Beller.
- Braine: Can handle the minutes without Doug being co-secretary.
- Rose: Accepted the role.
- Brace: Thinks Doug is perfect for the job.
- Rose: This is likely to be a lot of work and will take time. Asked for Leah to find the state law regarding waivers.
- Bois: Maybe should look at prioritizing the suggestions since it will be a lot of work.

- Brace: Do we need a vote on this?
- Hill: Yes it requires a vote.
- Vote was unanimous in favor.
- Brace: members can work on the list and questions for next meeting.
- Hill: Is the committee going to prioritize the list?
- Brace: yes for now.

8. Recap on discussion with ACKclimate about Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee's outreach social media campaign.

- Hill: The town is reworking town-wide communication plan which will include procedures for working with non-town entities. Town wants to wait until this is in place. Met with ACKclimate and Ava and they will still create works in progress and will reach out to other members to use money they have until the end of the January.
- Bois: Met with Ava last week and did video...wasn't CRAC specific...more general. Frustrated that there is a delay. Interested in how CRAC can continue reaching out. Are the non profits still interested in distributing?
- Hill: Most of them haven't continued with their initial involvement. But if groups are interested we should discuss. Can continue the weekly posts. Ava is going to continue with people she's worked with so far. Others on hold.
- Beller: wondering way she would interview if the town isn't ready and we can't talk specifically about CRAC.
- Bois: Explained that the interviews were more personal expression rather than representing CRAC.

9. Discussion on cancelling the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 26th

- Most members indicated that it was a bad day to meet because of thanksgiving.
- Roche explained that that is also the day of the big game at Fenway Park.
- Brace: No meeting November 26

10. New Business, Committee & Natural Resources Dept. reports from Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board, Advisory Committee of Non-Voting Taxpayers, and other committee members.

- Brace: Announced that the new Planning board member will be Dave Iverson.
- Beller: when will the Select Board receive your report?
- Hill: not certain
- Beller: Please send a copy to me and I'll send it to Non-Voting taxpayers,
- Roche: Liked the idea and wants to send it to the Finance Committee. Maybe it should go to other committees members represent.

11. discussion of upcoming meeting dates and topics: Next meeting December 11.

12. Motion to adjourn

- Vote adjourn unanimous.