

The Coastal Resiliency Action Committee
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

In accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 novel Coronavirus outbreak emergency, **the February 23, 2021 public meeting of the Coastal Resiliency Action Committee shall be physically closed to the public to avoid group congregation.**

Alternative public access to this meeting shall be provided in the following manner:

1. The meeting will be televised via Falmouth Community Television.
2. Real-time public comment can be addressed to the Coastal Resiliency Action Committee utilizing the Zoom virtual meeting software for remote access. This application will allow users to view the meeting and send a comment or question to the Chair via the Chat function. Submitted text comments will be read into the record at the appropriate points in the meeting.
 - a. Zoom Login instructions:
 - i. Instructions and the meeting link for this specific meeting can be found at the following web address: <http://www.falmouthma.gov/CoastalResiliency>
 - ii. Please plan on 10-15 minutes of preparation time to log in though it may be less if you have previously used Zoom on the device you will use to access this meeting.
3. Additionally public comments may be sent in advance of the meeting to concom@falmouthma.gov at **least 5 hours prior** to the beginning of the meeting. Documents and audio or video files may also be submitted via email. Submitted email comments and documents will be made a part of the meeting record and may be read into the record, summarized or displayed during the meeting at the discretion of the chair.

Present: Charles McCaffrey, Chair
Melissa Freitag, Vice-Chair
Jamie Mathews
Paul Dreyer
Andrew Ashton
Ed Schmitt, Alternate

Also present: Eleanor Ling

Mr. McCaffrey opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. McCaffrey: We will discuss the second item first.

Discuss assistance for Woods Hole Group in preparing final report.

Mr. McCaffrey: I spoke with Elise LeDuc at Woods Hole Group (WHG) re assisting us in a limited way. We can spend up to \$9,000.00. If the Committee members agree I will talk with her about the scope of her work for us. It would be a summary of some of their data sets – to move the complex ones and also to simplify some of the detailed maps, tables and data. We need some descriptive material in our report and they will have it. I gave her our latest version of our outline.

Ms. Freitag: I wish you had told us first.

Mr. McCaffrey: I submitted the outline with nothing filled in. I started to fill out some of it – the one I did on FEMA re insurance. We need to focus on writing the recommendations and getting the right message across. We still need to work out a more precise scope of work and create a few graphics on future scenarios. We can show what it will look like if nothing is done. We need simple graphics.

Mr. Dreyer: Are there constraints on hiring WHG a second time and giving them \$9,000 more?

Mr. McCaffrey: If so, we may have to bid it.

Ms. Lincoln: We can get a summary of their existing data and some guidance for up to \$9,000.

Mr. McCaffrey: All of this information is in our outline framework.

Ms. Freitag: There is still a lot to do on our own.

Mr. McCaffrey: I think their help will make it all clearer, e.g. the charts on vulnerability of private properties. 800 homes may be inundated by 2030 and 1,000 flooded on an annual basis.

Mr. Ashton: I have been putting some things together for that.

McCaffrey: And the less than 1% risk – it's hard to follow that map. Also the maps with 1% and 50 to 100%. What is the frequency of flooding? It would really create problems for the Health Department, maintaining roads, etc.

Mr. Ashton: It's nice that they have a boiler plate on flooding, etc.

Mr. McCaffrey: They have generic information available.

Mr. Ashton: This is similar to what they're using across the State.

Mr. McCaffrey: We will write the introduction.

Ms. Freitag: The report is already at 30 pages. We'll have to convey to them that we're looking for succinct work.

Mr. McCaffrey: The graphics can be in the report in one area and explanations in the appendices.

Ms. Freitag: We'll tell them what graphics we want.

Ms. Lincoln: I spoke with Jennifer Mullen in the Finance Department today and I will get the contract signed. I left Elise a message that we can move forward. The contract has to go through Town Hall. I will be out of the office next week but back by the time it is signed.

Ms. Freitag: They sent us a draft contract?

Ms. Lincoln: I made it clear that the Committee had to discuss it first.

Ms. Freitag: How specific do we have to be?

Ms. Lincoln: It just cannot exceed \$9,000. What can we get for that?

Ms. Freitag: It would be helpful to have a laundry list for them.

Mr. McCaffrey: We should have a more detailed description of what we want from them by the next meeting.

Mr. Schmitt: Data on elevations is the most important. Do they mean seal level or mean high water?

Mr. McCaffrey: That's not completely true. The nature of the shoreline will make a difference. Are they ½ mile inland from the shore? Elevation is certainly important but it's not the only

marker on what decisions can be made. (to Mr. Mathews) Do you have any problem engaging with them?

Mr. Mathews: There has to be a report but I'm afraid it will look like a summary of their report. Now it will be just another 60 page report – not a summary.

Mr. McCaffrey: I agree with you. It can't look like their report. We'll just ask them to adapt their graphics. The body of the report will be our recommendations.

Mr. Mathews: Their stuff is important but I don't want it to look like their report.

Mr. McCaffrey: We need the storms and sea level rise effect on the properties. We want to convey the important distinction between flooding, storms and sea level rise.

Ms. Freitag: It will be good to have them make some more graphics for our report. We're asking them to distill things further. It's a written report for people who are already aware of sea level rise. It needs to be distilled further. She did a great job at the public meetings. It should be distilled to that level.

Mr. McCaffrey: Some things were not covered. There will be permanent inundation by 2070. That information is in a map with tons of other information.

Ms. Freitag: Could Bob Shea do something like that?

Ms. Lincoln: I'd have to check with Bob.

Mr. McCaffrey: When some of the maps are blown up they lose clarity. When I went online and blew them up they lost detail. They can do that for us.

Ms. Freitag: Was that issue on our end or their end?

Mr. McCaffrey: They didn't include that in what they sent to us.

Ms. Lincoln: I will revisit that with Elise.

Ms. Freitag: It may be \$300 for one graphic. We have to be precise in what we want.

Mr. McCaffrey: That makes sense. Do you all agree?

Mr. Dreyer: We have a report that keeps getting bigger and bigger. The old reports were precise and nothing happened. I'm afraid we'll have lot of detail and nothing will happen. There is also good information in the Surf Drive study. That could be extended to additional studies.

Ms. Freitag: At the Town Meeting presentation we were shown a Category 2 hurricane hitting Falmouth and it was very compelling. We can do a study for the next region in Town.

Mr. Dreyer: We should be looking at overarching issues. What will be the policies, etc. to deal with these problems?

Mr. McCaffrey: We need to know the extent of low lying areas in Town that will be permanently inundated by 2070.

Ms. Freitag: And the cost of maintaining the roads in those areas.

Mr. McCaffrey: In the areas of 1% risk and those more frequently flooded we can elevate the homes. There is a standard for making a home resistant, but not the structure. We can elevate the structures and the roads but the area will still be impacted. The graphics detailing that will help with our recommendations.

Ms. Freitag: We can also engage without graphics. We must be sure all our T's are crossed, etc. There are one or two sections that we have no graphics for.

Mr. McCaffrey: When I spoke to Elise I said that some work will not be done by her.

Ms. Freitag: We need more administration work than what she does.

Mr. McCaffrey: We must think of what useful thing they can do for us and what we don't want them to do. Jen can use this discussion to talk to Elise. We should be engaging with WHG in some form – including graphics.

Mr. Mathews: Move to engage the Woods Hole Group in a broad sense to help with our final report with the specifics of their inclusion to be discussed and voted on as a Committee at a future time.

Ms. Freitag: Second.

Mr. Dreyer: We should be specific in what we want them to do.

Mr. McCaffrey: Freitag, aye; Dreyer, aye; Mathews, aye; Ashton aye; McCaffrey, aye. Unanimous, so moved.

Continue to discuss and vote priority actions from the MVP Workshop, Vulnerability Assessment, and prior Town studies.

Mr. Dreyer: I sent information on groins - a report done by Bourne Engineering that was updated in 2017. There are good pictures in it. I will drop it off at Charlie's.

Mr. McCaffrey: There may be no adverse effects on the shoreline with some groins. Some may need to be maintained and repaired.

Mr. Dreyer: That was mentioned at the end. The information may be useful. I went to the Engineering Department to look at it and they said to take it.

Ms. Lincoln: We gave the copy to the Engineering Department but we don't have the update.

Mr. Dreyer: I tried to write a little summary of it.

Ms. Freitag: I'd love to look at it.

Mr. McCaffrey: Paul - will you give it to Jen?

Mr. Dreyer: I don't need it. It's pretty comprehensive.

Ms. Freitag: The Town should take the report and do sediment studies. There are 89 groins in our report - some are Town owned and some are privately owned. In the Coastal Resiliency Working Group (CRWG) study they said the Town should have control over them.

Mr. McCaffrey: We need a jetty around Falmouth Harbor.

Mr. Schmitt: I looked at the photos in the report and some groins are good. There are not just bad ones.

Mr. McCaffrey: A wide beach with dunes provides more protection for houses further inland.

Mr. Schmitt: It comes down to "glass half empty".

Mr. McCaffrey: If you look at the CRWG they say that most structures should be removed.

Mr. Schmitt: Where is science on this?

Mr. Ashton: There is a fight between people taking sand away and people getting sand. We should be looking at the specific numbers of coastal structures.

Mr. McCaffrey: They should be looked at for negative effects.

Ms. Freitag: On page 15 of the CRWG, number 4 - targeted beach nourishment is mentioned.

Ms. Lincoln: The Conservation Commission had a study of groins on a small scale. There is no reason not to further it. There is no reason not to put in new ones. There is no reason not to remove a failing rock revetment between two others and installing a coir fiber array. I'm curious how it will work.

Mr. McCaffrey: A soft structure can have the same negative effect as a hard one. I agree with the Buzzard's Bay appendix on recommendation 24 re removing Town infrastructure. We covered that with the Vulnerability Assessment and the MVP Workshop. Number 25 re sediment - it is clearly in our recommendations. Number 27 - work with Town agencies to promote coastal tourism by making us more resilient by restoring natural resources to promote tourism.

Ms. Freitag: The term is eco-tourism.

Mr. McCaffrey: We could end up with wider, more natural beaches as opposed to closing them off with a hard structure.

Mr. Dreyer: You and Melissa are working hard. Will we have another draft prior to the next meeting? We haven't had one since December 2020.

Ms. Freitag: That's the last time I worked on it.

Mr. McCaffrey: Those working on recommendations for the next version please make notes about the aspects of the recommendations.

Ms. Freitag: Once the analysis is done but not for another couple of weeks (draft). You can write to me and I can include them. 12/20 is the most recent.

Mr. Dreyer: Gregg Fraser gave a presentation to the Select Board on the process of re-nourishment of beaches. Should that be in there?

Mr. McCaffrey: I'm doing that. It's a central part of the recommendations.

Ms. Freitag: We could put in links to Gregg's presentation.

Mr. Dreyer: I'll try to pull something together.

Mr. McCaffrey: Andrew can do that – how is sand moving and do we have to nourish?

Mr. Ashton: When we do nourishment projects it has to be monitored before and after.

Ms. Freitag: I can send a copy of the presentation to Andrew so he can look at it for context.

Mr. Dreyer: I can do the constraints to it. I'll send it to Andrew.

Ms. Lincoln: Gregg is limited to pipes reaching areas. He's not looking at studies. He is taking sand out of Salt Pond that is going to Menauhant and a dune on Surf Drive. No analysis is being done on studies of beaches that might need it. Beach nourishment via the Town is limited.

Mr. McCaffrey: That's good.

Ms. Freitag: Is the presentation like the one he gave us?

Mr. Dreyer: It's a different one. It makes sense to acknowledge constraints. The process takes a long time.

Ms. Freitag: Highlighting the Town's process is not ecological. Is the Town working on Salt Pond?

Ms. Lincoln: Yes.

Mr. McCaffrey: What we're doing now makes sense for now, but over time it may have to change. I will prepare something for the next meeting as to what work WHG should be asked to do.

Ms. Lincoln: The next meeting will be on March 9th. I need to post an agenda.

Mr. McCaffrey: Chris Neal (Woods Hole Resource Center) is applying for a grant from the Buzzards Bay Coalition. The grant will be looking at the water quality of the marshes. He needs a bunch of organizations to participate in meetings and a letter to be signed by them. I will sign the letter if you agree.

Mr. Ashton: Move to send a signed letter of support to the Woodwell Center.

Mr. Dreyer: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Freitag, aye; Dreyer, aye; Mathews, aye; Ashton aye; McCaffrey, aye. Unanimous, so moved.

VOTE MINUTES

1/26/2021

Mr. Ashton: Move to adopt the minutes as written.

Mr. Dreyer: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Freitag, aye; Dreyer, aye; McCaffrey, aye; Ashton, aye. Mathews, abstain. 4 yes, 1 abstention. The motion is passed.

The following minutes will be voted at the next meeting.

12/22/2020

Mr. Dreyer: Move to adjourn.

Mr. Ashton: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Freitag, aye; Dreyer, aye; Mathews, aye; Schmitt, aye; Ashton, aye; McCaffrey, aye. Unanimous, so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cronin, Recording Secretary