

The Coastal Resiliency Action Committee
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 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 April 27, 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
Paul Dreyer
Andrew Ashton
Jennifer McKay, Conservation Commission Administrator

Absent: Melissa Freitag, Vice-Chair
Jamie Mathews
Ed Schmitt, Alternate

Also present: Mackenzie Ryan, Falmouth Enterprise

Mr. McCaffrey opened the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Continue to discuss final report.
Review submittal from Woods Hole Group.

Mr. McCaffrey: I recently watched two Webinars. One was presented by the Environmental Business Council who discussed local laws for resiliency. Nothing drastic or innovative was presented. The laws were from the towns of North Hampton, Arlington, Hull, Swampscott and Provincetown. Swampscott has passed a law stating that there will be no further development in the B zone. I haven't looked at all the actual laws, but I will do so. Provincetown is developing a revolving fund relevant to resiliency from storm waters. The second Webinar was held by State Legislators talking about buyouts. It was mostly a presentation from FEMA re funds for buyouts. They are limited to \$275,000 right now. It wouldn't cover much here. We have discussed buyouts and don't like it as a first option mainly because it's too expensive. Property that is inundated can be acquired by various means. It's a topic we should discuss in the report. The Webinars were somewhat disappointing and without original ideas.

Mr. Dreyer: Did the transfer of government rights come up?

Mr. McCaffrey: No, and that's important. There is a New Jersey buyout program called Blue Acres that bought out several properties after Sandy.

Mr. Dreyer: I was in New Jersey a few years after the hurricane and some of the damaged homes are still just sitting there.

Mr. McCaffrey: That's important. We don't want our shoreline left with empty and ruined homes. We need a plan for that. That could be another bit of work for Woods Hole Group (WHG). Any comments?

Mr. Dreyer: The definition of resiliency should be at the beginning of the report. They did refer to a 2018 Working Group report. It must have been an update to the Coastal Resiliency Working Group study.

Mr. McCaffrey: I think the report should read more like a story. It needs to sell the risks with examples, i.e. New Silver Beach and its need for resiliency and how significant the problem is in the area. Their work talked about wetlands and dunes and it needs to be made clearer that the best defense against storms and sea level rise is a wide beach and dunes. Structures should be significantly inland to a greater extent than exists now. We need to show the best protection for areas of Town that will be affected by sea level rise. Development that hinders that must eventually be removed.

Mr. Ashton: We can make it clear. I agree that we need strong ideas and recommendations.

Mr. McCaffrey: Recommendations would be a way of getting these things acted on. In the May election there are Charter changes on the ballot that require the Select Board have oversight over projects and review them based on the policies in the Comprehensive, Strategic and Capital plans.

Ms. Lincoln: How will this be implemented?

Mr. McCaffrey: It gives them the authority to issue rules and regulations to implement it. It will need a formal written review before it is approved. The basis is for the Select Board to have the power to deny or allow actions. (to Mr. Ashton) The work WHG did on beaches and dunes could be strengthened by including sediment and its work in improving the natural shoreline. Would you strengthen that?

Mr. Ashton: Yes, by using natural resources.

Mr. McCaffrey: And when describing natural resources – the whole system must be included. We have to maintain the natural shoreline – that is the best protection.

Mr. Ashton: When WHG talks about sea level rise, they are talking about inundation.

Mr. McCaffrey: We need something about that.

Ms. Lincoln: Anything you come up with can you get it to Melissa so she can add it in. That would be great.

Mr. McCaffrey: Re recommendations – we should see if there is anything we want WHG to supplement, i.e. help us with major project recommendations as in exploring the feasibility of a berm to protect Town Hall. The berm will also protect Main Street from severe storms. They recommend postponing that idea. In a major storm some of Main Street will be inundated. The idea of a berm was theirs – they should write about it. I would like them to draft something advancing that recommendation.

Ms. Lincoln: Julian (Town Manager) is interested in that also. A good example of where you put the berm is how much structure there is to protect. You could protect some property but not where the wetland is. It's a way to protect from storms without interfering with the natural shoreline.

Ms. Lincoln: Where would you recommend that be in the report?

Mr. McCaffrey: It's listed in the project outline, but we need more than just a list. If you mention this to Elise Leduc I'll talk her through it. For example: in the map of New Silver Beach, there are colored lines for the present, 2030 and 2070. I find it confusing. I think they should just do the 2070 line. We know what the shoreline looks like now and 2030 doesn't show much change.

Mr. Ashton: I can't tell what the actual shoreline is from the map, but I think it is fine the way it is. No change.

Ms. Lincoln: Do you want to change it Charlie?

Mr. McCaffrey: No.

Mr. Ashton: The color scheme could be better.

Mr. McCaffrey: There are complete maps in the appendices. They show little islands on what had been a barrier beach. The problem with that is that it wouldn't happen. We should do more work on the existing State programs. Elise sent us the budget. They haven't consumed a lot of it.

Ms. Lincoln: They consumed one quarter of it.

Mr. McCaffrey: Right.

Grants

Ms. Lincoln: Amy Lowell is going for the sewer main grant and Gregg Fraser is going for a grant to study the problem with Washburn Island and the Menauhant Yacht Club.

Mr. Ashton: What is the problem at the Menauhant Yacht Club?

Ms. Lincoln: It has to do with the accretion of Washburn Island. They just want to know what's going on. It's the same thing that is going on with Sampson's Island.

Mr. Ashton: A study would be great.

Ms. Lincoln: I can send you a blurb of what they are going to look at.

Mr. Ashton: Are they working with a consultant?

Ms. Lincoln: They are working with Applied Coastal. I'll send all of you Gregg's little blurb.

Mr. Ashton: What is going on with Sampson's Island?

Ms. Lincoln: In the three ponds area of Osterville accretion from Sampson's Island was becoming a danger. They dredged out part of the island and moved it to the other side. This opened up the channel. They wonder if they can do that with Washburn Island. What issues are

the old jetties causing? There is heavy erosion in the Menauhant Yacht Club area. They will be looking at the whole area and what can be done to mitigate the issues.

Mr. McCaffrey: We haven't heard from the State about MVP Action Grants.

Ms. Lincoln: Amy is going for an MVP grant.

Mr. Ashton: I thought Amy was going to CZM.

Ms. Lincoln: She's going to MVP. Gregg Fraser is going to CZM.

Mr. McCaffrey: Both have been announced?

Ms. Lincoln: One is on May 7th.

Mr. Ashton: Menauhant is a real critical area.

Ms. Lincoln: The Yacht Club is right there. The channel rips right through there. ConCom had to extend a dock 30-ft that had been damaged when the area was scoured out. Washburn Island keeps accreting and narrowing the channel.

Mr. McCaffrey: The primary problem is not resiliency then.

Ms. Lincoln: It is a real dynamic problem area.

Mr. Ashton: The erosion is caused by the jetties.

Ms. Lincoln: On the Waquoit Bay side?

Mr. Ashton: Yes.

Ms. Lincoln: The culvert at Red Brook Road gave way again last Friday and completely drained the pond. Mashpee will work with Falmouth as a partner to repair the culvert.

Mr. Ashton: Is this an ecological project?

Mr. Dreyer: Where is it located?

Ms. Lincoln: Off Red Brook Road as you're going into Mashpee. It gave way last year also. A State group is involved also. It failed last summer and the pond drained which is upsetting for the residents. They sand bagged it then and last Friday the pond drained again.

Mr. McCaffrey: Any basic question about whether the pond should exist?

Ms. Lincoln: Yes.

Mr. Dreyer: Can we talk about the updated report?

Mr. McCaffrey: I thought we just did.

Mr. Dreyer: I just have a couple of comments.

Mr. McCaffrey: Put your thoughts in writing and send them to Jen and she will send them on to Melissa and she will send them on to Elise.

Mr. Dreyer: They are just minor things we have to talk about sometime.

Mr. McCaffrey: Our presentation to the Select Board is on Monday June 21st.

Ms. Lincoln: Please get your information to Melissa so she can send it on to Elise. There is a question on the Chat function re the date of our next meeting which will be May 11th.

VOTE MINUTES

4/13/2021

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

Mr. Ashton: Second.

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

Mr. Ashton: Move to adjourn.

Mr. Dreyer: Second.

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cronin, Recording Secretary

Committee will consider any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.