

The Coastal Resiliency Action Committee  
**MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, MAY 11, 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 May 11, 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](mailto: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  
Jennifer McKay, Conservation Commission Administrator

Absent: 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 hope everyone got the latest version of the report from Elise Leduc (Woods Hole Group).

Ms. Lincoln: I sent an email after I received Elise's email. The Committee should discuss the idea of a berm around Town Hall.

Mr. McCaffrey: I sent her a note giving a little more thought behind the berm, particularly that it is not primarily motivated to protect Town Hall from flooding because of storm water or sea level rise. It's also to protect Main Street from flooding and to keep the area south of Town Hall from further building. This is about protecting Main Street and land for further commercial development.

Ms. Freitag: That sounds like it's a paragraph for our report. Send it to me and I'll add it to the report.

Mr. McCaffrey: I sent it to Elise and she can change her draft. I'll draft something and send it to you and Elise. I think it should be under "projects to be done". People will be looking for some proposed actions.

Ms. Freitag: I see why she put it under projects completed. It was in the MVP study.

Mr. McCaffrey: It first came up in the MVP study. It's to be explored in the 2050 time period. We're bringing it forward because of the protection of the entire area – not just Town Hall.

Ms. Freitag: It will probably take 20 years to bring it forward.

Mr. McCaffrey: There is no reason to delay it because of the high risk from a severe storm.

Ms. Freitag: You should write a paragraph noting the timeline of the assessment is to increase because of the Town's needed protection in a severe storm.

Mr. Dreyer: There is a channel on the western side of Town Hall. Will the berm protect Town Hall from that as well?

Mr. McCaffrey: We need a feasibility study to study the scale and size of the berm. We don't want Sider's Pond flowing into Shiverick's Pond. I will write a paragraph about building a berm to protect Town Hall and Main Street and prevent the pond problem above. The Planning Board should study this.

Ms. Freitag: We should start next year on this project. It might be shovel ready by 2045.

Mr. McCaffrey: I will be editing the recommendations re New Silver Breach and development at risk – the nature of the risk in the area. It has the second largest number of homes in danger from high tide and sea level rise. I will set up why we need to do various things. How the Town transfer of development could be used. There are many alternatives to acquisition. What is the best way to protect the Town from storm surge? They built on lands that were previously under water.

Ms. Freitag: You're talking about North Falmouth but the study doesn't seem to paint as dire a picture.

Mr. McCaffrey: There are 100 structures that can be involved.

Ms. Freitag: The actual image we're looking at is the area that is only marked in yellow in 2050.

Mr. McCaffrey: Yellow means those at highest risk. In 2070 they're under water.

Ms. Freitag: By high tide?

Mr. McCaffrey: By low tide.

Ms. Freitag: I expected a storm picture rather than inundation. I mean with the data we have.

Mr. McCaffrey: In 2070 the area will be affected by high tide every day. They will be flooded every day.

Ms. Freitag: They should include an image of the houses that are going to be flooded right now.

Mr. McCaffrey: How do we deal with that so that development is not there in 50 years? That is the amortization of development that becomes non-conforming and has to be eliminated in 30 years – development that has to be removed in 20 or 30 years. To be reasonable we have to give a 30 or 40 year amortization. We can allow new development if it's not in a velocity zone. This is a good example of what we have to do with about 800 homes that will be inundated in 30 years. Whole communities will be affected, not just homes. There are about 200 in New Silver Beach and 200 across from the bathhouse on Surf Drive.

Ms. Freitag: We need more studies focused on communities that will be affected.

Mr. McCaffrey: We have done a study on Surf Drive. We have reduced the options to two. There should not be a causeway or bridge. We can maintain the barrier beach and/or retreat or protect the area. There are 120 homes subject to high tide – some are adjacent to the road. If the road were to be elevated it could protect the homes. It presents options that we will recommend Town-wide.

Ms. Freitag: I don't think we should give any recommendation for areas we haven't studied. I suggest we do studies and leave the choice to the policy makers. It's great that a road may protect houses, but I'm not comfortable with recommending that. I would be more comfortable with more information.

Mr. McCaffrey: Maybe we should just make suggestions that might be feasible.

Ms. Freitag: We can mention them but I wouldn't zone into them.

Mr. Ashton: We can use figure 2. Pick either Surf Drive or North Falmouth and the other one would be #2.

Mr. McCaffrey: My reaction to the latest draft from Elise is that she should draft something from Surf Drive and New Silver Beach. (to Mr. Ashton) Do you have anything on sediment for us?

Mr. Ashton: Not yet. What is the final date for the presentation to the Select Board?

Ms. Freitag: June 21<sup>st</sup>. I can start putting in serious hours on the report a week from now.

Mr. Ashton: So can I.

Mr. McCaffrey: I have to do more writing.

Ms. Freitag: I'd like to talk about Paul Dreyer's draft report.

Mr. Dreyer: I sent it to Melissa and Jen.

Ms. Freitag: I love your discussion about geologic history. On page 8 there are two lists lifted out of the Vulnerability Assessment re buildings and major structures. There are 5 buildings on the first list and then a long list. The Park Street Station is on a different list.

Mr. Dreyer: I wanted to show where it's located.

Mr. McCaffrey: We should expand our paragraphs by at least a phrase.

Ms. Freitag: Pages 11 and 15 are still in draft form.

Mr. Dreyer: The notes re dynamic systems are important for what we're doing here.

Ms. Freitag: What we're doing here is dynamic and we have to emphasize that.

Mr. Dreyer: This will be a good comprehensive report with widespread distribution. It might get a lot of traction.

Ms. Freitag: Are we the first town doing this?

Ms. Lincoln: I don't know what different things other towns are doing. I haven't researched it.

Mr. Mathews: We know Nantucket is working on resiliency.

Ms. Lincoln: They have a coastal resiliency coordinator. A Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee was established by the Select Board. We need to finalize a coastal resiliency plan.

Mr. Mathews: Maybe our report will show the need for a coordinator.

Mr. McCaffrey: They should look at keeping our committee.

Ms. Freitag: There is a difference between management and resiliency. The Beach Committee concentrates on the parking lots.

Mr. McCaffrey: We should relate to the Coastal Management Committee which was originally the Coastal Pond Committee. It has since expanded to include all coastal management.

Ms. Freitag: Who was the Town employee liaison?

Ms. Lincoln: Chuck Martinson.

Ms. Freitag: CRAC should be continued.

Mr. McCaffrey: We should look at the mission of the Coastal Management Committee. Maybe the Town should get rid of that or combine them with us.

Ms. Freitag: Is there something vital in their mission?

Ms. Lincoln read the mission of the Committee. The Coastal Pond Management Committee was born out of our growing shellfish propagation program and added docks, etc. They are to accommodate the boat community and establish shellfish propagation.

Mr. McCaffrey: And it included water quality at one point. We expanded the mission and then it fell apart.

Mr. Ashton: It's interesting about Nantucket. They have an advisory role – could that be the future mission of this Committee?

Ms. Lincoln: A dedicated coordinator could work with the Town, the Conservation Commission and all Town groups. A future advisory committee will have to involve planning. The Planning Board plays an important role.

Ms. Freitag: As part of climate and sea level rise we need a dedicated person to reach out to all Town departments from whom they can take ideas and keep them alive so they get done - keep things moving. They can write grants to keep things going.

Mr. McCaffrey: We need to reinforce this major theme – to be resilient you have to make something resilient and not just protect it. I should send that to Elise. To be resilient is to allow the shoreline to respond naturally in most places.

Ms. Lincoln: Get that to me so I can give it to Elise.

Mr. McCaffrey: Melissa and Andrew need more time to get their writing done. I can have something this week.

Ms. Lincoln to Paul Dreyer: On page 15 at the end of section 2.3 – what does number 8 mean?

Mr. Dreyer: It's to add that the Select Board should consider the effect of climate change on various departments.

Mr. McCaffrey: After the voting on Tuesday it's possible that the Charter Review requirement, if passed, will require that the Select Board has the authority to consider any changes to regulations.

Ms. Lincoln: How does that work for a regulatory Board?

Mr. McCaffrey: It's in addition to what you already have and to see if the Board agrees.

Ms. Lincoln: This gets slippery.

Mr. McCaffrey: It adds another layer. The Charter changes are broad in general. It could be an important tool in consideration of broader issues. Certain decisions would be subject to additional review.

Ms. Freitag: If the Charter change passes we should include Paul's verbiage. If it does not pass we should still write something along Paul's lines. What he wrote is perfect and pertinent to the Charter.

Ms. Lincoln: Will you incorporate Paul's comments into the document?

Ms. Freitag: Yes, but I need another week.

Mr. McCaffrey: Next Wednesday I'll add to Paul's comments. I did some editing on the Introduction. Should I send it to you or Elise?

Ms. Freitag: Don't send it to me now. It's silly to send little things to Elise.

Mr. McCaffrey: If I want input from them?

Ms. Freitag: That's different.

Ms. Lincoln: The next meeting is May 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **VOTE MINUTES**

4/27/2021

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

Mr. Mathews: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Dreyer, aye; McCaffrey, aye; Mathews, aye; Ashton, aye. Freitag abstained.

The motion is passed.

Mr. Dreyer: Move to adjourn.

Mr. Mathews: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Dreyer, aye; McCaffrey, aye; Freitag, aye; Mathews, aye; Ashton, aye.

Unanimous, so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cronin, Recording Secretary