

The Coastal Resiliency Action Committee
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, JUNE 08, 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 June 08, 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
Jennifer McKay, Conservation Commission Administrator

Mr. McCaffrey opened the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Continue to discuss final report.

Discussion re power point presentation to the Select Board

Mr. McCaffrey: The first page of my power point presentation is "The Charge" and needs a quote re what we are facing in the years ahead. The next page has the names of the Committee

members. The third page is “What We Are Facing in the Years Ahead” i.e. increases in the following natural forces that shape our coastline (for good and ill) hurricanes and tropical storms; sea level rise; flooding; Nor’Easters; erosion. Resilience will make us more able to answer to these possibilities. We haven’t had a hurricane in 30 years and no Category 3 hurricane since 1954. Storm surge is the major concern in Falmouth partly because development has increased in areas most at risk.

Ms. Freitag: I see two problems: (1) sea level is expected to rise by 4-ft by 2070 and (2) the extensive Town infrastructure. Should we be letting people know that it may go up higher?

Mr. Ashton: Woods Hole Group is projecting the 4-ft sea level rise.

Ms. Freitag: Okay.

Mr. McCaffrey: The Town should do an official adoption of their estimate.

Ms. Lincoln: The Select Board should instruct the Planning Board and Conservation Commission to get their projects in order to move forward.

Mr. McCaffrey: The State has other projections based on certain assessments.

Ms. Lincoln: The Vulnerability Assessment (VA) had the same projections as the State. They were using the adopted model of the State.

Mr. McCaffrey: You can come up with different scenarios. The next page is “Flooding” that is associated with all of the natural forces that shape the coast as well as large rain events which are increasing. It can come in the form of slow rising water, storm surge and rising seas.

Mr. Dreyer: Back to sea level rise – saying that the 4-ft level rise should be forceful.

Mr. McCaffrey: I will expand on it so it’s clearer. 4-ft is the figure we want to be used.

Mr. Ashton: We didn’t pick it.

Mr. McCaffrey: We agreed to it. DOT is using it for their projections. Maybe in the short term we don’t use it – it’s more for long term. We need guidelines. We are having larger rain events from Nor’Easters, etc. that are having effects on the shoreline. They can be of several-day duration. Next is “Erosion”. Coastal Shorelines are dynamic, constantly changing from wind, waves, storms, sea level rise. These natural forces move sediment (erosion) and create the beaches, dunes and wetlands that characterize the Town’s shoreline. Efforts to stop erosion interfere with the natural processes that shape the shoreline.

Ms. Freitag: Sediment and sand are trapped and then beaches are not sandy but rocky. The power point will be on FCTV and you should do everything you can to educate the public.

Mr. McCaffrey: I will write a sentence on each one and say it as a side comment. The next two pages are about “Resources and Uses at Risk”. The Committee sponsored several studies and held public meetings to assess the likely effects of the intensifying natural forces affecting the Town Coastline and how their effects can be mitigated. Studies: MVP workshop and report; Vulnerability Assessment of Town assets; vulnerability of neighborhoods; Surf Drive case study; Town agencies working group; public meetings. At Risk: Public infrastructure and facilities; private development; vulnerable populations; groundwater; coastal wetlands, beaches, barrier beaches, dunes and bluffs. There are 849 residences that will be seaward of high tide. Ground water will increase with sea level rise.

Ms. Freitag: Wetlands will be subsumed and beaches will disappear.

Mr. McCaffrey: There must be ways to avoid that.

Ms. Freitag: You will need images on each page with the bullet points below.

Mr. McCaffrey: Yes, images that are tied to a specific point.

Ms. Lincoln: I hope to meet in person next week. Please get me a power point that I can open on USB.

Mr. McCaffrey: “Recommended Actions” are next: physical projects; education; regulations; administrative actions; policy adoption; planning studies; further research.

Mr. Dreyer: Instead of wetlands – add salt water marshes.

Ms. Lincoln: Or coastal wetlands.

Mr. McCaffrey: There will have to be feasibility studies for the actions, i.e. Main Street berm, Trunk River sewer re-location, portable facilities, concerns about the Bike Path, Sippewisset Marsh.

Ms. Freitag: I think you should put “Education” last. None of this can happen without the Town going along.

Mr. McCaffrey: I think policy should be first.

Ms. Freitag: We are anticipating policy, but if we don’t have the residents on our side nothing can happen.

Ms. Lincoln: You’re suggesting a feasibility study for portable facilities at the Town beaches?

Mr. McCaffrey: Yes, it will involve timing and cost.

Ms. Lincoln: That’s more of a budgetary item. I don’t think it qualifies for a feasibility study.

Mr. McCaffrey: Maybe it should be more of a design study. You can’t order one from a catalogue.

Ms. Freitag: Many of the projects will require a feasibility study or a design study.

Mr. Ashton: Nothing is shovel-ready.

Ms. Freitag: Put it at the bottom.

Ms. Lincoln: If something happened to the Mitchell Bathhouse – is it grandfathered?

Mr. Mathews: There is pre-approval for some. The State or FEMA will pay for it, but you cannot change it.

Ms. Lincoln: I’m asking about the State Building Code – could we put the same thing back?

Mr. Mathews: Yes, but it would have to be up to the current code.

Ms. Lincoln: Rebuilding to code will require a study or it will have to be a portable facility.

Mr. McCaffrey: We might want something better than the current facility.

Ms. Lincoln: You could re-phrase it to a Design Competition.

Mr. McCaffrey: I think that would be fun – a design competition. “Administrative Actions” is next. Dedicated staff is most important.

Ms. Lincoln: I think the Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee should be first and the staff after. Reverse the top two.

Ms. Freitag: You can mention that the Nantucket Coastal Resiliency Coordinator attended one of our meetings.

The administrative actions are: appoint an ongoing Committee to advise the Select Board on coastal resiliency (advisory versus action); hire a dedicated Coastal Resiliency Coordinator; begin acting on the options presented in the Surf Drive Study. Physical projects: protect Main Street area with a berm; move sewer from Trunk River area; portable facilities at Town beaches’; re-locate or raise bike path; several other projects that are identified in the VA and Surf Drive study. Many of these would require feasibility and/or design studies. “Regulations” follow: adopt official projection for sea level rise and revise based on State data periodically; restrict new development in the velocity zone; phase out development in areas projected to be below high tide by 2070; amend standards in land use regulations to better reflect risks; adopt rules and regulations for Select Board Special Use Permit for wetlands that fully consider effects on coastal processes; provide for transfer of development rights; require Town agency actions to be consistent with Town coastal resiliency policies. “Education” - increase neighborhood outreach;

engage students; targeted community signage; create virtual images of future scenarios. “Policy Adoption” – revise the coastal resiliency policies of the local comprehensive plan to reflect those of the Commonwealth as found in the Coastal Zone Management Program. “Planning Studies” – FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan (adopted 2017) must be updated by 2022; the Planning Board should undertake studies similar to the Davis Straits Study (as modified in the VA) to make intensively developed centers of activity that are at risk more inherently resilient; replicate the Surf Drive Study for other neighborhoods. “Further Research” – conduct studies (along both coasts) to quantify sediment transport pathways and sediment resources; legal issues research.

Mr. McCaffrey: We want to end on a positive note. Under Administrative Actions we didn’t include more fiscal management studies. How does the Town want to pay? Fiscal analysis is implied by this. There is also the cost of removing development at risk. There are many options but fiscal analysis is needed. It should be added to Administrative Actions.

Ms. Freitag: I will have to edit this. Elise Leduc (Woods Hole Group) will need this by next week. The deadline to get it to the Select Board is the Friday before the meeting. Get your drafts to me by Saturday or Sunday so we can have them for the meeting next Tuesday.

Ms. Lincoln: I will work on the wetlands section. Next week we are meeting in person.

VOTE MINUTES

5/25/2021

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

Mr. Ashton: Second.

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

Ms. Freitag: Move to adjourn.

Mr. Ashton: Second.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cronin, Recording Secretary