The Coastal Resiliency Action Committee
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019
Old Water Department, Falmouth Town Hall, 4:00 p.m.

Present: Charles McCaffrey, Chair
Melissa Freitag, Vice-Chair
Jamie Mathews
Andrew Ashton
Paul Dreyer
Jennifer McKay, Administrator – Conservation Commission

Absent: Ed Schmitt, Brendan Lynch, Conservation Agent

Mr. McCaffrey opened the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Mr. Dreyer asked if the letter has been sent out to the different Town Departments. Ms. McKay will send them as soon as possible. A discussion followed on the model and the fact that it only indicates flood elevation and no wave action. Woods Hole Group (WHG) could add that. Wave action could increase damage immensely. The wave action is only included for elevation not for the force of the waves. Elise LeDuc and Kirk Bosma couldn’t be here until the 26th of March. Ms. McKay will reach out to Elise tomorrow morning and see if they are available on the 5th and if so, she will post the meeting. It’s possible to spend some of the $100,000 with them if we want more in the model and a better understanding of the data they produce. How can we use that for other purposes? What areas will be inundated in 2070 – which houses? The plan was to use the $100,000 as a match and have a scaled back plan if that’s not successful. But we could take $20,000 from that to use for smaller things. What kind of feedback can we get from them at this time as well as from the Town Departments? We will have questions for WHG when we meet with them, i.e. what might be added: wave action, culverts. What if a culvert is destroyed or overwhelmed? Our goal is to see what will get flooded. If a culvert is destroyed in a storm they can’t model for that. Another question is: how are the natural features going to change including recession rates and how they will be accelerated by sea level rise? They have the SLAM model. What about “not-Town” assets - will they cover them? They will not include utilities because they are all underground – water and sewer. The model can be updated. When would it be appropriate to do that? Are these questions worthwhile? If they can help us in a certain way, we should know that. WHG will ask asset managers how to deal with things. We may need to give them recommendations from the Coastal Resiliency Working Group set of policies. The Committee can ask the WHG what they think they can do with land form changes. A discussion followed on the fact that it may cost the Committee every time they come in, but there are a certain number of meetings they are supposed to come to anyway. The role of the Committee is to advise the Selectmen on policy, i.e. Beach, waterways, etc.

Discuss potential projects for MVP Action Grant & CZM Coastal Resiliency Grant
Discuss Vulnerability Assessment

Mr. McCaffrey stated that neither the MVP Action Grant or the CZM Coastal Resiliency Grant has been announced yet. The idea of the draft that Mr. Dreyer presented to the Committee at the last meeting was to solicit suggestions on what was important to the department heads re coastal resiliency. It includes information on both of the grants and the types of projects that could be funded. It’s better to give them more feedback. An obvious project is a feasibility study on Trunk River. Chapaquoit and Menauhant beaches are also a mess. There are two abandoned roads and a third one at Menauhant. Ms. Freitag compared some possible MVP results to the Coastal Resiliency Working Group (CRWG – 2010) and the Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP- 2011) recommendations. Some of them are: sediment management plan, address private septic systems, protect land, DCPC districts, coastal erosion overlay district and managing erosion. Other long term recommendations include: remove vital transportation corridors from coastal zones, i.e. roads and structure. It was stated that the Committee is not ready for that yet. The Committee should have a policy plan for several grants that are not controversial. It was stated that we need to know where the sediment is going first. If we are applying for several grants all the aforementioned ones are highly justifiable and were identified 10 years ago by professionals. It was suggested that the Committee send the Selectmen little things to do along the way and that they need a policy paper that could be a guide when considering mitigation for certain projects that come before them. It was agreed that Ms. Freitag’s work will be guide for the Committee in developing future projects. It was suggested that properties between Chapaquoit and Woodneck beaches should be purchased by the Town as they become available. A discussion followed on groins and how to find out which ones are on Town property and if they are licensed. It was stated that CZM has an inventory of them. The Town owned ones could be removed and it would show the public the difference in beaches without the groins.

MINUTES

2/12/2019

Mr. Dreyer: Move to adopt the minutes as corrected.
Mr. Andrews: Second.
Mr. McCaffrey: Unanimous, so moved.

Mr. Andrews: Move to adjourn.
Ms. Freitag: Second.
Mr. McCaffrey: Unanimous, so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cronin, Recording Secretary