

The Coastal Resiliency Action Committee
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020
Old Water Department, Falmouth Town Hall, 4:00 p.m.

Present: Charles McCaffrey, Chair
Andrew Ashton
Paul Dreyer
Jennifer Lincoln, Conservation Commission Administrator

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

Mr. McCaffrey opened the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Discuss Woods Hole Group's proposal on community meetings.

The members took a moment to read through the proposal from Woods Hole Group (WHG) re community meetings.

Ms. Lincoln: You have the money to pursue this in your article.

Mr. McCaffrey: We would also like to have available at the meeting the FEMA map which is mainly a velocity zone map.

Ms. Lincoln: Bob Shea can do that for us.

Mr. McCaffrey: That's the information we don't have. The focus of work by WHG is on flooding. In most of that area it will be addressed by the type of building and type of land. The critical role for us to be making is more on the immediate shoreline – the impact is severe - even several hundred feet inland from the shore.

Dr. Ashton: Will there be 5 total presentations? Should we clump several areas together?

Ms. Lincoln: Yes. Elise LeDuc suggested that we do that.

Mr. McCaffrey: This is focused on neighborhoods.

Ms. Lincoln: In the presentation we will look at specific neighborhoods. Take Akapesket and divide it into southern and northern parts.

Dr. Ashton: It's all the same thing.

Mr. McCaffrey: We should include our approach to saving Main St.

Dr. Ashton: So there will be 5 areas.

Mr. Dreyer: How will we get the Town to agree to this?

Ms. Lincoln: Everyone knows about this.

Mr. Dreyer: I thought we wanted to do 1 or 2 community meetings before May.

Ms. Lincoln: Elise mentioned that the first presentation will be more expensive. The total amount is for all presentations over the next year and a half.

Mr. Dreyer: We wanted to do the West Falmouth presentation before we finish our report. Can we do it?

Ms. Lincoln: I will speak to Jennifer Mullen to see how to go forward.

Dr. Ashton: It would be nice if we had a proposal timeline.

Ms. Lincoln: The funding is there. We just don't know if it has to be an addendum or an amendment to the original contract. I think Elise said it just had to be an amendment from the Vulnerability Assessment.

Mr. Dreyer: We should be able to do this.

Ms. Lincoln: The venues could be the 5 libraries.

Mr. Dreyer: Would the meeting be similar to Surf Drive?

Ms. Lincoln: It might be a little interactive. The purpose is to get the communities engaged. It will be an informational session not an in depth study. The story board for the Surf Drive presentation was very good.

Mr. McCaffrey: We will wait to hear from Jennifer Mullen on how to proceed. We would like West Falmouth done as soon as possible.

Ms. Lincoln: We should have one done by the end of May.

Mr. Dreyer: The groins – the Town wants them in and we don't. We will have to address this at some point in time. Should we consider something in Woods Hole?

Dr. Ashton: They are doing a dock project and a Vulnerability Assessment down there with WHOI. WHOI got a grant from the State for it. They are planning a public session before June. WHG is already involved. We should get them to talk to us about it.

Mr. Dreyer: We are trying to consider town assets there.

Dr. Ashton: I'm suggesting that they get together with us. They want an event with several speakers for the public meeting.

Mr. McCaffrey: What about MBL? They are in a much more vulnerable position.

Mr. Dreyer: We need to be more engaged with them.

Ms. Lincoln: I'll try to get a contract signed before we meet again.

Mr. Dreyer presented articles from the Falmouth Enterprise written by Jeff Williams and Doug Brown. They are important people with voices in the community. We should be aware of the points that were made in them. We will have to address these points at Town meeting.

Review suggested recommendations for report to Board of Selectmen.

Mr. McCaffrey handed out an outline of the report to Selectmen.

Dr. Ashton: This is a great outline. I don't think we should overdo it. We should address the process but not overmuch. It should be about actions.

Mr. McCaffrey: This report has actions, but we have to give some background.

Ms. Lincoln: We can summarize the Vulnerability Assessment and then give actions.

Mr. McCaffrey: I want you to keep adding to this outline. Edit this with your ideas. When we go to actually complete the process it will contain all our ideas.

Mr. Dreyer: Will there be appendices?

Ms. Lincoln: Possibly the Vulnerability Assessment could be the appendices.

Mr. Dreyer: We could add an executive summary.

Mr. McCaffrey: I doubt we'll have time to do that.

Mr. Dreyer: We have to think about the figures. What is the format?

Mr. McCaffrey: The format could be put on 11x17 paper.

Ms. Lincoln: They will be looking for figures.

Dr. Ashton: The last study went from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Mr. McCaffrey: Parts of the last one will fit in different areas.

Ms. Lincoln: I would keep the report to policies, legal ideas and administrative actions.

Mr. McCaffrey: I listed recommendations from the Vulnerability Study. Each one will need a paragraph. We will use what they did.

Ms. Lincoln: Some of the laws that you are talking about are going to involve the State level.

Mr. McCaffrey: I met with the 300 Committee and reviewed with them what we have been doing. I did focus on transfer development and buying land that is not restrictive. Please add to my outline and send it to me so we can refine this at meetings.

Dr. Ashton: We are defining resiliency.

Mr. McCaffrey: In a multi-faceted approach.

Mr. Dreyer: What we have here should enter into the Selectmen's strategic planning session.

Town Meeting presentation on achievements.

Ms. Lincoln: You have to hammer on what the Committee has done in the past two years.

Mr. McCaffrey: We will be issuing our report within two months which will include short term and long term actions, etc.

Ms. Lincoln: You can highlight that the Town received almost \$1million dollars from the State in action grant funding because of what this Committee did by becoming an MVP Community. The Coonamisset River project is an MVP Action grant. Because we went through the MVP Vulnerability Assessment program all this has happened.

Dr. Ashton: I wonder what the contingency plans are for Town meeting.

Discuss potential MVP Action & CZM Coastal Resiliency grant ideas.

Ms. Lincoln: MVP announced their FY21 funding round and two additional grant opportunities. They will be released in late March or early April. For the southeast regions there will be a pre-application meeting on Wednesday April 1st at 3 p.m. in Lakeville. On Thursday, April 9th there will be an online Webinar.

Dr. Ashton: Is there an educational advantage or any advantage by going to a meeting.

Ms. Lincoln: If you can attend the online webinar it's very educational.

Mr. McCaffrey: What are the other two grant opportunities?

Ms. Lincoln: Coastal Resilience grants from CZM. Jen will forward the email to the Committee members.

Dr. Ashton: We should use the West Falmouth grant that was unsuccessful for one of these.

Mr. McCaffrey: If Amy Lowell is interested in the Trunk River project that could be a grant proposal.

Ms. Lincoln: I will have to have a meeting with Amy Lowell, Peter McConarty and Jim McLoughlin and talk to them about it. I will cc the front office.

Dr. Ashton: We can dust off the West Falmouth grant and re-apply.

Mr. McCaffrey: Yes. There is a national grant opportunity also. It would have to be more focused on a specific project – i.e. the bike path. I wouldn't have a problem with different variations of the same project and apply to two different grantors. We could do a quick pre-proposal on West Falmouth. We have enough material that we don't have to go crazy. We could do a modified version of it for MVP this year and then another version of it to the national one. Any other ideas?

Ms. Lincoln: It's a good idea to talk to Peter and Amy about Trunk River.

Mr. McCaffrey: What other ideas?

Mr. Dreyer: I think we have a good shot at presenting the one we didn't get last time.

Mr. McCaffrey: They were looking for it to have more action items.

Dr. Ashton: And to add some specifics – bike path, Old Silver Beach nourishment.

Mr. McCaffrey: It would be nice to follow up with one of the projects from the Vulnerability Assessment.

Ms. Lincoln: Amy will be coming to the Conservation Commission soon for a project.

VOTE MINUTES

2/25/2020

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

Dr. Ashton: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Unanimous, so moved.

Dr. Ashton: Move to adjourn.

Mr. Dreyer: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Unanimous, so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cronin, Recording Secretary