

The Coastal Resiliency Action Committee
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019
Old Water Department, Falmouth Town Hall, 4:00 p.m.

Present: Charles McCaffrey, Chair
Melissa Freitag, Vice-Chair
Jamie Mathews
Paul Dreyer
Ed Schmitt
Jennifer McKay, Conservation Commission Administrator

Absent: Andrew Ashton

Also present: Dennis Downey

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

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

Discuss Vulnerability Assessment

Ms. McKay announced that there is a Coastal Resiliency meeting on March 22nd at the Barnstable County complex from 10 – Noon and another one on April 3rd at the Wareham Public Library from 10 – 12 also. CZM is offering them. They will go over specific criteria re grants. They have tightened it up this year. Towns are able to apply for a planning grant and a vulnerability grant. Towns have not been able to do that before. Falmouth has already been through the MVP program. Ms. McKay will send out letters to the various Town Departments re their choice of projects. Woods Hole Group is coming to our meeting on March 26th. Elise LeDuc is having a difficult time getting information from some of the departments. They need to go out and survey. WHG is a little behind in the Vulnerability Assessment deadline, but they hope to make up some time. Elise and Kirk Bozma will brainstorm ideas for Action Grants. It is felt that the Committee was too ambitious in the grant application last time. The Committee should definitely submit a grant to each program. The proposed funding amounts to about 2.4 million dollars. Projects with nature based solutions will receive higher scores. Enhancement of natural systems could include sediment solutions. A sediment study should be done first so we know what's inhibiting it, etc. CZM will be more interested in a sediment study than will the MVP program. Andrew and Charlie will work on the study and piece it together along the entire coast. The Selectmen voted on allowing groins. A presentation was given to the Selectmen advocating for one alternative over another without the regulatory boards having the opportunity to do their jobs. The job of this Committee is to advise the Selectmen. A question arose as to why the Town is restricted from putting sand on Menauhant Beach. Ms. McKay explained why.

When the Town nourished Menauhant Beach several years ago there was concern from ConCom, DNR and residents of the Bournes Pond area that the amount of sediment being placed on the beach would affect Bournes Pond by choking off the entrance to the Pond and it did. North of the bridge had never had to be dredged before. When the Town consolidated all of the

dredging projects under a 10 year permit ConCom at that time said you cannot nourish the west side of Menauhant Beach until ConCom could evaluate the damage to Bourne Pond. The restriction is still current today at least until they implement the larger Menauhant bridge project. The dredge soils from that project will be put on Menauhant Beach. When the bridge project is done the restriction will go away. 2 groins are being extended a little. Menauhant Beach west has underwater groins that we could talk to John Ramsey about removing. The Menauhant Beach study didn't fully address what we were looking for. ConCom has not seen the design aspect on it yet. DPW will be coming back before the Board to address the need for amending the dredge permit for Menuahant Beach because we are at risk of losing the parking lot. ConCom is working with the DPW re the parking lot. It was noted that the 10 year dredge program is up next year and ConCom will give them an extension. The permit is under the Harbormaster. . All parties are aware of the problem. There will be a one-time application for nourishment. It could be at least the fall before the nourishment is done.

Ms. Freitag read proposal # 8 from the Coastal Resiliency Working Group study re sediment and #13 re properties. The idea of removing a groin or two at this time is not feasible. It's important, however, that the Town become politically aware of the idea of it. CZM did an inventory of all the coastal structures in Falmouth a few years ago. In the sediment study we could identify structures, i.e groins that are Town owned that could be looked at for removal. This could be tied into one of the tasks in the sediment study. There are a lot of underwater groins in Menauhant Beach west but the Committee would have to know if they are licensed and by whom, etc. A project has to be close to shovel ready and the Committee is not there yet. We have to see what would happen before removing anything. We have no study. No professional recommendations. We can't proceed with removing these with these grants. We can't proceed with the purchase of properties at this time. Ms. McKay stated that the only property for sale was one on Drift Road that was already protected by a Conservation Restriction. The Committee can look at Town owned properties for possible removal of groins.

It was noted that there is barely five weeks until the request for responses for the grant is due. Mr. McCaffrey will talk with Mr. Ashton about drafting an RFP. The sediment study is a priority in the MVP plan. We can beef up the original grant request and get WHG's input also. The Trunk River feasibility project is also a possibility, as are Numbers 1 and 3 in the CRWG study. It was agreed to invite Peter McConarty to the meeting with WHG on the 26th. Ms. Freitag will write up a paragraph re Trunk River that will be available for the next meeting. She will have a draft tomorrow. The Committee will need permission from the Board of Selectmen to apply for these grants. It was agreed to meet with the technical people and not the finance people first. Mr. McCaffrey will type up some questions that we want to ask WHG and get it out to the Committee for additions, etc.

VOTE MINUTES

2/26/ 2019

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

Mr. Mathews: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Unanimous, so moved.

Mr. Dreyer: Move to adjourn.

Mr. Schmitt: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Unanimous, so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cronin, Recording Secretary

OTHER BUSINESS

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

By Order of: Charles McCaffrey, Chair
Coastal Resiliency Action Committee