

The Coastal Resiliency Action Committee
MEETING – MINUTES - TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019
Old Water Department, First Floor Falmouth Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Jamie Mathews

Mr. McCaffrey opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. McCaffrey spoke with Elise LeDuc (WHG) and they are prepared to do the application for the Action Grant using the Implementation Plan Pathways model. The value of the natural features needs to be addressed as well as the resiliency of the area. It will tell us how this model works in getting practical assessments. Should we go as far as Fresh River? We are looking at multiple options and different scenarios for Surf Drive. The goal is to get the word out to start the Town thinking about it. The application will be based on four previous studies. Should it go from Trunk River to Mill Road or to Shore St? Since Surf Drive is probably the evacuation route, the study should go all the way to Shore St. It should be inclusive about the whole area. The assumption is to cover the whole area, but not at this time – just looking at Surf Drive now. It was suggested to include the Mitchell Bathhouse that is Town property and part of our assignment is to look at Town property. A question arose as to how we can protect something that's not part of our study? Our study is about moving Town shore roads and if we're looking at Surf Drive we have to look at all of it. The study is telling us what areas will be permanently inundated. A concern is that Surf Drive will be gone before it's permanently inundated. It's expected that the vulnerability study will have several ideas about coastal resiliency through 2100. This approach looks at adaptation over 100 years. If we get hit by a storm and we lose part of Surf Drive or the bathhouse – won't we look kind of stupid? Would it be an abdication of our duties? The study will give us options but right now we're limited to the roadway. We're not going to get back to Shore St in the future. Just east of Shore St. are some beautiful homes that will be affected by what we do there. (The four members of the Board were polled – Ashton and Freitag want to go to Shore St.; McCaffrey and Dreyer want to go to Mill Road). A question arose about if we are going that far, maybe we should go to the harbor. The study will reflect the full extent of the flooding until 2070. Our task is to make the Town more resilient. The Town is paying for a vulnerability assessment for 2030 to 2070 to 2100. We need suggestions as to what we're going to do if we have a hurricane next year and the bathhouse is destroyed. What will we do? All members agreed to go to Shore St. It was stated that Surf Drive is important. When the study gives the possible scenarios we can show them to the Selectmen and ask which one they would like us to pursue.

A question arose re culverts and whether they would be part of the study. The answer is no.

Ms. Freitag: Move to look at culverts.

Mr. Ashton: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Unanimous, so moved.

There is no budget at this time. It was agreed that the Committee is not analyzing options for the inland from Trunk River to Shore St., but just looking at Town assets and natural features.

Discuss potential CZM Coastal Resiliency Grant

A discussion followed on the Park Road culverts possible grant.

Ms. McKay noted that Amy Lowell (Wastewater Superintendent) hasn't had time to discuss this with the DPW yet. She is still in the planning process. The Committee met with Betsy Gladfelter who has prepared a grant (for the Coonamessett River project) that fits into the MVP plan and is shovel ready to begin work in June. The project is to be concluded by 2020. The Committee will submit those two grants under the MVP program. CZM is receptive to the sediment plan. Ms. McKay is planning to attend the CZM meeting tomorrow and can broach that subject with the CZM representative to see if they are receptive to the idea. Mr. Ashton has agreed to do some writing on that. It was asked if the \$100,000 in our budget should be used as leverage or we should throw it all into one grant. It was suggested that the Committee wait and see what budget numbers come back for the MVP. We're up against a tight timeline and it may have to be put out to bid. Ms. McKay will check on that. She will also bring some ideas re future grant possibilities to the CZM meeting tomorrow.

Ms. McKay: Do you want to put in a sediment type budget? What do you want to know?

Mr. McCaffrey: We want to know how we can protect our beaches in the long term; reduce impediments to sand flowing to beaches; sources of sediment; how to achieve a more healthy shoreline; a focus on beaches and the role of sediment in how wetlands respond to sea level rise.

Ms. McKay: Don't make it too large.

Mr. McCaffrey: What is the role of sediment overwash?

Ms. Freitag: We need a holistic plan. We should focus on public beaches first.

Mr. McCaffrey: Or beach landforms,

Mr. Ashton: We have to think about the bluffs.

Ms. Freitag: And talk about the armoring issue.

Mr. Dreyer: Do we limit the ability to nourish beaches?

Ms. McKay: We nourish the beaches, but are we using our resources to the best effect? Who makes the decision to beach nourish and which beach? We need "best practices" for beach nourishment. How are we currently using our beach nourishment and is it the most effective way?

Ms. McKay will bring the idea to CZM and see what they say.

Mr. McCaffrey: The grant we proposed last year had that section on sediment that Andrew can expand on.

Mr. Ashton: Is this also a one year grant?

Mr. McCaffrey: Yes. CZM plans to announce the grants in the middle of the month.

Discuss Town Meeting presentation.

Mr. McCaffrey: This should not be a major presentation. Just who we are and what our charge is.

VOTE MINUTES

3/12/2019

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

Ms. Freitag: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Unanimous, so moved.

March 26, 2019

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

Ms. Freitag: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Unanimous, so moved.

Mr. Dreyer: Move to adjourn.

Mr. Ashton: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Unanimous, so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 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