

The Coastal Resiliency Action Committee
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020, 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 July 28, 2020 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.falmouthmass.us/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
Andrew Ashton
Paul Dreyer
Ed Schmitt
Jennifer Lincoln, Conservation Commission Administrator

Mr. McCaffrey opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Discussion of the Surf Drive Study Task 2 memo, Phasing and Implementation Plan.

Mr. McCaffrey: The meeting with Elise LeDuc, Woods Hole Group (WHG), went well. Elise was very clear in discussing what is in the report. There are some pieces missing that we should have received by now. We discussed the timing of the final draft and when the public meetings should occur. We should have the complete draft by the 3rd week in August and the final report

in September. The report is very thorough with the focus on flooding as the major concern. But it doesn't look at storms or erosion and their effects. Essentially – it's still about water.

Mr. Ashton: I didn't get the extra material.

Ms. Lincoln: I emailed it to you this morning.

Ms. Freitag: I didn't get it either.

Ms. Lincoln: I sent the Task memo 2 on July 16th at 1:45 p.m.

Mr. McCaffrey: We can't discuss it unless everyone has it. It's important so Elise can keep moving forward. She wants comments on the report to her as soon as possible. You can send your comments to Jen and I and we will combine them and forward them to Elise. If you have any comments now please respond now.

Mr. Ashton: Are we talking about Task 1 or 2?

Ms. Lincoln: Task 2. I put it on the web now.

Mr. Ashton: I know WHG's method. They didn't address erosion very much. I recommend that they show historical drawings. Surf Drive was 100-ft offshore years ago. Now it isn't. Our plan needs to be ready for these things.

Mr. McCaffrey: One of the scenarios on the report is that a barrier beach returns to a natural state. For instance: building a bridge/causeway to Trunk River will allow the beach to respond naturally. But will the rate of sea level rise allow it to or will it overwhelm it. Maintaining a natural barrier may require assistance if overwhelmed.

Ms. Freitag: The spreadsheet we received shows the costs for nourishment. Is this a one-time cost or every year cost?

Mr. McCaffrey: There is no feedback on that. When nourishment is used it has to be continual to maintain a beach.

Mr. Ashton: I do not have the Excel document.

Ms. Lincoln: I will send it to you now.

Mr. Ashton: Please send it to Steve also.

Mr. McCaffrey: There are two separate areas – the barrier beach from Mill Road west has a variety of options; the area from Mill Pond east has neighborhoods to protect. They are two separate areas to some extent. The option may be natural to the west and protective to the east.

Mr. Ashton: A scenario that should still be worked on is the effects of sea level rise and storm events for planning purposes.

Mr. Dreyer: Re Surf Drive – how are we proposing to work with private beaches as opposed to public beaches?

Mr. McCaffrey: The Town could consider condemning the property and taking it.

Mr. Dreyer: The Town can't nourish private beaches.

Mr. McCaffrey: We want barrier beaches to roll over and move inland. We could build a seawall or elevate the road 16-ft and there could be no beach on the sound. We have to let it respond naturally. We could make the road a causeway or abandon it. Abandoning the road and allowing it to respond naturally and/or the causeway could be beyond 2070. We have to know the best way to proceed. Read the report, jot down your reactions and any other questions you may have. Jen and I will compile them and send them to Elise.

Mr. Schmitt: When should we have that done?

Mr. McCaffrey: Get it to Jen by a week from Friday – August 7th.

Ms. Freitag: I have a question on reactions. Private beaches and actions – naturally managed, then retreat, then back to natural. Should we be acting now on beach nourishment? We won't be

able to do anything for a good 20 years. Is the scale accurate? 8.5 seems further spread out like we have plenty of time.

Mr. Ashton: It means we have to make more decisions by 2100.

Ms. Freitag: 2030 decisions seem a little late.

Mr. Ashton: We have more time before we make those decisions.

Mr. Dreyer to Ms. Lincoln: What is your concern about nourishing private property? We may have legal issues?

Ms. Lincoln: You have to have a buy in from the owners. If we explain to them that nourishing your beach will help to save your house, it should be no problem.

Mr. McCaffrey: What about getting the public access to nourish the beaches?

Ms. Lincoln: That's a legal issue.

Mr. Schmitt: WHG has been very involved in this type of thing in Sandwich. They could help us with it.

Mr. McCaffrey: Some of the homeowners in Sandwich wouldn't agree to have their beaches nourished.

Ms. Lincoln: I think that was because the Army Corps of Engineers was involved in putting spoils on their beaches. That would require public access to their beaches in perpetuity because Federal monies were being spent on the project.

Mr. Ashton: Yes. If we were to do a big project it would be nice to have Federal dollars to do it.

Mr. McCaffrey: This report won't resolve that but we have to bring it up to WHG.

Mr. Ashton: The plan talks about the abandonment of the cabanas on Surf Drive.

Mr. McCaffrey: That is one of the issues we have to frame and come up with an action on our own.

Mr. Ashton: It's like the Planning Board re-imagining downtown Falmouth. The report did mention moving the bike path to Oyster Pond.

Mr. McCaffrey: We are ahead of one recommendation: moving the sewer at Trunk River.

Ms. Freitag: I see small numbers with turning the bike path into a dock option. It's not so expensive.

Mr. McCaffrey: Take a close look at the study and provide your comments to us by August 7th. We may have public comments in a virtual way by the end of August and October. Or should we put it off until 2021?

Ms. Lincoln: We'll have a draft report in August to help with your report to the Select Board.

Mr. McCaffrey: We'll have the draft report reflecting our comments by the end of August and the final report later – end of September to allow for public comment. The public comment will not be in lieu of public engagement.

Ms. Lincoln: We can't have public outreach in the true sense.

Mr. McCaffrey to Ms. Freitag: Did you find out anything about ? (audio problem)

Ms. Freitag: He does provide coastal resiliency financing.

Mr. Mathews: Is that the same gentleman you sent a link to us about?

Ms. Freitag: No. He has a lot of information online.

Mr. Ashton: You should send that to the Steering Committee. There could be problems with Zoom and public outreach, but we should do something before we get the final draft. We have to assume that we can't get 100 people in a room for a long time. Maybe we could do it through Zoom in the early fall and get more feedback from the public.

Ms. Lincoln: Would you want Elise to do a story board like she did at the last meeting? There was a lot of positive feedback with that. Or would you just like a presentation?

Mr. McCaffrey: The permutations in the study are good but may be too much for the general public. A story board would be better – not an actual presentation. She should simplify the options.

Mr. Ashton: She could introduce concepts and then recommend a plan.

Ms. Freitag: If we could look at it online that would be helpful. If we have a draft copy we could clearly mark it.

Mr. Dreyer: Could private citizens listen in?

Ms. Lincoln: I would have to check with Irie about that. (Asst. Town Counsel)

Mr. Dreyer: What if I called in and didn't participate?

Ms. Lincoln: Even if you weren't in the meeting it would be a quorum. We want some sort of Zoom public outreach early in September.

Mr. Ashton: Yes, waiting is not good.

Ms. Lincoln: I'm with you on that. It would not be difficult to set up and provide a link to it. Elise could do a story board presentation and there could be a link to a survey on line. Actual public outreach is not going to happen for quite awhile.

Mr. Mathews: The presentation could be online and we could get comments ahead of time.

Ms. Freitag: It could be recorded. It doesn't have to be on Zoom. We could give a five minute summary to Town Meeting – whenever it is.

Ms. Lincoln: I don't think so. When we have another Town Meeting the Select Board would want to get through it as quickly as possible.

Report Outline and ongoing discussions.

Mr. McCaffrey: It's clear that there are a lot of legal questions that need to be answered – private property and nourishment and erosion and taking. There may be circumstances under which the Town can condemn a road because it can't be fixed but leads to homes. I'll look into that. Melissa will be describing the economic environment in which these decisions will have to be made, including the changing economies and how that will affect decisions.

Ms. Freitag: We won't know that until November 4th.

Mr. McCaffrey: We need a report on how you're working on your assignments.

Ms. Lincoln: Re the public outreach – story board or UTube video?

Mr. Mathews: It should be both. Have a UTube of the draft report available – the public can make comments – then have a Zoom meeting. A mixture of both is good.

Ms. Lincoln: Town management is concerned that a percentage of the population is not Zoom capable. They want a hybrid model.

Mr. Ashton: It could be on FCTV too.

Ms. Lincoln: We could do that.

Mr. McCaffrey: Another point – convey to the public that any decisions based on the study will have to be repeated at least 12 more times for a unified response. Does anyone have anything to add re the draft elements?

Mr. Mathews: The education side includes information about the meetings – really what we've just discussed.

Mr. McCaffrey to Ms. Lincoln: I'd like to talk to you and the Building Inspector re how things are being done right now.

Ms. Freitag: I have been working on a boiler plate and researching points A-F. Should I go through all 13 neighborhoods?

Mr. McCaffrey: Only what WHG is doing for us.

Ms. Freitag: Should I refer to an Appendix?

Mr. McCaffrey: Summarize.

Ms. Freitag: I rearranged the order of A-F that makes more sense to me.

Mr. McCaffrey: Send it to me.

VOTE MINUTES

7/14/2020

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

Mr. Ashton: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Melissa Freitag, aye; Jamie Mathews, aye; Andrew Ashton, aye; Paul Dreyer, aye.; Ed Schmitt, aye, Charles McCaffrey, aye. Unanimous, so moved.

Ms. Freitag: Is there a video of this meeting?

Ms. Lincoln: Yes, it's somewhere in the cloud. I'm not sure what they're doing with the meetings. I will check on that.

Mr. Mathews: Move to adjourn.

Mr. Ashton: Second.

Mr. McCaffrey: Melissa Freitag, aye; Jamie Mathews, aye; Andrew Ashton, aye; Paul Dreyer; aye; Ed Schmitt, aye, Charles McCaffrey, aye. Unanimous, so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cronin, Recording Secretary