

Coastal Advisory Commission Minutes - October 27, 2020

Meeting was called to order with a quorum established at 6:00 p.m. by Louise Pfund Villani, Chair.

Present were Kyle Boyd, Coastal Management Officer, Louise Pfund Villani, Chair, Lynda Murray Harding, Jon Grant, Frank Snow, Steven Tripp, Karen Connelly, Selectman, Kevin Cafferty, DPW, Jim Canavan, Maura Curran, Selectman.

Guests: W. Graham, S. Rosen, G. Simmons

Louise addressed the challenges COVID placed on our aim to provide information to the public and engage in public forums. She stated we should define goals going forward centering on communication, education and engaging with the public. Ideas discussed were using our website page more effectively with two-way communication, inserts in standard town mailing for important information and focusing on two or three topics for future meetings that will address ongoing input from residents and our priorities.

Several residents (prior to and at the meeting) have requested we provide a summary of recommendations from the recent studies and projects (Harbor, Vision, 2016 Coastal Erosion, etc) and sponsor a dialogue to gain input and determine priorities moving forward. This will be looked at for a future meeting.

Another idea suggested sponsoring an educational meeting on the ins and outs of understanding what coastal residents can do to protect their properties while adhering to Conservation and state guidelines. A session could be planned with an overview on this and specifics on permitting, applications (such as Notice of Intent, what and when to use), etc. Frank Snow, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, suggested this would be a helpful workshop and would talk to Amy Walkey, Conservation agent about this. The CAC could help plan this forum for a future session.

Kyle provided input on the denial of the grant for the Vision Implementation plan. This grant was a follow-up to the 50 Year Coastal Vision project recently concluded where we had significant community participation. The feedback was very disappointing as we expected to receive this grant, based on the CBI, CZM and town dialogues. CZM (lead on the grant process) stated that we should focus more on the recommendations of the 2016 Coastal Erosion study for our next steps.

Kyle also reported on his ongoing work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan which he spearheads for the town. This plan is a crucial prerequisite to FEMA and other funding and our CRS (Community Rating System) status. Many groups and departments have participated in the plan: Fire, DPW, Police, Planning Board, residents, businesses developers, environmental groups, non-profits, academia, housing, public health, and conservation. Kyle is in need of the following representatives: A developer/contactor; a non-profit from related field; a representative from Academia. Gaining input and perspectives from many disciplines will enhance the plan. A kickoff meeting is planned.

Kyle also discussed how the Town of Scituate's 5 Year Cycle Visit for CRS will be held next week. This review measures how well the town is implementing all the various mitigation measures recommended in previous studies. He discussed the various elements required as part of the submittal including elevation certificates, flood mapping, open space inventory, storm water regulations, building regulations, as well as additional elements. He indicated the submittal is important in the Town's residents receiving a maximum discount on their flood insurance policies.

Future priorities for Kyle will focus on research and education on Buy Back programs to residents as the current programs could be improved from a time efficiency standpoint. Residents currently avoid pursuing buy backs due to the processes time duration.

Kevin Cafferty updated us on the 3rd Cliff project (funding approved) and plan is under development with Army Corp of Engineers; Oceanside Phase 4 underway; No. Scituate beach nourishment funding needed/already permitted; Egypt Beach Mann Hill project recently complete. The Egypt Beach project was met with community resistance and reinforced our perspective that proactive communication needs to be a priority with residents so they understand the goals and benefits of such projects.

Communication feedback is a common theme: Steven Tripp feels that the summer residents of the town don't get sufficient notices. Louise reviewed our efforts last year to reach these residents. Kyle worked with the town assessor to gain a mailing list of secondary addresses for Scituate residents and the CAC, along with CBI created a postcard that was mailed out providing specific information on upcoming Vision and other events. More importantly, it told residents how to sign up on the town's website to receive town emails to stay informed.

In order to plan a forum on summary recommendations from recent project and/or a review of Conservation guidelines as previously cited, work sessions to develop these will be required. This will be a great opportunity for CAC members to contribute.

Our next meeting dates that Louse has proposed are either November 24 or December 8th. This was not decided last night.

Our meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Murray
Secretary