Minutes of Coastal Advisory Commission meeting 23 May 2017

NOAA, 175 Edward Foster Road, Scituate, MA.

Meeting was called to order with a quorum established at 6:05 by Keith Jansen, Chair. Present were Nancy Durfee, Thomas Hall, Keith Jansen, Rebecca Haney, Frank Snow, Richard Harding, Kevin Cafferty, and Maura Curran.

Nancy discussed her updates to the Agenda which were accepted. A motion to approve the minutes from 4/11/17 and 11/22/16 was made by Keith, and seconded by Tom, and approved by the Commission. The next meeting was set for 13 June 6pm at NOAA, Scituate, MA.

At 6:25 we discussed the Coastal Erosion, Sediment Transport, and Prioritization Management Strategy Assessment for Shoreline Protection Scituate, Massachusetts prepared August 2016 by Applied Coastal Research and Engineering, Inc. 766 Falmouth Road, Suite A1 Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649:

* Nancy called for prioritization of the project, and focus on what to do first. She stressed how proud she was of the hard work done by many people to produce this report. She provided an update on the key ongoing projects in Oceanside, Humarock, and Minot, and commended those involved.
* Tom discussed the breadth of the report, high cost of the projects, and need to establish guidelines on what funds could be available, to guide the prioritization.
* Brenda Hunt, from Peggotty Beach, suggested it was odd Peggotty Beach was not considered a priority, especially since the damage was caused by manmade changes on 2nd and 3rd cliff. She is not in favor of managed retreat.
* Kevin Cafferty clarified that if the drainage in 3rd Cliff Gilson Road was vastly improved, it would address some of the flooding on Peggotty Beach.
* Dave Ball of Cedar Point commented that managed retreat was “giving up.” He stressed the risk to Scituate Harbor, should Peggotty beach suffer a massive failure, is significant. Dave also suggested that the cost of a managed retreat might be more expensive than some other potential solutions.
* Fred Dorr discussed the WADs, of which he is their business representative. He mentioned a proof of concept could be established by the Army Corp of Engineers off Scituate for $1million. No funding source for that $1million has been established, though Fred thought Jim Cantwell’s office may be of assistance.
* Richard Harding suggested we form a committee to review alternative forms of shore protection such as WADs, and make a recommendation to the Commission.
* Rebecca Haney clarified that the town-wide study conducted by Applied Coastal Research and Engineering Inc. did consider alternative forms of shore protection and did recommend some innovative options for Scituate.
* Don Hourihan asked for clarification of the quantity expected for nourishment.
* Rebecca Haney clarified that North Humarock study differs from the Peggotty Beach study.

At 6:55 Nancy Durfee provided additional updates to the project in the South River, which is awaiting further analysis. Nancy updated the group that the North Scituate Beach nourishment project for which permitting is almost complete. Sand could potentially come from Portsmouth, NH. The Town is in the process of submitting a grant application for the CZM Coastal Resiliency Grant for continued progress dune nourishment and roadway elevation on north Humarock. Rebecca Haney mentioned that the RFP was out, but asked that discussion on that RFP be closed, as she cannot discuss the open solicitation for proposals. Kevin updated the group on the progress of the Oceanside seawall which will meet his 1 July funding goal. General comments include:

* Don Hourihan asked about the dredging and clarified it is a maintenance project
* Lisa Caisse mentioned her issues with the beach being public, especially with public partying. She requested additional ‘no parking’ signs
* Maura Curran suggested that Lisa and others call the police if there is a public disturbance
* Frank Snow suggested the focus of the group should be on fixing the beaches, not trespassing

At 7:15 we discussed several new business items. On 6 June there will be a public meeting, and the police have been invited to clarify beach control issues. Dave Ball suggested that the public be informed of this meeting in a timely fashion so they have a voice, to discuss properly. Lisa Caisse asked if these Commission meeting could be shown on TV, as the Selectman’s meeting is; Maura suggested it was a resource issue and could not be done easily. Don Hourihan suggested private citizens be allowed to build their own seawalls, if the town provides the standards. Frank mentioned that would not work. Nancy updated the group on a volunteers from the 4th grade who helped her on Peggotty Beach with plantings of American beach grass which is an effective method of holding the dune in place.

At 7:30 Keith updated the group on the 20 June meeting with the Selectman, where he will deliver an update on the Commission’s work, especially the prioritization of the beach protection projects. He asked the other Commission members inform the Chair soon of their intentions to stay on or not. He mentioned the need to staff four sub-committees, Science, Community Communications, Finance, and Government Relations. Tom suggested the Communications Sub-Committee also address the website, which was handled by Tim, who has left the Commission. Nancy suggested that adding more committees would add too much additional work to full time staff, if they are asked to participate. Keith added new correspondence from the Coastal Coalition to our minutes and stressed the need to work together.

A call to adjourn the meeting was proposed by Keith and seconded by Tom. Meeting adjourned at 7:53.