Minutes of Coastal Advisory Commission meeting 16 April 2019

Meeting was called to order with a quorum established at 6:05 p.m. by Louise Pfund, Chair.

Present were Kyle Boyd, Coastal Management Officer, Chief John Murphy, Louise Pfund, Lynda Murray Harding, Tom Hall, Jon Grant. We were joined by Dave Ball of the Coastal Coalition and Don Ernst.

Louise introduced Jon Grant (2019 new member) and spoke of his extensive experience in coastal engineering, environmental science and related fields and how his expertise will greatly help the Committee. Jon provided a brief description of his background, education and the projects that he has worked in previous locations. Additionally, he provided his ideas of work that can be addressed and suggested approaches he has used in the past to help us better educate and relay our ideas and goals to the residents of Scituate.

Louise also refreshed our discussions of goals we decided upon at the last meeting. We need people who are committed and can attend regularly so we can achieve our goals. She reiterated that we should all review the reports which Kyle has provided in summary form. (ADDED post meeting: We will be posting at least two new openings for the CAC in the upcoming communication from the Town.)

Kyle reported that he met with Representative Patrick Kearney and they had a lively and informative discussion on the coast! Kyle believes Rep. Kearney will be a great advocate for coastal issues and looks forward to working with us.

Minutes from our last meeting were discussed and approved.

A discussion ensued regarding our primary goals of engaging the community for education and dialogue. The suggested time for this meeting is June 27 (to include the summer residents of the beach areas). We will focus on a brief overview of the realities of sea level rise, work, grants, and studies done by the Town to date and then present the many grants and projects currently underway. We will present opportunities to get involved and allot time for community input. This fulfills our original goal of addressing the "Community Assessment" findings done last summer. (Recommendation #2 in that report).

We will hold off on planning a forum on managed retreat but hope to do that as part of a further session with the public.

We agreed to initiate our goal of inviting several residents from specific areas of town to attend our meetings to gather input on coastal observations and concerns. We will partner with Dave Ball, Chair of the Coastal Coalition to reach out to members from the various beach associations. We will include a group from the Harbor Business Association. We will allot the first section of each meeting to this endeavor.

Don Ernst gave us some ideas of how his company handled areas of contention with residents and what worked for them.

Kyle Boyd gave a report of what the town is working on for grants; spoke of projects that need attention; and spoke about all the reports and grants that need to be sought after in the short term. He also gave us an update of money that has been approved and how it will be used. He provided handouts on all of the above that we should all review carefully.

Chief John Murphy spoke and gave a detailed report of projects that are in the works. He also spoke of projects that have been completed. He offered ideas and thoughts regarding our upcoming community meeting and we once again discussed the challenge (and importance) of easements.

Louise spoke about the need to present a report or update to the Board of Selectman. A date for this report, and the logistics to accomplish it will be part of future meetings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 14th.

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted.