

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**MADISON COASTAL RESILIENCY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Jan. 13, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Madison Coastal Resiliency Commission was conducted Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021, at 7 p.m., in a public format, through a Zoom Online Webinar, with Public Participation made available through a publicly posted webinar link and password, as well as a call-in telephone number, with a webinar identification number.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Henry Maguire and Commissioners Graham Curtis, Woodie Weiss, Joseph Maco, Robert Sonnischsen, Wayne Rigney, Walter Welsh, David Clark, William Gladstone, Shannon Lewis, and Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Clayton Patterson, Marilyn Shaw, Anthony Doina, April Allen, Timothy Casey, Fred More, Elaine Stangland, and Gregory Makoul.

OTHERS PRESENT

Selectman Al Goldberg.

The regular meeting of the Madison Coastal Resiliency Commission was called to order at approximately 7 p.m. by Chairman Henry Maguire.

Call meeting to order. Chairman Henry Maguire called the meeting to order and welcomed new Commissioner Shannon Lewis.

Review and approve Dec. 9, 2020 minutes: Commissioners reviewed the Dec. 9, 2020 minutes and were in favor of approving them with no changes and as submitted.

Update on Flood Plain Ordinance.

Chairman Maguire stated that the Board of Selectmen has not yet acted on it. Plans are to meet with First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, with Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson, and Commissioners Woodie Weiss and Walter Welsh on Jan. 21, 2021. Chairman Maguire, who will also attend the meeting, stated that he is hopeful the town engineer and the town building official will attend the meeting to voice their thoughts. Commissioner Robert Sonnischsen stated that he has sent Commissioner Welsh a couple of maps detailing wave action that exists all along the shoreline, and they show structures that would be included in the Base Flood Elevation Plus 2 Feet (BFE+2'); there are over 100 of these structures, but less than 200, with 22 on Garnet Park Road, a handful on Neck Road, and many along West Wharf Road to Seaview Avenue. These are the most valuable properties in town, Commissioner Sonnischsen stated. Mr. Anderson stated that someone should obtain the Grand List value of the properties. He asked Commissioner Welsh to send the maps to him, so that he could send them to the commissioners.

Discussion regarding the general scope of the RFP for assistance in drafting an updated Coastal Resilience Master Plan.

The Coastal Resilience Master Plan was created in 2016, and discussion focused on the general scope of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for assistance in drafting an updated plan. The Water Pollution
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Control Authority (WPCA) has talked to the commission, in the past, about joining forces to ensure septic systems are protected, in the event of sea level rise, according to Mr. Anderson. The WPCA wants to do a comprehensive wastewater study, but it is unclear when funding will be available to the authority. Mr. Anderson asked whether the Coastal Resiliency Commission is trying to bite off too much on the 2016 master plan, and, perhaps, it should consider rephrasing it as a five-year review of the plan, so the focus could then be on diving into the projects the commission wants the Board of Selectmen to fund in five, 10, and 15 year increments. Once the WPCA finishes its comprehensive wastewater study, the Coastal Resiliency Commission might be ready for a more comprehensive master plan, perhaps in 2026, according to Mr. Anderson. Commissioner Graham Curtis stated that he believes that makes a lot of sense, this limited scope type of document, which then could be tightened up, adding that the commission knows where the projects are, between 2020 to 2025, on the municipal side. Mr. Anderson asked whether budgeting level figures of costs could be received—if cost estimates closer to reality could be obtained from the consultant. For more precise numbers, the commission would have to spend a little more time, doing it selectively, with a little more digging, according to Commissioner Curtis. Costs better than guesses would give an order of magnitude, according to Commissioner David Clark. The Coastal Resiliency Commission has been operating under the assumption that it would create a comprehensive rewrite of the Coastal Resilience Master Plan, but Mr. Anderson stated that he is suggesting pushing the comprehensive rewrite to include the WPCA. The current WPCA wastewater study dates back to 1987, Commissioner Curtis stated. The WPCA comprehensive wastewater study is a \$200,000 analysis of the entire town, and it is reimbursable by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Mr. Anderson stated. The study looks at all areas of town to ensure that onsite septic systems remain the best choice for the town, according to Mr. Anderson. Plans were made to reach out to the firm that served as the consultant on the 2016 Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, and Mr. Anderson stated that he and Commissioner Curtis could make that call; Chairman Maguire stated that he would like to be a part of that call, as well. Mr. Anderson asked if the restoration of sand at the town's beaches should be a long term plan, if it should be incorporated into this phase of the plan, or if it should be a separate project. Commissioner Curtis plans to seek further information on sand mitigation, and perhaps invite someone to a Coastal Resiliency Commission meeting to outline what is involved in such a town wide project. In terms of local property protections regarding sea level rise, Commissioner Sonnischsen stated that a section of the Coastal Area Management Act (CAM) has been changed to discourage any works of improvement on private properties that would protect them from flooding or coastal erosion, and this is an area that could be examined by the commission's policy subcommittee. As an example, CAM states that the height of a seawall cannot be increased; private property owners cannot improve their protection, and that is something the Coastal Resiliency Commission should be concerned about; people need to be able to protect themselves, and CAM is working against that, according to Commissioner Sonnischsen. The state modified the CAM several years ago; a flood and erosion control project can be done by a municipality, but it cannot be done of private residences, unless those houses are in imminent danger of falling into the ocean, Commissioner Sonnischsen stated. It is both a regulation and a state statute, he stated. Chairman Maguire stated that he spoke to Madison's new State Rep. John Michael Parker, who is interested in what the Coastal Resiliency Commission is doing and who offered the commission his assistance; he also offered to come to speak to the commission. Mr. Anderson stated that he has a call scheduled with State Rep. Parker; since the Council of Small Towns is pushing for money for resiliency projects, Mr. Anderson stated that he forwarded that document to him. State Sen. Christine Cohen is definitely tapped into this topic, as well, Mr. Anderson stated. Commissioner Sonnischsen stated that he will give Mr. Anderson a wealth of documents related to flood and erosion control and CAM.

Discussion of committee/subcommittee progress and next steps.

Technical Subcommittee: Mr. Anderson stated that Scot Erskine is coordinating with the engineering
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company on options for Graham Point; there are three choices: revetment rock stone, sheet pile wall, and concrete wall. Policy Subcommittee: Flood Plain Ordinance has been updated. Communications Subcommittee: Once the Board of Selectmen approves the Flood Plain Ordinance, the communications subcommittee will step in to assist, Commissioner Welsh stated.

General Discussion. None.

Adjourn. The Coastal Resiliency Commission agreed to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene H. Kennedy, clerk