

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**MADISON COASTAL RESILIENCY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Feb. 12, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Madison Coastal Resiliency Commission was conducted Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020, at 7 p.m., in Meeting Room A at Madison Town Campus.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Henry Maguire and Commissioners David Clark, Graham Curtis, Woodie Weiss, Walter Welsh, Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson, Mary Barnaby, Joseph Maco, Robert Sonnischsen, Clayton Patterson, Timothy Casey, and April Allen.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anthony Doina, Wayne Rigney, William Gladstone, Elaine Stangland, Marilyn Shaw, Fred More, and Gregory Makoul.

OTHERS PRESENT

Board of Selectmen Liaison Selectman Al Goldberg.

The regular meeting of the Madison Coastal Resiliency Commission was called to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Henry Maguire.

Approval of minutes from prior meetings. October 22, 2019, November 9, 2019, December 11, 2019, and January 8, 2020.

Commissioner Mary Barnaby made the motion to approve the minutes of Oct. 22, 2019, Nov. 9, 2019, Dec. 11, 2019, and Jan. 8, 2020, as submitted; it was seconded by Commissioner April Allen and unanimously approved.

Vote to approve the Oct. 22, 2019, Nov. 9, 2019, Dec. 11, 2019, and Jan. 8, 2020 minutes as submitted passed 12-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Henry Maguire and Commissioners David Clark, Graham Curtis, Woodie Weiss, Walter Welsh, Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson, Mary Barnaby, Joseph Maco, Robert Sonnischsen, Clayton Patterson, Timothy Casey, and April Allen.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

Subcommittee reports.

Technical ~ Commissioner Curtis stated that, in meeting for the first time as a team, the subcommittee discussed balancing between the short term and how to capture the problems of 2050, wherein the sea level is expected to rise 20 inches. The Technical Subcommittee has members with 20 to 30 years of experience in the town of Madison, so some time was spent discussing needs of specific locations, as well as understanding what the 20 inches of sea level rise means, in terms of what it will do to the storm drainage system, town roads, and septic systems, according to Commissioner Curtis. If technical aspects and needs are put toward developing a plan which may entail the use of a consultant, the scope has to be determined, as well as having knowledge of what the state of Connecticut is doing and examining.

Commissioner Maco stated that two of Madison's state legislators are on the legislative resiliency committee, and that group has met three times, so someone has to relay what the

Page 1. Madison Coastal Resiliency Commission, Regular Meeting, Feb. 12, 2020

legislature is thinking about doing in relation to the shoreline. It is hard to go forward without knowing what the state is doing, but the Coastal Resiliency Commission has to understand what the town of Madison needs to do, from an engineering point of view, according to Commissioner Welsh. It is important for the town to have some projects ready to move forward, so in case the state has money available, Madison would be able seek those funds, according to Commissioner Clark. Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson stated that the town does not have to wait for the state to make decisions, it should move forward. Commissioner Sonnischsen suggested looking at how the coastal resiliency plans dovetail with the state of Connecticut Coastal Area Management (CAM) policy—some of the projects that are coming out of New Haven and Bridgeport are structural in nature, which seems to be in opposition to the CAM policy that is not structural. He suggested developing projects that will not gain resistance from the state and its CAM policy. Flooding is a main concern, and while it is known which areas flood on Route 1, as well as ways to get around them, the Technical Subcommittee did look at that issue, town wide, to determine how to tackle some of those infrastructure problems on local roads, such as whether to create more culverts or raise town roads, according to Commissioner Clark. It is the job of the Coastal Resiliency Commission to identify the infrastructure weaknesses and to devise a long range plan that would outline the town's role, as well as what residents should do, according to Commissioner Barnaby. There are global issues, such as the septic systems, and the fact that 20 inches of sea level rise in 2050 will affect them; even some of the culverts will fail, when sea level rises 20 inches, according to Commissioner Welsh.

Communication ~ When the Communication Subcommittee met, discussion centered on how to communicate, what is communicated, as well as when to communicate, to make sure the right kind of information is being provided to the community, according to Commissioner Barnaby. Forms of communication would include social media, Facebook, the town website, and newspapers, she stated. Information on sea level rise and coastal resiliency has to be useful and provided to all Madison residents, Commissioner Barnaby stated. Those who live in North Madison need the information, as well, because the 20 inches of sea level rise will affect their recreation and their mobility, according to Commissioner Barnaby. She asked how do efforts for coastal resiliency, in terms of sustainability, get communicated? The idea is not to get so far ahead that people become scared, according to Commissioner Welsh, who suggested creating a communication plan, one that includes educating the public, for instance by taking it to the schools. The Coastal Resiliency Commission should create a decent set of facts upon which everyone is in agreement, according to Commissioner Welsh. Chairman Maguire stated that while there are the three subcommittees, all are members of the larger commission, so it is important that everyone has a handle on what each of the subcommittees is doing and that everyone be on board and supportive of the work being put forth. Mr. Anderson asked the Communication Subcommittee if it discussed establishing a website, and Commissioner Welsh stated that it has been discussed. Mr. Anderson stated that the Coastal Resiliency Commission may want to solicit public input on what residents believe need to be done; there could be a link on the town website to a survey for public input. There is information, now, that could be put on the website that involves the state of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), which is using the Sea Level Rise Affecting Marsh Migration, also known as the SLAM Model, to study the East River, according to Mr. Anderson. That model is being used by DEEP to investigate properties along the East River that facilitate marsh migration potential, according to Mr. Anderson. Commissioner Barnaby stated that if a fact sheet were developed, it could explain why the Coastal Resiliency Commission exists, as well as what it is doing. Members of other town boards and commissions are asking questions such as how many inches are being talked about, in terms of sea level rise; they are seeking knowledge on very

basic information that should be known and available, Mr. Anderson stated. Some sort of baseline, as to where the town and the Coastal Resiliency Commission are, should be defined a little bit better, according to Chairman Maguire.

Policy ~ Commissioner Weiss stated that when the Policy Subcommittee met, he brought up a project which involved utilizing the DEEP flood plain ordinance model, done in 2018, to update Madison's flood plain ordinance, which had been rewritten. Incorporated in the project was the state's new building code. Chairman Maguire asked that it be shared with everybody, so everyone is familiar with it and to give the highlights, as well as its intention. Commissioner Weiss stated that whatever pushback might be received from the Coastal Resiliency Commission is the same that the Board of Selectmen would give, and he stated that the Coastal Resiliency Commission should vote on accepting the new flood plain ordinance, before forwarding it to the Board of Selectmen. DEEP is actually more stringent than the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in terms of baseline elevations for flooding, Commissioner Weiss stated. The approval board for the Madison flood plain ordinance is the Board of Selectmen, Commissioner Sonnischsen stated. Mr. Anderson stated that the background for the flood plain ordinance is that he and Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Ronald Clark went to the Board of Selectmen about updating the flood plain ordinance, and that led to the big meeting with the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA), which then led to the formation of the Coastal Resiliency Commission. It is totally appropriate for the flood plain ordinance to be done, he stated. Commissioner Weiss stated that that there are only three or four areas that are changed in Madison's flood plain ordinance; he stated that he went through it line by line and word for word, and 95 percent of it consists of the DEEP flood plain ordinance and just three or four areas that were seen as inadequate, in Madison's flood plain ordinance, were changed. Modification may be needed in the three or four areas, but there is an awful lot of it that really is boiler plate DEEP, Commissioner Weiss stated. Commissioner Clark stated that the 20-inch sea level rise is a state mandate, and it has to be followed. The 20 inches has been established in the Connecticut General Statutes, as a result of the CIRCA work, Mr. Anderson stated.

Discussion of next steps. Chairman Maguire asked the commissioners to consider future meeting plans; perhaps the subcommittees could all meet once a month and the main commission meet once every two months, but this may not happen until six months from now. Commissioner Welsh suggested having, at the commission's next meeting, the talking points and proposed projects listed, as a way to communicate the sea level rise in 2050, including in it, as well, the storms on top of the sea level rise. Mr. Anderson suggested the individual subcommittees identify what their next step is—technical could list potential projects, and communication could gear up to do a survey, to solicit what problems residents are currently experiencing. He asked the Communication Subcommittee to work with the town's website director to have a mechanism on the website, so the survey could be completed, and at the next meeting, he suggested there be a fact sheet, so the Coastal Resiliency Commission will have progress and a direction for the next meeting. Since the Policy Subcommittee has a project it is working on—the flood plain ordinance—Mr. Anderson stated that he will send all of the commissioners the current town flood plain ordinance and the DEEP model ordinance for everyone to review. One of the key jobs is to ensure people do not laugh at the 20-inch sea level rise—four different studies came to those 20 inches, Commissioner Weiss stated. This is real to the Coastal Resiliency Commission, and the more the commission can convince people of the reality, the easier it will be to make the necessary changes, according to Commissioner Weiss.

Adjourn. Chairman Maguire adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene H. Kennedy, clerk