

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**MADISON COASTAL RESILIENCY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Jan. 8, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Madison Coastal Resiliency Commission was conducted Wednesday, Jan. 8, 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, Anthony Doina, Joseph Maco, Gregory Makoul, and Wayne Rigney.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Timothy Casey, Robert Sonnischsen, Clayton Patterson, Elaine Stangland, William Gladstone, Marilyn Shaw, and Fred More.

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 p.m. by Chairman Henry Maguire.

Discussion of progress so far and ideas for next steps. Chairman Maguire stated that there are 18 members on the commission, one executive committee, and three subcommittees. Two commissioners from the executive committee will take leadership roles on the three subcommittees, and each subcommittee will have six commissioners. The subcommittees are technical, policy, and communication.

Subcommittee assignments. Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson put together a draft of subcommittee assignments, as follows: Technical consists of Graham Curtis, David Clark, Timothy Casey, Joseph Maco, Robert Sonnichsen, and Clayton Patterson; Policy consists of Henry Maguire, Woodie Weiss, Tony Doina, Wayne Rigney, Elaine Stangland, and Bill Gladstone; Communication consists of Mary Barnaby, Walter Welsh, Greg Makoul, April Allen, Marilyn Shaw, and Fred More.

For the technical subcommittee, Commissioner Curtis suggested looking at 10-year solutions and moving forward to 30 to 40-year solutions, focusing on coastal resiliency efforts that include sewers and the power grid. Commissioner Clark stated that he could name every street in town where there has been a failing storm drain and suggested coastal resiliency efforts could also be put toward raising roads that may be threatened by rising water, fortifying the power grid, and protections against damage caused by falling or uprooted trees. He stated that trees add a lot of problems in achieving quick recovery efforts, by impeding transportation, and in allowing for dispatching machines and equipment to move the trees. Selectman Al Goldberg stated that he agrees with everything that has been said, but it is important to not only inform local government but to also be providing advice to individual homeowners and property owners as to the steps that can be taken for protection. Mr. Anderson stated that the town has an emergency response plan that will interface with some of what the Coastal Resiliency Commission is doing; that emergency response plan is a partnership between public works, the police department, and the fire department, which includes an evacuation plan. There are streets in town that the Coastal

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Resiliency Commission might want to prioritize higher than what is currently planned, according to Mr. Anderson. These three subcommittees have been established to accomplish a lot of work quickly; everybody is going to be working together, and the entire group will be involved, Mr. Anderson stated. It is going to be a lot of work, which is why Mr. Anderson stated that he wanted a lot of people involved on the commission. Commissioner Maco stated that his own personal opinion is that what the Coastal Resiliency Commission creates should be an advisory plan with recommendations, because he cannot see the commission taking over the roles and responsibilities of other boards, commissions, and government agencies. Commissioner Maco proposed just putting out the advisory plan but not getting involved in debating what should be done—create the advisory plan and let others prioritize it.

Policy efforts should include the financial aspects, since they are going to be very important, stated Mr. Anderson, who does not foresee any assistance in the forms of grants from the state or federal governments. The Coastal Resiliency Commission needs to lay out a framework for the Boards of Finance and Selectmen to ascertain how to pay for coastal resilience projects, town wide, stated Mr. Anderson, who believes the policy subcommittee should be responsible for that. In addition, commissioners have to think through needs for a Capital Improvements Plan, and he does not think anyone would want to pay for projects by raising taxes. Branford has made a coastal resiliency fund, into which the town has put \$1 million, with plans to continue contributions to it, according to Mr. Anderson. The policy subcommittee also has to consider how to fund zones of shared risk, since sometimes a zone of shared risk benefits the entire town, whereas other times a zone of shared risk includes just one street, according to Mr. Anderson. During discussion on policy matters, it was suggested that one of the most valuable tasks to do would be to lay out some evaluative material stating exactly what falls into an area of risk.

Regarding communication, Commissioner Barnaby stated that there are circumstances and events that are risky but that are not likely to happen to the town of Madison. Commissioner Welsh stated that the communication subcommittee must come up with some ideas regarding the best way to communicate what the Coastal Resiliency Commission is and what it is doing. Mr. Anderson stated that the communication subcommittee should also identify all of the neighborhood and beach associations throughout town, as well as other local groups, and create a list that includes contact information. In terms of state efforts, there is a coastal caucus of state legislators that has been created, and Mr. Anderson stated that he is sure the Coastal Resiliency Commission will be engaged. In addition, there is the Governor's Council on Climate Change, and Mr. Anderson stated that he is trying to stay apprised on state efforts, so he will be able to keep the Coastal Resiliency Commission informed. In another area of communication, Mr. Anderson stated that the technical subcommittee is going to be identifying problem areas and will be reaching out to the public for additional ideas.

Determine agenda for next meeting. Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson stated that in the next meeting, the Coastal Resiliency Commission could meet as a group and then break up into the subcommittees to work on the three topics. After separating and working, the meeting would conclude with everyone returning to the main group to recap, according to Mr. Anderson. He also suggested that the full Coastal Resiliency Commission could meet once a month, with the subcommittees meeting a second time in the month. Also on the agenda, Mr. Anderson stated, is the need to hire a coastal resiliency consultant for assistance with the commission's work. This could, perhaps, wait three months, until the commission is well established in its work, and a consultant could be funded either through money that could be put into the town's capital improvements plan budget or through some general planning money

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which may be available in the land use department, according to Mr. Anderson. Commissioner Curtis stated that the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will reimburse 50 percent of the cost of work involved, when a town decides to replace septic systems with a sewer system. Discussion concluded with proposals for how frequently the subcommittees should be meeting to accomplish the work, but no decisions were made.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene H. Kennedy, clerk