

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**MADISON COASTAL RESILIENCY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 9, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Madison Coastal Resiliency Commission was conducted Wednesday, June 9, 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, and with recording on YouTube.com.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairman Henry Maguire, Vice Chairman Graham Curtis, and Commissioners Joseph Maco, Wayne Rigney, Walter Welsh, Robert Sonnichsen, and Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Clayton Patterson, Woodie Weiss, Marilyn Shaw, Shannon Lewis, David Clark, April Allen, Timothy Casey, Elaine Stangland, and Gregory Makoul.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Selectman Al Goldberg.

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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.

**Review and approve May 12, 2021 minutes.**

**Vice Chairman Graham Curtis made the motion to approve the May 12, 2021 minutes, as amended, deleting Commissioner Fred More and Commissioner Anthony Doina from the “Members Absent” category, because they were no longer commissioners at the time of the May 12, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walter Welsh and approved.**

Vote to approve the May 12, 2021 minutes as amended passed, 6-0-1.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Maguire, Vice Chairman Curtis, and Commissioners Wayne Rigney, Welsh, Robert Sonnichsen, and Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: Commissioner Joseph Maco.

**Update on status of Floodplain Ordinance.**

Chairman Maguire stated that he is not aware of any changes; the proposed ordinance is still in the hands of the Board of Selectmen, which is researching the matter. Selectman Al Goldberg stated that a subgroup of the selectmen is looking at the floodplain ordinance and meeting with the town attorney to understand the regulatory issues involved; he suggested that the Coastal Resiliency Commission keep this item on its agenda.

**Discussion on master plan update scope of work and timeline.**

David Murphy, the consultant expected to assist with the master plan update, has other commitments until August, according to Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson. Given  
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the public involvement with the proposed Floodplain Ordinance, the commission should decide whether it wants to increase the scope of the master plan update, with the community engagement piece taking place earlier in the process, but that entails an additional cost, according to Mr. Anderson and the commissioners. Mr. Anderson suggested the commission keep the scope of the project open, for now, and then have Mr. Murphy attend a future Coastal Resiliency Commission meeting to discuss the project. Currently, Mr. Murphy could be retained at a cost of \$10,000 for the master plan update, without the community engagement piece and without a request for proposal. Once the scope of the project increases, the cost goes beyond \$10,000, and requests for proposals are required. Mr. Anderson stated that Selectwoman Peggy Lyons has indicated there are some planning funds that are available, and she is open to using the funds for the Coastal Management Plan update. Vice Chairman Curtis stated that at least three firms should be sought for the request for proposals. Commissioner Maco asked if the commission could just schedule Mr. Murphy for the August meeting, and Vice Chairman Curtis stated that he would reach out to Mr. Murphy. The next Coastal Resiliency Commission meeting is Aug. 11, 2021.

### **Discussion about staff support going forward.**

Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson stated that his last official day with the town of Madison is July 2, 2021. The town planner position has been advertised and he anticipates it will be late August or early September before the new planner is on board. Commissioner Robert Sonnichsen wondered whether the commission should wait until an environmental/wetlands person is hired, before proceeding further with the master plan. Mr. Anderson stated that the idea is to have the new town planner hire that person, and that is probably, at a minimum, six months from now that an environmental planner would be hired; September is the realistic possibility for the town planner's arrival. Chairman Maguire agrees that the commission should talk to David Murphy when there is a new town planner; it would be appropriate for the two to develop a relationship. The Coastal Resiliency Commission is not just a town staff person driving the panel; the master plan update is a commission project, Mr. Anderson stated. Commissioner Maco stated that the commissioners should have a meeting with Mr. Murphy to get an idea of funding. Chairman Maguire stated that the commission could meet with Mr. Murphy in August, without a town planner, but everyone should realize that it is going to be an ongoing conversation. In discussing staff support going forward, Mr. Anderson stated that he had 11 boards and commissions for which he was the direct liaison, and the Coastal Resiliency Commission would benefit from working more closely with the floodplain administrator, the town engineer, and the beach and recreation director. At some point, the commission will have to engage with the Capital Improvements Planning Committee, and that could happen through the Coastal Resiliency Commission's Board of Selectmen liaison, Mr. Anderson stated.

### **Discussion of Committee/Subcommittee Progress and Next Steps.**

Chairman Maguire stated that the policy committee is awaiting progress from the Board of Selectmen on the Floodplain Ordinance. Vice Chairman Curtis stated that the technical committee is paused. Commissioner Welsh stated that he is continuing discussions with the communications committee regarding the process for reaching out to the public to inform it of the Coastal Resiliency Master Plan update, as well as trying to determine ways to get residents who live near coastal, tidal and inland wetlands involved in discussions on how they are to be protected, as sea level rises. Commissioner Welsh stated that he would not mind reaching out to the Conservation Commission, the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the floodplain group, to facilitate communication.

## **General Discussion.**

Various town boards and commissions are not meeting in July, according to Mr. Anderson. It was thought that town agencies, boards and commissions were going to be required to have hybrid meetings, but that has been changed to allow the panels to continue to work, remotely, if they choose to do so, according to Mr. Anderson. A number of boards and commissions are taking July off, to have a break, Mr. Anderson stated. Chairman Maguire asked the commissioners what they all think about taking a July break; a vote is not needed, he stated. Commissioners agreed to do so; they would meet, again, on Aug. 11, 2021. Chairman Maguire stated that if something came up between now and August, the commission could always have an emergency meeting to handle it. Chairman Maguire stated that he wanted to thank David Anderson for the service he has done in getting the Coastal Resiliency Commission up and running; he is a fantastic asset to the town, he's done a great job, and he will be missed. Mr. Anderson stated that it has been a pleasure working with everyone, and he will still be in town, as a resident; he will share his contact information, and he encouraged everyone to feel free to reach out to him. In other matters, the state legislature is considering storm water regulations, and it may require that the flood and erosion control board take on the resiliency function. Chairman Maguire stated that he would like the Aug. 11, 2021 meeting to be in person, but if anyone is uncomfortable with that, he asked that they please let him know. Both Chairman Maguire and Commissioner Welsh stated that they would prefer to have the commission meet with David Murphy in person.

## **Adjourn**

**Chairman Maguire made the motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.; it was seconded by Commissioner Welsh, and unanimously approved.**

Vote to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. passed, 7-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Maguire, Vice Chairman Curtis, and Commissioners Rigney, Welsh, Sonnichsen, Maco, and Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marlene H. Kennedy, clerk