



Manchester-By-The-Sea Meeting Posting

Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by M.G.L.Ch.30A §18-28)

Board/Committee: CZM Coastal Vulnerability Steering Committee

Day & Date: Thursday, June 22, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: VIRTUAL

Signature: Sue Croft

Attendees: Greg Federspiel, Alex Maxwell, Kathryn Glenn, Joe Famely, Laura Tenny, Jessica Lamothe, Nate Desrosiers, Chuck Dam, Francie Caudill, Dave McKenna, Olga Hayes, Sue Croft

MINUTES

- Greg Federspiel welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order. He thanked attendees and then introduced Alex Maxwell from Fuss & O'Neill.
- Alex walked through the final draft of the Coastal Vulnerability Action Plan which can be found [HERE](#).
- Below are the questions and comments that were made during and after the presentation:
 - Laura Tenny commented that the plan represents very solid work and will be good vehicle to generate conversations within the community. She asked that someone talk about the risks of not acting. She also asked how best to present this plan to the public. Greg responded saying that this plan will be a starting point for community conversations and that although this report is dense with information it is still manageable. This plan will be the beginning of more intensive conversations. He also mentioned that there is a plan to beef up the Sustainability Committee and that they and the Planning Board might be able to help further engage the community to make some of the harder choices that will need to be made. The plan is to tackle some of the low-hanging fruit by applying for the upcoming round of the CZM grant program. Chuck noted that some of the bigger (medium- to longer-term) items are being addressed in the Facilities Master Plan especially with regards to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) which is considered highest risk and the biggest project. Alex then addressed the “do nothing” question. He tied this to the Full Retreat Scenario that was presented as a potential long-term solution. For the Full Retreat Scenario, the costs are listed but do not include the costs required if contaminants are found when restoring areas – their natural state. Maps identify what is at risk in various timeframes. Laura pointed out that there is a difference between “do nothing” and the proposed Full Retreat scenario. She noted that truly “doing nothing” would have costs associated with property damage, insurance claims, impact on residents within the flood zones, impact on public safety functions such as police and fire, ability to operate critical infrastructure such as the WWTP, and the like. Alex said that they could

incorporate the costs associated with a true “do nothing” and suffering the consequences. Jessica Lamothe also concurred that it is important to associate costs with all scenarios.

- Alex noted that the report is available on the project website.
- It was discussed that the Town will be applying for the next round of CZM Coastal resilience grant to implement three of the recommendations from this plan. With regards to the project to conceptualize transitioning Masconomo Park into a floodable park, precedent visuals will be extremely helpful when engaging the public. This project will provide opportunities and challenges and will require a thoughtful approach when working with the community to shape the plan.
- Dave McKenna asked if the floating boardwalk recommendation is similar to the new dock that is being proposed at Reed Park. Alex explained that tie in to existing and future dock space is important, and work should be done in conjunction with harbor plans.
- Joe Famely pointed out that the recommendations in this plan are intentionally flexible and can be implemented over time incrementally/sequentially. Alex noted that this plan will be a living document as science and scenarios will change over time. The tide gauges that were installed will allow the Town to pursue future self-monitoring. Joe also noted the importance of linking this plan with existing plans like the Harbor and Facilities Plans.
- Chuck Dam asked how best to tie in the recommendation for raised MBTA rails through Town with the current initiative to address the new MBTA 3a regulations. Currently the MBTA has no plans to raise rails at any point along the Rockport line even in lower lying areas than Manchester. The Town could use this plan to begin conversations with the MBTA to align the needs of both the Town and the MBTA. Laura reiterated that the viability of a functional commuter rail system is vital to the metro-Boston economy and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Laura asked how long the comment period will be open for this plan. Alex explained the grant funding for this project ends on 6/30 and therefore the project needs to be finalized by that date. All feedback needs to be received before then. However, the project website will remain up and the F&O team will be available for questions and comments after June 30th as necessary. Alex and his team will circulate the document for review, and it will also be available on the project and Town websites.
- Alex thanked attendees for their time and that at all steering committee and public meetings held during each phase of the project everyone provided great input.
- Greg noted that this is just the first phase of planning and that input from the public will be required in the future as planning continues. He thanked all attendees.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:03.