



TOWN OF WESTPORT
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PLANNING BOARD

December 2, 2020

MVP EAST BEACH CORRIDOR STUDY MINUTES

Chairman John Bullard called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. with members, Jim Whitin, R. Michael Sullivan, Philip Weinberg, Robert Daylor, Jeff Bolton, Tony Vivenzio, Brian Valcourt and Town Planner Jim Hartnett, Joseph Famely, and Nasser Braham from the Woods Hole Group were in attendance.

Virtual Sign in Russel Plamondon, Courtney Rocha, Deborah Novo, Diane Carigiet, Madeline Vrona, Warren Berg, Eric Martin, Linda Mello, Matt Muldoon, David Lyons, Kevin Curt, and Diane Reid.

This was a virtual meeting.

Bullard identified the committee members and stated that the purpose of this evening's meeting is to review the draft regulatory policy strategies and the adaptation strategies presented by Woods Hole Group at the last meeting. Members were emailed copies of the strategies and policies along with the agenda.

Nasser, from the Woods Hole Group, reviewed the PowerPoint slide show that was discussed at the last meeting. He stated that these were high-level strategies and were designed to generate discussion with the committee. These included offshore attenuation, beach nourishment, and protection of the road edge, site and building mitigation, and retreat and accommodate.

Bullard opened the discussion up to the committee and stated that anyone in attendance that would like to comment would be allowed to do so after committee members. He stated that with changes in the administration, there may be opportunities in the future for project funding relating to climate change and infrastructure improvements.

R. Michael Sullivan, 149 Cherry & Webb Lane noted the variety of options presented by Woods Hole and asked if Salt Marsh Mitigation was considered. Joe Famely responded, stating that this strategy was used north of Boston to reduce wave impacts, and because the marshes are located on the north side of East Beach Road it was not something that they considered for this project.

Tony Vivenzio, 134 East Beach Road, stated that the property owners along the road have similar interests as the Town and that protecting their properties on the south side of the road also helps to protect the road. He listed several possible strategies to be considered that would benefit both the Town and the property owners:

- After storms, material deposited on the road should be put back on the abutting properties and not trucked away.
- Consider raising the road during the next paving cycle.
- Extra deep basis for telephone poles.
- Additional study of the Gooseberry Causeway
- Evaluating bulk conservation commission filings
- Evaluating bulk purchasing of material for lots

- Use of cobble instead of sand as fill material
- Underwater reef to slow down wave action

Kevin Curt, East Beach Road Association, expressed concern about a recent letter requesting that the lots be cleared of structures at the end of the season. He was also concerned about the proposed regulatory and policy strategies proposed by the Woods Hole Group. Selectmen Valcourt stated that this letter was sent by the Town Administrator at the direction of the Board of Selectmen. Nasser stated that these are just possible strategies for discussion and they were developed based on research on historic storm events and interviews from town employees.

Daylor stated that the committee should consider projects that can be worked on in the near term and projects that would benefit both the Town and the property owners such as raising portions of the road, possibly adding a berm along the southerly side of the road, or raising the cobble on the same side. Some of the alternatives such as offshore barriers show a low likelihood of getting permitted. Long term, the town should consider bringing power to the area from Westport Point.

Mike Sullivan and Tony Vivenzio also expressed their concerns with the written regulatory and policy strategies.

Diane Reid, 145 East Beach Road, asked about the slide showing her property on the north side of the road being raised. Nasser explained that the slide shows the existing elevation of the properties and is not suggesting that the properties be raised.

Brian Valcourt noted that he sees the value in the use of property along the East Beach Corridor and as a representative of the Board of Selectmen he would like to work with the property owners to address the problems in the area.

Bullard asked the Planner and Woods Hole Group to get a list of the possible action items so that they can be distributed to the committee for review.

Respectfully submitted,

James Hartnett, Town Planner