

Regular Meeting Coastal Resiliency Committee  
Thursday, February 2, 2023, 6:30 p.m.  
Multi-Media Room, Mulvey Municipal Center Building, 866 Boston Post Road  
Hybrid Zoom Meeting

**PRESENT:** Marilyn Ozols, Andy Calderoni, Ron Botelho, Tony Cozza (*arrived 7pm*) Mike Engles,  
Sid Holbrook (*via Zoom*).

**Absent:** Evan Cusson

**Also Present:** John Hall (First Selectman, ex-officio), Peter Gillespie (Town Planner),  
Sara Angelini (Land Use Technician)

1. **Call to Order :**

John Hall called to order at 6:37p.m. and introduced himself as First Selectman and ex-officio member. Peter Gillespie introduced himself as the Town Staff who will be supporting this committee appointed by Board of Selectmen.

2. **Roll Call and Introduction of Members:**

Members introduced themselves:

Marilyn Ozols – Planning Commission Representative for Westbrook,  
Staff consultant for Fenwick

Andy Calderoni – Harbor Commission Representative

Ron Botelho – Council of Beaches Representative

John Hall – First Selectman

Mike Engles – Zoning Commission Representative

Sid Holbrook – Member at Large

P. Gillespie introduced members who were not present at the point of introductions:

Evan Cusson - Business Community Representative,

Tony Cozza - Board of Finance Representative

3. **Review and Discussion of the Mission/Charge of the Committee:**

P. Gillespie shared and reviewed the Mission Statement that was approved by Board of Selectmen in November 2022: The Westbrook Coastal Resiliency Committee will work with town staff and the community to analyze, coordinate, prepare, and adopt a Coastal Resiliency Plan in conjunction with the neighboring communities of Old Saybrook, Clinton and Fenwick.

The Town of Westbrook (The Town) received a grant from the Long Island Futures Fund in cooperation with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to fund the efforts.

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The Town has a responsibility to match a portion of the funds with a combination of both cash funds and accumulated hours of volunteer and staff time from the committee. Additional implementation grants may be available once a Coastal Resiliency Plan is adopted.

The Plan will address the impact of climate change, storm surge, flooding, extreme weather events and sea level rise and address issues across the system-wide needs of the community including social, cultural, historic, and economic needs, infrastructure needs. This process will also include a Public Education and community involvement component. The Committee will report to the Board of Selectmen. The full planning process is anticipated to run about a year and a half (18 months), with hopes that the existence of the group will continue to see that the projects of the plan are implemented.

**4. Discussion of NFWF /LISFF Grant:**

P. Gillespie discussed that the grant funds will be used to retain a Consultant who will work with the communities to assess and identify areas that need attention, as well as come up with recommendations. Currently, an agreement between the Towns (Westbrook, Clinton, Old Saybrook, Fenwick) and the NFWF is being drafted and will hopefully be in place by the next meeting.

The Planning process (including selection of consultant and conducting assessment of the communities) for this committee will run an estimated 18 months, with potential subsequent implementation (and associated grants) after that timeframe.

Discussion opened up regarding acquiring data and data collection, what the Town currently has for information, and what other resources the other towns currently have.

M. Ozols responded that most of the information varies at different levels from each of the municipalities, but the Consultant's charge will be to coordinate to have all of the towns working off of one set of information that would be consistent.

*At this point, Tony Cozza joined in person.*

S. Holbrook asked if the other towns have also established their committees.

P. Gillespie responded that each town is handling their committees a bit differently, some towns are relying on key Town Staff members, some have an existing commission that will be taking on additional responsibilities. We will be working at a local level, and then coordinating with the other towns.

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P. Gillespie reviewed a copy of the Grant Application that was submitted - the \$150,000.00 grant awarded – in-kind match responsibilities of \$80,000.00 in cash and volunteer time. Additional charge of the consultant would also include determining cost estimates for strategies and recommendations.

Discussion opened up regarding the importance of the Public Engagement component of the grant as well as the need to identify various methods to involve the public.

A. Calderoni asked about the CT DEEP involvement.

M. Ozols responded that DEEP would issue the permits for any projects, it would be part of the consultant's charge to help identify where the Towns would need to interact with DEEP and how the recommendation may have arrived at that solution.

A draft planning schedule was created to bring activities through the 18 (eighteen) month timeline and activities.

Discussion opened regarding a request for proposals process to obtain a consultant. The process would include interviewing consultants and qualifying candidates.

S. Holbrook asked how the monies will be divided amongst all the Municipalities.

P. Gillespie responded the Town of Westbrook will be the recipient of the grant and will administer the agreement and funds.

M. Ozols added that while Westbrook will be receiving the Grant, the Consultant will be developing a plan that is multi-town focused. P. Gillespie suggested developing an executive subcommittee (2 members from each town committee) to meet and report back to each of the towns as a solution to coordinating across the four (4) towns.

**5. Election of Officers:**

a. Chair:

Sid Holbrook was nominated as Chairman by Tony Cozza, seconded by Ron Botelho. Selectman Hall called a vote, vote passed unanimously.

b. Vice-Chair:

Marilyn Ozols was nominated by Mike Engels, seconded by Andy Calderoni. Chairman Holbrook called a vote, vote passed unanimously.

**6. Review of 2023 Meeting Schedule:**

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Committee determined that it will meet regularly monthly on the First Thursday of the month at 6:30pm with the exception of the April meeting which will be held on Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 (due to the Town Hall observance of Good Friday). Special meetings to be added to the proposed schedule as needed.

**7. Review of Available Resources / Websites:**

P. Gillespie reported that the Town had set up a webpage for the Committee on the Town Website. The following information has been posted and Available to view at [www.westbrookct.us](http://www.westbrookct.us) on the Coastal Resiliency Committee Page:

CIRCA – Connecticut

Nature Conservatory

NOAA Website

CTDEEP Website

Westbrook Plan of Conservation and Development

Coastal Resiliency Committee on the Westbrook Town Website

Hazard Mitigation Plan

UConn CLEAR – Climate Page

**8. Next Meeting Agenda Items:**

Chairman Holbrook requested committee members think about and come to the next meeting with ideas to discuss and be inclusive of all ideas or thoughts to be addressed related to charge of committee.

Committee to work on RFP (Request for Proposal) document

Discussion of Public Outreach ideas

**9. Other Business: *No other business.***

**10. Public Comment: *No public comment***

**11. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by A. Calderoni, seconded by M. Engels.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm