

# Coastal Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Town of Marshfield, Massachusetts

Hearing Room 2 — Marshfield Town Hall  
2016 March 03

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## COMMITTEE PRESENT:

- Ben Cowie-Haskell (Chair)
- Jack Sullivan
- Sean Robinson (Clerk)

## COMMITTEE NOT PRESENT:

- Thomas Fleming

## ALSO PRESENT (in audience):

- Joe Pecevich
- Pam Kieth
- Burt O'Donnell (Community Preservation Commission)

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### 1. Call to order

Mr. Cowie-Haskell called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

### 2. Approval of Clerk's Minutes

Minutes were not reviewed, as they were not prepared ahead of time by the Clerk.

### 3. Discussion with Representative Jim Cantwell about making Marshfield more resilient to sea level rise including possible legislative strategies for addressing the challenge

Unfortunately, Mr. Cantwell had to cancel. The Committee is trying to reschedule him for next week, probably Wednesday. He may be able to bring in Bill Golden of the National Institute for Coastal and Harbor Infrastructure as well.

The Committee briefly discussed questions they would want to ask Mr. Cantwell.

Mr. Sullivan has a question about grant management funds. He pointed out that certain grants require that the grant be managed by someone in Town for a period of time. Marshfield has not applied for these type of grants since funds for management are not available. They may be available from the federal level, but these funds get stuck at the state level. The question is whether there are any legislative solutions to be had here.

Mr. Robinson would like to ask, in short, “How does state government work?” That is, if the Committee makes recommendations that the Town lobby for changes in some state policy or process, then what mechanisms does the Town actually use to accomplish this?

Mr. Cowie-Haskell has questions about finance mechanisms.

No motion or votes on this agenda item.

#### 4. Other Business

The Committee members made some quick updates on old business and engaged in discussion with the citizens in attendance.

Mr. Sullivan informed the Committee that he attended a meeting hosted by CZM in Norwell where grant opportunities were discussed. He stated that all of these grants are 75% state share and 25% local share. One notable example of past grants were mitigation studies for waste water treatment plants. They have also funded beach plans in some towns.

Mr. Sullivan also said that MEMA will announce two grants from FEMA within the next couple weeks, but there will only be a short window to file for them. Notably, sea level rise resilience was included as a priority, when it had not been so in the past. Specifically, this is listed as “Climate Resilience Mitigation Activities”, which is not necessarily exclusive to sea level rise or flooding.

Mr. Cowie-Haskell noted that the South Shore Coalition is running a informational forum on CPA, coming up on March 9 in Hull, to discuss how communities are using CPA funds.

Mr. Cowie-Haskell and Mr. Robinson are pulling together a first draft of the Committee’s interim report, aiming for an early May release. They have established a division of labor: Mr. Robinson is writing an introduction to sea level rise while Mr. Cowie-Haskell is putting together the section on recommendations. Those sections will establish the beginning and end of the report.

Mr. Cowie-Haskell noted that this work has raised questions about how the coastline has changed. The Committee engaged with the audience on some discussion of erosion rates from the 2015 Report of the Mass Coastal Erosion Commission and the Mass CZM Online GIS Shoreline Browser.

Mr. Cowie-Haskell noted a recent scientific paper about accelerated sea level rise in Northeast.

Mr. Cowie-Haskell noted that the Town of Hull has a “freeboard ordinance” to help mitigate a fraction of the cost for raising homes.

Mr. Pecevich noted that many homeowners in coastal areas of Town do not have much guidance presently on how to respond to coastal change, except for, *e.g.*, hiring a coastal engineer for their individual case. He says that if the Committee could make a set of standard recommendations across property types (in the report) to streamline the process of people knowing what their options are, that would help a lot of people.

There was other assorted discussion with the audience.

No motion or votes on this agenda item.

5. Adjourn

Mr. Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cowie-Haskell seconded the motion. No further discussion. The Committee voted 3–0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Robinson  
Coastal Advisory Committee Clerk