

# Coastal Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Town of Marshfield, Massachusetts

Planning Department Meeting Room — Marshfield Town Hall  
2016 April 13

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## **COMMITTEE PRESENT:**

- Ben Cowie-Haskell (Chair)
- Brent Corchene
- Thomas Fleming
- Sean Robinson (Clerk)
- Jack Sullivan

## **ALSO PRESENT (in audience):**

- Greg Guimond (Town Planner)
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### 1. Call to order

Mr. Cowie-Haskell called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

### 2. Approval of Clerk's Minutes

Mr. Cowie-Haskell called for objections or corrections to the minutes of the 2016 March 09 meetings of the Committee. He declared the minutes approved as distributed.

### 3. Discussion on progress on upcoming report

One item on the outline was the possibility to build offshore break waters. As it turns out, Mr. Cowie-Haskell has received news on this. The Mass DMF sent an email indicated that they had winnowed the list of possible sites for a grant-funded process of site selection and conceptual design for a near shore submerged breakwater project down to 2 locations, one of which is to the west side of the Green Harbor inlet jetty. There was discussion that this is not the location the Committee had discusses as being most beneficial to Marshfield, so perhaps the goals of this project are not as well aligned with Marshfield's needs as hoped. A meeting to discuss the possible project will occur on April 25 at noon in Hearing Room 3.

Mr. Cowie-Haskell has found a report on related issues to ours which has a nice format and structure which the writing subcommittee might emulate. (In this case, it was a report on ocean acidification from the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel.) There was general approval from the Committee.

Mr. Guimond advises that the report should attempt to get broad ideas across to its audience and avoid too much focus on maps or specific details, explaining that the public and government officials are not necessarily ready to move on specifics. So, he suggests laying out themes rather than projects.

Mr. Cowie-Haskell proposed the following themes, each with a few items of detail.

- Protection
  - Develop a mechanism for sustained funding of seawalls.
  - Develop a mechanism for funding and permitting of protective structures for wave attenuation, including breakwaters and beach nourishment. (Look at Article 9 of the Special Town Meeting for language.)
- Awareness
  - Hire a coastal adaptation specialist/grant writer.
  - Help coordinate a “Coastal Summit”.
  - Create a long-term beach management plan.
  - Increase public awareness of SLR.
  - Engage local educational institutions in activities, for example having students annually measuring beach profile of Rexhame and Burke’s Beaches.
- Accommodation
  - Provide a planning toolkit citizens can use to mitigate SLR impacts on their own property.
  - Encourage elevation of properties (incentives).
  - Offer rebate on building permit if homeowner increases building height or freeboard.
  - Enhance flood mitigation structures, such as tide gates on the dike.
- Resilience
  - Establish Marshfield as a test bed for innovative solutions to SLR, *e.g.*, using Community Rating System.
  - Use the polder to mitigate flooding, such as on Brant Rock.
  - Incorporate assessment of SLR impacts during the permit review process, *e.g.* a pamphlet for homeowners.

- Develop a voluntary buy-back program for high-hazard and storm-damaged properties.
- Develop coastal hazard setbacks.

It was stated that the report should make both short and long term recommendations.

Mr. Robinson asked a question about the general approach to and length of the science portion of the report. The Committee indicated that shorter is better.

No motions or votes on this agenda item.

4. Other Business

Following up on open previous business, Mr. Sullivan stated that the CPC is asking for further information regarding the Committee's request for funding for a beach management plan. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Cowie-Haskell will prepare a memo based on the Committee's discussion.

Mr. Sullivan moves that Mr. Cowie-Haskell speak for the Committee in support Article 4 of the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Fleming seconded. The Committee voted 5-0 in favor.

5. Adjourn

Mr. Cowie-Haskell moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. No further discussion. The Committee voted 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Robinson  
Coastal Advisory Committee Clerk