

BRISTOL HARBOR PROTECTION TEAM

Meeting minutes: December 1, 2025

Attendees: Vasco “Skip” Castro III, Ryan Daponte, Jeff Doran;

Absent :John Feinstein, Owen O’Rourke

Guests:

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS/KEY TAKE-AWAYS
Call to Order		The meeting was called to order by Chairman Skip Castro at 5:43 PM
Approval of minutes	In the absence of all Team members, the minutes were reviewed but no action was taken.	Minutes of the Nov.2, 2025 were reviewed but approval was tabled until the next meeting.
Review of Draft Team Charter (Ryan)	Ryan reviewed in detail the recently distributed draft Team Charter. After considerable discussion, a few minor edits/modifications were made.	<u>ACTION ITEM:</u> revised document will be distributed in advance for additional review /comment. Anticipate approval at next meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Relevant Federal background 	<p>For background purposes. Ryan provided a brief history of Federal oversight for harbor/coastal protections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ There has never been a single coastal protection law, but rather a progression of federal protection authority Acts. ▫ In 1899 the Rivers and Harbors Act gave the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authority over regulation of navigable waters. ▫ In 1963 a law was passed that created a dedicated research arm within the USACE institutionalizing coastal engineering. ▫ In 1996, the Shore Protection Act confirmed and clarified the authority and responsibility of the Sec. of the Army (through the Corps) to promote and carry 	

<p>Origin of the Bristol 1980 Harbor Study</p> <p>Current Study Funding Strategies</p>	<p>out shore protections projects including beach nourishment.</p> <p>In 1968 a Federal rock breakwater project was authorized by Congress to protect the Bristol harbor from storm waves. It was not until 1979 that government funding was appropriated requiring a 64/36 split between federal and town resources.</p> <p>Discussion centered on 2 potential pathways to secure study funding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request USACE to update the 1980 published study 2. Explore local/statewide legislative and/or grant opportunities and support. 	<p><u>ACTION ITEMS</u></p> <p>Jonathan will reach out to USACE to discuss and report back to Team (Skip to contact Jonathan)</p> <p>Skip will connect with Town officials to start the process</p>
<p>Team Review/Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Research on contemporary breakwater & coastal protection strategies (Jeff) □ Harbor Protection strategies in Oak Bluffs and Mattapoisett (Owen) 	<p>Jeff briefly reviewed the newest approaches for breakwaters and harbor coastal protection, their basic characteristics, pro's/con's and practical evaluation guidance. It includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nature -based/" living" breakwaters & living shorelines 2. Hybrid/ecologically enhanced breakwaters 3. Submerged & porous breakwaters 4. Floating & modular breakwaters 5. Multifunctional breakwaters that host wave energy devices <p>(possibly a mixture of above strategies)</p> <p>Tabled</p>	<p>The trend is shifting from 1-time, rigid defenses (e.g. traditional break water) to adaptive, multifunctional & nature positive systems that can provide ecosystem services while still meeting engineering objectives(attenuation, stability)</p> <p><u>ACTION ITEM</u> Tabled until next meeting - Owen to report</p>

Potential Community support from business, individuals and entities.		<u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Jeff will ask Steve Januario if he can provide an update
Next Steps	<p><i>Possible January 12th agenda items:</i> Approval of Nov. 3,2025 minutes</p> <p><i>Follow-up activities:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Owen will investigate harbor protection strategies in Oak Bluffs and Mattapoisett, among others 2. Potential funding source strategy updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jonathan b. Skip 3. Community support update – Steve 4. Discuss timetables for updating the Town Council and required materials 	
Next meeting & adjournment	The next meeting will be schedule for Monday January 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM.	<i>Meeting adjourned at 6:26PM</i>

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff