

Hazard Mitigation Commission  
Town Hall  
January 15, 2019  
7:30 pm  
Selectmen's Meeting Room,  
Second Floor

**Present** Chair Stephen Kops, Town Health Director Dennis Johnson,  
Town Environmental Planner Kevin Magee, Hank Graver, Kit Wilcox  
**Absent** Hersh Hernandez  
**Guests** None

**1. Confirmation of a Quorum**

At 7:31 pm, Chair Stephen Kops called to order the regular meeting. A quorum was present and all eligible to vote.

**2. Public Forum (limited to 5 minutes)** There were no comments.

**3. Minutes of November 20, 2018**

Upon review,

*Motion: Dennis Johnson moved to approve the November 20, 2018 minutes, as presented, seconded by Kevin Magee.*

*Vote: Carried - Magee, Kops, Johnson, Hank Graver  
Abstained - Kit Wilcox (November absence)*

**4. Approval of 2019 Meeting Schedule** Discussion held later in the meeting.

**5. Discussion 2019 Priorities** Discussion held later in the meeting.

**6. Environmental Planner's Report (Kevin)**

Kevin Magee reported that as Tree Warden he had found a large number of decaying and diseased roadside trees. As a public hazard concern, his 2019-2020 department proposed budget includes an increase in funding for tree removal. He requested HazMC support for this budget to be presented to the Board of Selectmen (BOS).

*Motion: Dennis Johnson moved to send a HazMC letter to the BOS in support of the Tree Warden's proposed 2019-2020 Budget increase to remove trees that pose hazards to people and roads, seconded by Kit Wilcox.*

*Vote: Carried - Kops, Graver, Wilcox, Johnson  
Abstained - Magee*

Kevin advised that there are eighteen hazardous trees from 790 Great Hill Road to 1700. Along with disease, insects such as the Ash Borer, Gypsy Moths and invasive vines contribute to weaken and kill trees. Eversource power company will be sending him their tree trimming Plan soon. He has no new information on the Dept. of Transportation safety project at the bridge and crabbing area that flood along Route 146.

Guilford Town Engineer Janice Plaziak is working with the Town of Branford to coordinate a regional plan for this project which also impacts the Amtrak railroad tracks, farm land and sensitive wetlands. A regional plan may be able to receive grants.

## **7. Health Director's Report (Dennis)**

Dennis Johnson reported on the Water Main Project in the Mulberry Point area:

- The Town will sign a construction contract on January 25, 2019 with the True Blue Corporation.
- Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) and the Dept. of Environment and Energy (DEEP) requirements must be met.
- A \$450,000 federal grant has been received and the Town is applying for an \$800,000 infrastructure grant.
- Construction will begin at the end of March or early April.
- State Office of Historic Preservation required a \$46,000 study to determine whether there are Native American artifacts or burial grounds at the site. If found, those areas are prohibited from being disturbed.
- Residents will now have a safe and reliable water supply which they have not in the past with fire hydrants every 1000 feet and discounts on flood insurance.

## **8. Chair's Report**

### **a. New Member - Hersh Hernandez**

Chair Stephen Kops reported :

- The BOS has appointed Hersh Hernandez as a new HazMC commissioner.
- Chair Kops had met with Mr. Hernandez last month advising that his background includes U.S. Special Forces, military security and an Embassy position.

### **b. Update - Chapter 174 Floodplain Management Ordinance**

Town Engineer Plaziak had worked on the Floodplain Management Ordinance which was approved by the BOS. Any new construction or construction of more than 50% of an existing structure is subject to the new ordinance. The ordinance also requires a one foot freeboard for flooding. Residents in flood zones must complete elevating their structures over a five year period.

## **9. New Business**                      There was no business.

**10. Old Business**

Discussion took place on prioritizing the top five HazMC 2019 strategies :

- Chair Kops recommended add complying to the criteria for the FEMA point system to obtain grants.
- Library Director Rob McCoolle had requested last month that the HazMC include in their plans an emergency generator for the Library. Chair Kops will contact Fire Chief Herrschaft.
- HazMC continues to request that the Town hire a third party to evaluate the Nathanael Green Community Center for upgrades as an emergency shelter. Corrugated metal storm windows should be installed to save lives from trees and large objects during major storms.
- The Town should evaluate the security and safety of the Library and schools as emergency shelters to accommodate more of the population. Disasters and storms may prevent residents and businesses from leaving Town for shelter.

**4. Approval of 2019 Meeting Schedule**

Members reviewed the HazMC 2019 meeting calendar. Meetings are monthly unless cancelled due to no immediate business.

*Motion: Dennis Johnson moved to approve the HazMC 2019 meeting calendar, seconded by Kit Wilcox.*

*Vote: Carried - Unanimously*

**11. Approval of Bills**

*Motion: Dennis Johnson moved to approve the Recording Secretary August invoice for \$138.00, seconded by Kit Wilcox.*

*Vote: Carried - Magee, Johnson, Graver, Wilcox*

**12. Adjournment**

*Motion: At 8:20 pm Kit Wilcox moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kevin Magee.*

*Vote: Carried - Unanimously*

*Respectfully submitted,*

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*Judith Anderson Castellano  
Recording Secretary*