

Hazard Mitigation Commission
Town Hall
January 17, 2017
7:30 pm
Selectmen's Meeting Room,
Second Floor

Present Chair Hank Graver, Allyn Brown, Stephen Kops, Town Environmental Planner Kevin Magee, Town Health Director Dennis Johnson

Absent None

Guests None

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

At 7:35 pm, Chair Hank Graver called to order the regular meeting. All present were eligible to vote.

Public Forum

There were no comments.

Approval of Minutes of Previous meeting

Motion: Upon review, Stephen Kops moved to approve the November minutes, seconded by Dennis Johnson.

Vote: Carried - Allyn Brown, Stephen Kops, Kevin Magee, Dennis Johnson

**The December meeting was cancelled.*

Approval of Bills and Vouchers

Motion: Kevin Magee moved to approve the \$68.00 invoice for the Recording Secretary, seconded by Dennis Johnson.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Old Business

Upon discussion, it was decided that Chair Graver will draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting additional preparedness studies be conducted on the Nathanael Green Community Center as an evacuation center. Windows and roof must meet major storm safety criteria. The new high school should be the primary Town shelter with the community center as secondary. The Town Engineer and Facilities Manager have determined that the Community Center is safe for a Category 3 Hurricane (111-129 mph wind). HazMC disagrees with this assessment.

Two vacancies on the commission

Upon an applicant's request to be considered for a commission, the affiliated political party reviews and submits a request for approval by the Board of Selectmen. Steve Kops advised that he will contact a potential candidate.

Evacuation Centers - Parks and Recreation Building needs some updating - send list to Selectmen

Major evacuations will utilize designated area in high school

Reviewed under "Old Business.

Any additional info on Chittenden Park improvements

Kevin Magee reported :

- He had received an email regarding NOAA federal competitive grants.
- He presented a review of Guilford's Coastal Resiliency Plan for habitat restoration. He will research whether the Town meets the grant application criteria. The application deadline is March 21, 2017.

Discussion was held on details of the Town Chittenden Park improvement project, including type of materials and costs. The Marina Commission is reviewing the project and areas to dispose the spoils. The project must be completed within three years in order to fulfill the grant requirements.

George Kral, Town Planner, had met with Gene Odell of UCONN regarding installation of tidal gauges and a study to collect sea level elevation data. HazMC has concerns regarding regular flooding along Leete's Island Road (Rte. 146) marshlands. This is a main evacuation route for many residents.

Kevin Magee submitted a map of DEEP projects along watersheds. Alllyn Brown advised that he had encountered UCONN students conducting sea level rise data collection at Great Harbor.

New Members needed, including North Guilford

Chair Graver encouraged commissioners to pursue attracting new members. Currently, HazMC does not have members to represent North Guilford.

Follow through with DEEP staff

There was no new information to report.

At this point, discussion included :

- DOT bridge and road projects along evacuation routes. *Kevin Magee will research the status and DOT priorities of bridge repairs at Sachem's Head Road, Vineyard Point, Trolley Road. These are low lying flood prone sections.
- Leete's Island Road (Rte 146) crabbing area is a public hazard.
- Public Works Dept. will be reminded that snow removal must be a priority on evacuation routes throughout Town.
- State Representative Sean Scanlon and Senator Ted Kennedy Jr. will be invited to meet with the HazMC to review state and local mitigation plans.
- Dennis Johnson will produce an updated "Guilford Evacuation Procedures" bulletin (sent to residents) with a map that includes private property routes, when state and local government declares a "state of emergency".
- Reviewed evacuation routes throughout town. New larger, reflective signs must be installed as soon as possible.

Regional Grant Program for 2017-2018

Kevin Magee and Dennis Johnson reported under "Chittenden Park Improvements". Stephen Kops reported that Southern CT Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) will sponsor free public workshops within the next months. Kevin had contacted SCRCOG and was told that regional plan grant funds are expected to be approved and be available in 2018.

FEMA program check list : insurance update on flood plain zones for property owners

Kevin Magee reported that Town Engineering Dept. Asst. Director Mark Damiani advised that until the Community Rating System application is approved for Town projects there can be no flood insurance discounts for residents. There is an upfront administrative cost and a full time staff administrator would be necessary for this work.

Chair Graver submitted an October 27, 2016 FEMA letter sent to First Selectman Joe Mazza titled "Community Assistance Visit follow up", from Karl Anderson, FEMA Region 1, Floodplain Management Specialist. As a public hazard and along a major evacuation route, Leete's Island Road (Rte 146) crabbing area is not on the FEMA priority list.

FEMA does not provide Community Rating System credit to dam maintenance.

Discussion reviewed the HazMC strategy list to determine current priorities.

Kevin Magee will contact Eng. Dept. Asst. Dir. Damiani again to request that he meet with HazMC. Chair Graver will contact Rep. Scanlon and Sen. Kennedy.

Other Old Business

Kevin Magee reported that he is in regular consultation with Eversource utility company, as they continue their project to trim hazardous tree limbs near their cables. This includes Mulberry Point Road, Sachem's Head Road, South Union St. Goose Lane, and others. Kevin reviews their list, observes the areas, and posts signs on trees.

Dennis Johnson will order additional Evacuation Signs redesigned to replace the existing signs with larger and reflective ones for better visibility. These not only assist residents but those who do business or visit Guilford.

New Business

Discussion was held on :

- Enforcement procedures for Town ordinances on septic systems. Currently, owners must pump out their systems every five years. Health Dir. Dennis Johnson will review the current procedures and personnel to accomplish enforcement.
- Reviewed additional ways to distribute emergency procedures and evacuation information to residents and those visiting the Guilford.\

Adjournment

Motion: At 8:57 pm, Kevin Magee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dennis Johnson.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary*