

**Hazard Mitigation Commission
Town Hall
April 23, 2019
3:00 pm
(changed from 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,
Hersh Hernandez
Absent None
Guests Janice Plaziak, Town Engineer

1. Confirmation of a Quorum

At 3:06 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 January 15, 2019

Upon review,

Motion: Dennis Johnson moved to approve the January 15, 2019 minutes, as presented, seconded by Kevin Magee.

*Vote: Carried - Magee, Kops, Johnson, Hank Graver, Kit Wilcox
Abstained - Hersh Hernandez (absent)*

4. Environmental Planner's Report (Kevin Magee)

Environ. Planner Kevin Magee reported that Eversource power company will trim limbs around their cables and remove dead trees in the west side of Town, specifically along West Street. Kevin will alert them to dead tree locations. There are eighty miles of roads in Guilford which must be maintained for safety.

5. Health Director's Report (Dennis Johnson)

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

- The Town signed a construction contract with the True Blue Corporation.
- The project is expected to begin in June.
- The Town has applied for grants including from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the 2019 Healthy Community Program. Ten towns have applied for funds from the \$250,000 available.
- Archaeologists will be onsite to assure preservation of any Native American artifacts or other significant find.
- Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) and the Dept. of Environment and Energy (DEEP) requirements must be met.

- Residents will now have a safe and reliable water supply with fire hydrants every 1000 feet and discounts on flood insurance. This project will complete a HazMC Strategy goal.

6. Chair's Report (Steve Kops)

a. Confirmation of FEMA qualification for Community Rating System (CRS) for 2019

Chair Steven Kops reported that FEMA has notified the Town that Guilford has met the criteria for CRS. HazMC and other Town departments will continue to work on projects to earn more CRS points to obtain grants and increase the current 5% discount for residents' flood insurance.

Discussion reviewed updates to evacuation routes throughout Town that lead to the primary shelter at the high school and secondary at the Community Center. HazMC continues to request that the Town hire a third party to evaluate the Nathanael Green Community Center for emergency shelter upgrades.

(From previous minutes: "Corrugated metal storm windows should be installed to save lives from trees and large objects. 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.")

Dir. Johnson will review the changing vulnerable flood prone areas of Town. Evacuation routes, maps and information will be listed on the Town website. A HazMC webpage will be created for the public.

b. Inspection report for Guilford town-owned bridges

Chair Kops reported that Tom Nezames, CT Dept. of Transportation (DOT), who had made a presentation at the Public Hearing on March 19 regarding the bridge project on Rte. 146 (Leete's Island Road), advised that the railroad bridge near the project is being monitored for safety for both Guilford and Branford sections.

Town Engineer Janice Plaziak reported that she conducts all bridge inspections. The Town owns fifteen bridges, one is in poor condition. Funding is being pursued, one includes the criteria that the Town must match 20% of the grant. There are many privately owned bridges which owners must maintain. As needed, bridges must be replaced, repaired and improved. Citizens have been calling the Engineering Department with questions after an article in The Guilford Courier provided information on the CRS. FEMA conducts a "true risk" assessment on bridges.

Engineer Plaziak recommends that all residents obtain flood insurance either through a mortgage or self insure.

7. New Business

a. Discussion of DOT March 19th conceptual presentation for Rte 146 bridge

Discussion included reviewing the DOT conceptual design for replacing the current Rte 146 bridge and suggestions from commissioners. At the March 19 Public Hearing, the DOT, ACOE and Town officials provided and exchanged information with the public. Town agencies, nonprofits and individuals gave their input and recommendations. In addition to

safety priorities, extending a larger bridge and raising the elevation, some groups requested that this designated State of CT scenic road have a scenic bridge and vista. A bike lane is needed to protect pedestrians. Water quality, shellfish beds, and wetlands are all major concerns and must be protected during and after this project. This is a flood prone area which has become dangerous. The road may need to be closed before the project begins. Currently, funds are only available for the bridge.

HazMC priority is that the new design must include a higher elevation to eliminate flooding, with two eleven feet wide lanes and five feet shoulders for pedestrians and drivers to safely pass each other. This is a designated evacuation route.

b. Discussion of steps the Commission can take to facilitate for higher CRS rating

Discussion reviewed ways that HazMC can facilitate an increase to the Town's CRS rating, currently at Level 9. Chair Kops submitted the 2019 FEMA fact sheet for citizens on preparing themselves, homes and businesses for severe weather, unexpected hazards, terrorism and more.

Suggested included :

- Alerting the public by HazMC and Town websites to publications such as the *CRS National Flood Insurance Program, computer links to documents, Guilford Preparedness Brochure, instructions for health and personal safety, citizens should notify Emergency Services to be added to a list of those who use oxygen and have specific health needs during Town or national emergencies.*
- Dennis Johnson will update the preparedness brochure.
- Chair Kops submitted FEMA "Prepare for Disasters" which includes active shooters, nationwide financial collapse, landslides, widespread fire and more.
*Chair Kops will contact the Town Webmaster Traci Brinkman to create a HazMC webpage.
- Hank Graver reminded that HazMC has recommended that the Town monitor propane tanks and alert citizens to secure their tanks. These can release from their location causing dangerous conditions.

Discussion continued on :

- Expanding coverage of the more efficient Town emergency alert system "Everbridge". Citizens should sign up to be alerted by phone or computer.
- Menunketuck Reservoir Dam is listed by the State of CT and FEMA as a high hazard if breached. The dam is owned by the Regional Water Authority who has an emergency response plan.
- Underground utilities should be recommended for new developments and updated construction.
- Continue to maintain the *Living Shoreline* status at Chittenden Park beach.

Chair Kops will email commissioners the HazMC mitigation Strategy list and CRS points sheet.

8. Old Business

There was no discussion

9. Approval of Bills

Motion: Kevin Magee moved to approve payment of the Recording Secretary invoice for \$69.00, seconded by Dennis Johnson.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

10. Adjourn

Motion: At 4:10 pm, Kevin Magee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kit Wilcox

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary*