

Hazard Mitigation Commission
Town Hall
October 18, 2016
7:30 pm
Selectmen's Meeting Room,
Second Floor

Present Chair Hank Graver, Allyn Brown, Steve Kops

Absent Town Environmental Planner Kevin Magee
Town Health Director Dennis Johnson

Guests Sid Gale

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

At 7:34 pm, Chair Hank Graver called to order the regular meeting without a quorum.

Public Forum

Resident Sid Gale submitted "10/18/16 Proposals for Issues to Consider".

Discussion reviewed :

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- HazMC strategic public safety projects include raising areas that flood along Rte 146, at underpasses, Sachem's Head Road, Leetes Island Road which are being planned with the CT Dept. of Transportation (DOT) and the Town Public Works Dept. HazMC has recommended that these areas be engineered as in Holland and not use fill which erodes. All low lying areas of Town continue to be on the project list. New bridges, raising causeways and adding tidal gates are part of managing the ongoing rise in sea level.
- HazMc is requesting that the Town use a grant writer to obtain funds to accomplish these projects.
- The Evacuation signs posted throughout Town must be reflective, larger with more defined directional arrows, expecting that visitors and nonresidents will be using them during emergencies.
- HazMC continues to recommend long term plans to protect lives and mitigate property damages.
- Inland flooding also continues to increase as sea level changes and more intense short duration storms cause damages.
- HazMC is pursuing more frequent dam inspections to be conducted by Town officials in addition to the State of CT. Dams are owned by private citizens, the Town, and the state. A Menuncketuck Reservoir Dam breach would have a major impact along Durham Road/Rte 77, in North Guilford, on homes, highway, and farms.
- HazMC will continue to provide public education regarding mitigation practices and ways to obtain flood insurance at lower rates from FEMA and private agencies.

Approval of Minutes of Previous meeting

Approval deferred to the November meeting.

Approval of Bills and Vouchers

Approval deferred to the November meeting.

Old Business

Tuttle's Point project is underway and the Chimney Point will be started next year.

Chair Graver submitted the Community Rating System chart revision.

New Business

- **Two vacancies on the commission, how are they appointed ?**

There was no discussion.

- **Evacuation Centers - Parks and Recreation Building needs some updating - send list to Selectmen
Major evacuations will utilize designated area in high school**

The Town Engineer and Facilities Manager have determined that the Community Center is safe for a Category 3 Hurricane (111-129 mph wind). HazMC has sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen disagreeing with this assessment.

- **Any additional info on Chittenden Park improvements**

There was no discussion.

- **New Members needed, including North Guilford** There was no discussion.

- **Follow through with DEEP staff** There was no discussion.

- **Regional Grant Program for 2017-2018** There was no discussion.

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

- **Other**

Chair Graver requested that members review and provide feedback for the Guilford Marina Commission report on plans for severe weather mitigation. In the past, untied and remaining boats during storms have caused costly damages to wetlands and property.

While surveying wetlands, the Army Corp. of Engineers found unsecured propane tanks that had traveled during storms from their Neck Road residences. Guilford Fire Dept. has major difficulties with retrieving these tanks.

Residents with propane tanks are required to obtain permits to install them. It was recommended that a Town official should inspect all current and past tank installations, especially older homes. Residents are required that tanks be secured to a concrete base.

2017 HazMC Meeting dates

To be reviewed at the November meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary*