

Hazard Mitigation Commission
Town Hall
May 19, 2015
7:30 pm
Selectmen's Meeting Room,
Second Floor

Present Chair John Henningson, Allyn Brown, Town Health Director Dennis Johnson,
Town Environmental Planner Kevin Magee

Absent Vice Chair Hank Graver, Kirt Griffin, Rich Meier

Guests None

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

At 7:32 pm, Chair John Henningson called to order the regular meeting, noting that all present were eligible to vote. First Selectman Mazza has advised that Kirt Griffin has resigned from the commission.

Public Forum

No one from the public was present.

Approval of April minutes

Upon review,

Motion: Dennis Johnson moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Allyn Brown.

Vote: Carried - Brown, Johnson, Magee, Henningson

Approval of Bills and Vouchers

Clerk Invoice Recording Secretary : April invoice.
Other There were no other bills or vouchers.

Motion: Kevin Magee moved to pay the April 22, 2015 invoice, seconded by Allyn Brown.

Vote: Carried : Magee, Brown, Johnson, Henningson

Status of Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) (Planning and Zoning Commission/PZC)

Final Plan Revised and Approved by P&Z Draft completed – on Town Website / Documents

Next step is review by Board of Selectman(BOS)

Also decision on who/how to implement/coordinate the Plan

CRP has been reviewed by the BOS. It remains unclear which town entity will be the authority for the Plan. Chair Henningson requested that commissioners continue to review the CRP and recommend ways to implement with the Hazard Mitigation Plan using CRP as a resource.

Discussion reviewed :

- CRP issues concerning emergency services and resident access to homes and businesses when flooding occurs. HazMC may delegate and monitor conditions.
- HazMC Plan is broader, addresses current storm hazards, and solves infrastructure issues.
- CRP addresses strategies for long term issues. It may also be used for the Conservation and Development Plan.

- HazMC is also responsible to solve issues with dams, send letters to state and federal representatives requesting their support, post the actions of HazMC and pertinent information for public awareness on the Town website, news articles, and public meetings.
- Grants can be pursued to upgrade both privately and state owned dams. State statutes require private dam owners to hire inspectors. The state inspects their dams.
- ** HazMC must investigate whether dams are being inspected and if development water runoff is having an impact on roads and properties.
- HazMC can send letters to the BOS to be read at its' monthly televised meeting alerting the public to HazMC actions and meetings. This would produce more feedback from residents.
- Seawalls are at risk. Riprap re-enforcement and a maintenance plan are needed.

Chair Henningson will compose an article for The Courier to educate the public and request residents to participate in solutions to issues in their areas. Monthly HazMC articles would promote additional commission members and community involvement.

A dam inspection report from the State of CT would be helpful. Local dam owners will be invited to HazMc meetings.

Guilford belongs to a Regional Emergency Operations Center and Health Dir. Johnson and Environmental Planner Magee are members. It would be beneficial for HazMC to meet with fire, police, and emergency service personnel to review how these agencies currently operate and during catastrophic events.

Chair Henningson will contact Selectman Mazza regarding the current Town system to assist residents during flooding.

Allyn Brown advised that a resident who is a Yale Univ. professor has information regarding project funds available up to \$500,000. Kevin Magee will provide a list of funding resources and a list of dams and their owners.

HazMC can recommend actions to Planning and Zoning Commission regarding plans from developers and Town development plans. A community waste disposal plan is needed for Seaside Avenue to maintain those homes.

FEMA requirements should be investigated for building near or filling in marshlands and low lying residential areas. The Town requires companies to record septic tank cleanings.

Chair Henningson will draft an outline of this information discussed and advise the BOS regarding the connections among the CRP committee, Planning and Zoning and HazMC.

Allyn Brown read a May 7, 2015 article from The Courier written by Town Planner George Kral regarding the CRP and an article written prior to May 7 from resident Sid Gale. Both had information that needed HazMC clarification.

Review Project Prioritization List from Hazard Mitigation

Status of Hazard Mitigation Projects

1. Old Quarry Rd : major portions are completed
2. Evacuation Signs : Signs have been posted
3. Chaffinch Island Rd : This project has not begun.
4. Rt. 77 & West River / Trib. Culverts : This project has not begun.
5. Long Hill Road @ Spinning Mill Brook : The Town is waiting for CT Dept. of Transportation approval. It is expected to begin next year. **Discussion noted that this area needs more immediate attention
6. Route 46 : Sachem's Head Railroad Bridge Flooding - Interim Drainage Repair

7. Tree Trimming : No new information
8. Other - No further discussion.

Requirement to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan

Due next year – 2016

Chair Henningson advised that the Town does not fund HazMC projects. All Town plans should be integrated to obtain funding.

How to incorporate changes completed / new projects

Discussion was held on how to incorporate plans and take action to accomplish projects in a timely manner.

How to incorporate Coastal Resiliency Plan

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Who?? Staff, Committee, Consultant?

Answers to these questions are unknown at this time.

Old Business

Involvement of local Associations

Members will continue to encourage residents to participate in meetings to address their issues.

Installation of Sea Level Gauge and Recorder

Kevin Magee will find out if the data from the newly installed sea level gauge and recorder is online now. These devices are located on a pole at the Town Marina. Citizens can subscribe for Text alerts for storm information and times when flooding will occur. Water elevations will be transmitted by telephone or email from USGS.gov/wateralert. The Town pays an annual \$10,000 fee to maintain this gauge and recorder.

Commission Leadership/Membership

Discussion took place earlier in this meeting.

New Business

There was no further business.

Adjournment

Motion: At 8:45 pm, Dennis Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Allyn Brown.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

The next meeting will be held June 16, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary*