

Hazard Mitigation Commission
Town Hall
June 16, 2015
7:30 pm
Selectmen's Meeting Room,
Second Floor

Present Chair John Henningson, Vice Chair Hank Graver, Allyn Brown, Rich Meier,
Town Health Director Dennis Johnson

Absent Town Environmental Planner, Kevin Magee

Guests Steve Kops, resident

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.

Public Forum

There was no discussion.

Approval of May minutes

Upon review,

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

*Vote: Carried - Brown, Johnson, Henningson
Abstained : Graver, Meier (not present in May)*

Approval of Bills and Vouchers

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

Motion: Rich Meier moved to pay the recording secretary invoice for May 19, 2015 meeting, seconded by Allyn Brown.

*Vote: Carried: Brown, Johnson, Henningson
Abstained: Graver, Meier (not present in May)*

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

Next step is review by Board of Selectman (BOS)

Chair Henningson advised that he 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.

The BOS has yet to make a decision regarding the CRP.

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

Chair Henningson reported that he had advised Town Planner George Kral that since the HazMC Plan is broader (than the CRP) addressing current storm hazards and works to solve infrastructure issues, that the Conservation Commission should be the entity to implement the CRP, which addresses strategies for long term issues, stemming from the Conservation and

Development Plan. HazMC would use the CRP as a resource.

Discussion was held regarding :

- HazMC has challenges to fund the strategies without a budget. Potential grants were reviewed.
- It was recommended that the Town hire a grant writer for all Town agency needs and provide millions in grants. This would be more efficient and productive than volunteer commissioners.
- Orange and West Haven have obtained multi-million dollar grants for flood disasters.
- FEMA requires HazMC Plan to be updated by 2016, stating priorities. If not updated, potential grants would not be available for future storm damages.
- If the Town hires a grant writer, HazMC commissioner should meet with and monitor the grant status to move forward.
- Grants may be available through S.C.R.C.O.G. (South Central Regional Council of Governments) and Yale University for Yale field experts.

Guilford Conservation Commission has obtained grants for East River Preserve and the Plan of Conservation and Development Committee can benefit HazMC as well.

Discussion continued on ways to use the data collected from the new water gauge and data recorder installed at the Town Marina.

Review Project Prioritization List from Hazard Mitigation

Status of Hazard Mitigation Projects

Long Hill Road @ Spinning Mill Brook : The road will be raised and a new culvert will be installed. This is the main route to the high school, which will be a major evacuation center. This area needs more immediate attention.

Requirement to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan

Due next year – 2016

All Town plans should be integrated to obtain funding. The updated Hazard Mitigation Plan must go to Public Hearing several times over several months this coming year.

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. A particular concern is deteriorating sea walls. The State of CT now provides new regulations which may allow the Town to obtain grants for structure damages after storm surges. Local incidents were reviewed. Neighborhoods can commit to armoring their sea walls. A state specialist can be requested to meet with HazMC to explain new regulations. PZC has the authority to approve or deny sea walls. Chair Henningson will contact DEEP John Grocher and Town Engineer Jim Portley to review design plans for a lawn stone wall above high water level that is proposed for construction.

How to incorporate Coastal Resiliency Plan

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Who?? Staff, Committee, Consultant?

Answers to these questions continue to be unknown at this time.

Old Business

Involvement of local Associations

Chair Henningson will draft a letter to associations requesting residents to participate in meetings to address their issues.

Commission Leadership/Membership

Discussion took place earlier in this meeting.

New Business

S.C.R.C.O.G. Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) - participation

Chair Henningson reported that S.C.R.C.O.G. is looking to offer up to \$100,000 for town projects to include in their CRP.

Discussion reviewed shoreline projects by several towns, including replacement of sand removed by the State of CT from Guilford to Hammonasset State Park. Bag berms are being proposed to create barriers along shore towns. Offshore reef structures are needed to protect natural resources including shellfish and fish, as well as, buildings.

N.R.O.C. RFP for projects

Natural Resources of CT (NROC) projects : New Haven and Bridgeport are looking for management projects and knowledge of how to use data collected from water gauges and recorders. Vandalism has occurred in other towns. Anyone can access the data by logging in on their computers.

Discussion included :

- Emergency Alerts : Water level data can be used to provide emergency services and residents with sea rise levels and mandatory evacuations. News articles and GCTV should be posted to alert residents to access this public service.
- Tree hazard at Water St. and Wildrose Avenue : Hank Graver advised that he had alerted Tree Warden Kevin Magee to remove.
- Dennis Johnson will alert Public Works to adjust a sign at the Transfer Station, which blocks drivers' vision when turning left.

Adjournment

Motion: At 8:42 pm, Hank Graver moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rich Meier.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary*