

Hazard Mitigation Commission

Town Hall

July 19, 2016

7:30 pm

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Second Floor

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

Absent: Allyn Brown

Guests: None

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

At 7:42 pm, Chair Hank Graver opened the regular meeting

Public Forum

There were no comments.

Approval of June minutes

Upon review,

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

Vote: Carried - Dennis Johnson, Stephen Kops, Hank Graver, Kevin Magee

Approval of Bills and Vouchers

- **Recording Secretary**
- **Other**

There were no submissions.

New Business

- **Review information from CT Hazard Mitigation Deputy Officer Gemma Fabris**

Discussion reviewed information from the presentation by Gemma Fabris, CT Hazard Mitigation Deputy Officer, at the June HazMC regular meeting, including, yet not limited to :

- The CT Hazard Mitigation has funding available for municipal projects that meet their criteria.
- Board of Selectmen has approved collaboration with South Central Regional Council Of Governments (SCRCOG), which will hire a regional consultant for 2017 grants.
- Kevin Magee has been invited to attend the CT Regional Hazard Mitigation Committee meetings. He explained the project schedule and meeting dates.
- Gemma had recommended that HazMC contact the grant writer for the Cape Cod Regional Hazard Mitigation Commission.
- To obtain grants, specific projects must be identified and chosen to meet the criteria for each application.

Further discussion included :

- HazMC need for additional members from emergency services and North Guilford section of Town.
- Stephen Kops will contact Democratic Nominating Committee Chair Rose Dostert regarding whether there are new nominees for the HazMC.
- Route 146 at Mulberry Point Road project : location of a tree which is a public hazard. Kevin Magee advised that he has been working with the utility company which must install cable protectors before work is done.

- **What Do We Do Next ?**

Discussion provided suggestions to implement as soon as possible, including :

- HazMC sponsored Evacuation Procedure Workshops to education residents on safety when preparing for and during hazardous weather conditions.
- Information regarding safety near downed power lines can be included with the Guilford annual Emergency Evacuation brochure. Dennis Johnson will work on this and also send

the information to Traci Brinkman to post on the Town website before hurricane season.

- Dams will be evaluated for public safety.
- Community Center is currently listed as the Town primary storm shelter. The roof is 25 years old and windows with storm shades must be evaluated and updated to conform with present day storm safety regulations.
- A grant writer should be hired to obtain contractor quotes. This could be a current Town staff member from the Engineering or Building Depts. Dennis Johnson will contact Dana Conover, DEEP, regarding information for grant applications.
- Kevin Magee will research the dam evaluation process.

Discussion continued on the Community Center as inadequate to serve as the primary storm shelter for the entire town. It does not meet criteria for a Category 3 hurricane and would be a public safety issue during major storms.

HazMC recommends the high school be designated as the primary storm shelter for all residents. In addition to the lack of building safety conditions, the Community Center is in a low lying section of town, would be prone to flooding in a major storm and does not accommodate more than 200 people, limited parking, smaller kitchen and no showers. The high school is on higher ground, has up to date generators and accommodates over 1,000 people with state of the art facilities.

The Town would receive assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Red Cross who provide personnel, funding, medical reserve corp., and food service contractors which are available to municipalities during crises. They also train volunteers to assist emergency services.

The Board of Selectmen will be requested to recommend the high school as the primary storm shelter to the Fire, Police and Emergency Services Departments.

Dennis Johnson will research the storm rating for the Community Center in its' present condition.

- **Board of Selectmen approved HazMC Budget**

Chair Hank Graver reported that the Marina Commission has received funding to maintain the tidal gate at the Town Marina. Hank had made a request to First Selectmen Joe Mazza that the Town support HazMC by providing a budget of \$30,000. Selectman Mazza recommended to request this amount for the 2017- 2018 budget.

Discussion was held on projects to be funded :

- Tide Gauge stations to monitor water surges and annual change in high tide. This would provide annual data for resiliency and planning instead of the regional data which is available after five years.
- Additional evacuation signs to the high school and detour flood routes would enhance public safety throughout town.
- The sluice gate at the Marina must be kept open to not compromise the wetlands in this area. This is a multi-faceted issue to maintain public and environmental safety, especially due to a dangerous velocity of rushing water.

Old Business

Kevin Magee submitted two SCRCOG concept plans for Coastal Resiliency projects. These are alternate plan designs showing erosion and dredge spoil areas. One covers a larger area than the other. A recent SCRCOG meeting included Guilford, Stratford, Milford and West Haven. The Guilford Coastal Resiliency Plan (Milone and MacBroom, 6/2/16) was recommended as a model plan. Kevin advised that the smaller area design plan would be preferred by the Guilford Shellfish Commission as it has less impact along the shoreline and had favorable comments from SCRCOG members. More detailed engineering designs will also be done.

Discussion was held on:

- Guilford Yacht Club could supply dredging spoils to the Town.
- Town Planner George Kral and Kevin had met with SCRCOG regarding regional plans for water mitigation and erosion issues. SCRCOG will review and can include evaluation of the shoreline to the Coastal Resiliency grant. Kevin will work on the design phase with this agency.
- Both design plans have pros and cons with water breakers, channels and natural wave action.

HazMC members prefer the "PR-2" smaller area design.

Kevin Magee reported on the CT Tidal Study for Route 146 flooding of coastal areas. Gauges are used to collect data. Kevin and George Kral had met with the CT Institute for Resiliency and Climate Adaptation. A Dept. of Transportation (DOT) project plan includes elevating the road and adding a culvert at the Long Cove crabbing area near Lost Lake. Lifelong Guilford resident Stephen Dudley is the liaison for Guilford working with the State of CT. He will meet with the DOT.

Kevin Magee reported that the Planning subcommittee for Planning and Zoning Commission is changing the zoning code for shoreline housing elevations by adding one foot of free board in high water velocity zones, limited wave action zone, requiring base girders above one foot. This assists homeowners to obtain reduced flood insurance premiums and if they apply to the Zoning Board of Appeals for variances and home improvements or renovations where it is required to raise the building. Some areas where this applies is on Seaside Avenue, Tuttle's Point, Shell Beach and other low lying areas. Base flood evaluations (higher than your average grade) is a HazMC strategy which will be completed by this code.

SCRCOG Planning Committee continues to work on completing the Regional Coastal Resiliency Plan.

New Members needed

Reviewed under "...CT Hazard Mitigation...Gemma Fabris...".

Adjournment

Motion: At 9:23 pm Stephen Kops moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kevin Magee.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

*The next regular meeting will be the third Tuesday, August 16, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary