

Hazard Mitigation Commission
Town Hall
August 18, 2015
7:30 pm
Selectmen's Meeting Room,
Second Floor

Present Chair John Henningson, Vice Chair Hank Graver, Allyn Brown, Steve Kops,
Town Health Director Dennis Johnson, Town Environmental Planner Kevin Magee

Absent Rich Meier

Guests None

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

At 7:35 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 Minutes of Previous meeting

There were no minutes taken at the July meeting.

Approval of Bills and Vouchers

Clerk Invoice
Other

There were no other bills or vouchers.

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

Chair Henningson reported that there was no new information on the status of the CRP.

Requirement to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan (Due next year – 2016)

An updated Hazard Mitigation Plan must go to Public Hearing several times this coming year. All Town department plans should be integrated to obtain funding for mitigation.

Chair Henningson advised :

- The Board of Selectmen was requested to provide information regarding which Town agency or commission is responsible for updating the HazMC Plan, required by FEMA by 2016.
- A consultant is needed (or Town staff) to complete this task.
- A grant has been submitted to accommodate the increase in sea level at the Town Marina.
- Chair Henningson requested that the U.S. Geological Service provide data on sea level and was told that they would be unable to conduct an analysis for another six months to a year.
- John Graucher, DEEP, had attended the HazMC June meeting and provided information on the safety of dams in CT. Chair Henningson had emailed HazMC members documents from Mr. Graucher
- It is unknown how often dams are inspected and who is responsible.

Kevin Magee read a list of local dams and their categories, including AA : negligible hazard, BB : moderate hazard, B: significant hazard, C : high hazard, with Menunketuck Reservoir rated C, Lake Quonnipaug rated BB and Upper Guilford Lakes rated BB. The DEEP website provides dam statistics.

No work can be done at the base of dams to strengthen them unless permits are obtained from the DEEP.

Chair Henningson advised that the DEEP allows dam breach repair only at low tide within the original footprint, without changing the configuration, disturbing shellfish beds or marshlands. Dams can be reinforced on the land side though not the sea side. Local and state permits are required.

Members reviewed information from Allyn Brown regarding major erosion at the boat launch at the end of Trolley Road, at Great Harbor (town) beach and recreational shellfishing areas. Clean fill is needed to provide safety for public use and residences. The low level of Trolley Road causes hazardous conditions during storms. Citizens park within thirty feet of the water, This does not comply with CT state statutes. Public Works could raise the road and posts could be installed to prevent parking in this area. The Police Dept. must be requested to enforce "no parking" violations.

Town owned, Grass Island, is now closed to the public due to erosion and the unsafe building on that island.

Discussion continued on supporting ways for home and land owners to make repairs.

Adjournment

Motion: At 8:14 pm, Steve Kops moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dennis Johnson.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary*