

Hazard Mitigation Commission  
Town Hall  
September 15, 2015  
7:30 pm  
Selectmen's Meeting Room,  
Second Floor

**Present** Chair John Henningson, Vice Chair Hank Graver, Allyn Brown, Steve Kops,  
Rich Meier

**Absent** Town Health Director Dennis Johnson, Town Environmental Planner Kevin Magee

**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 were no guests present.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous meeting**

Upon review,

*Motion: Hank Graver moved to approve the August minutes, as amended, seconded by Steve Kops.*

*Vote: Carried - Kops, Brown, Graver Henningson  
Abstained due to absence: Rich Meier*

**Approval of Bills and Vouchers**

**Clerk Invoice** Invoice : \$49.50 approved for Recording Secretary.

**Other** There were no other bills or vouchers.

*Motion: Hank Graver moved to pay the invoice, seconded by Rich Meier.*

*Vote: Carried - Unanimously*

**Selection of New Commissioner Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair John Henningson reported that he had received a letter from the Board of Selectmen re-appointing him to the Board. He reminded everyone that a new chairperson is needed to replace him.

Discussion reviewed the responsibilities for both chair and vice chair positions, as well as, the commission's responsibility to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2016, as required by FEMA. The update will be submitted to FEMA in order to be eligible to receive grant funding for the projects in the plan. Grants would also be available for residents who meet criteria and FEMA offers programs to residents to reduce insurance rates. Without an updated plan, the Town will jeopardize these benefits.

Discussion included :

- HazMC must provide FEMA with a list of accomplished projects and must continue to prioritize strategies as needed.
- HazMC must be provided with funding and a budget to hire a consultant to work with HazMC to update the Plan.

- Board of Selectmen has been alerted on several occasions to the HazMC need for funds in 2016. None have been budgeted. Town funding would ensure that projects can be completed and FEMA would provide grants for public safety infrastructure.

Discussion reviewed the process of public meetings, cost and use of consultants for the previous 'Hazard Pre-Mitigation Planning Committee', completed projects and those presently ongoing.\ It was recommended that when storms are approaching, Public Works equipment and emergency services could be positioned throughout Town.

After a brief review,

*Motion: Steve Kops moved to elect Hank Graver as Chair to replace John Henningson, seconded by Rich Meier.*

*Vote: Carried - Unanimously*

John Henningson, Steve Kops, Rich Meier and Hank Graver will meet with First Selectman Joe Mazza to review the need for HazMC funding and FEMA requirement to update the HazMC plan in 2016.

Upon discussion,

*Motion: Hank Graver moved to nominate Rich Meier for Vice Chair, seconded by Steve Kops.*

Hank Graver will email all commissioners with the meeting date with Selectman Mazza.

### **Old Business**

Discussion focused on :

- the Community Rating System, which assists with lower rates for flood insurance. John Henningson will research further information on the system.
- Reviewed Town costs for road work and projects to be completed.
- Public Works' projects rely on 1980 FEMA criteria and must be brought to current codes levels.
- Inland Wetlands Commission and Public Works Commission will be invited to a HazMC meeting to review the HazMC Plan and work with each other to accomplish the projects and provide assistance with cost figures.

### **New Business**

Before the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, Hank Graver will contact Tree Warden/Environmental Planner Kevin Magee, Health Director Dennis Johnson, Public Works Director Jim Portley, and Fire Chief Charles Herrschaft. A Special Meeting will be scheduled.

*Motion: Steve Kops moved to hold a Special Meeting, September 29, 2015, 7:30 pm to prepare for the meeting with First Selectman Joe Mazza, seconded by Rich Meier.*

*Vote: Carried - Unanimously*

Public safety is the HazMC priority working as a team with other Town agencies and staff to complete projects.

It was recommended that a request be sent to the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the need for residents and commercial entities to anchor and secure propane storage tanks and that the Town should be performing inspections, whether an installation permit (500 gallons) is required or not (less than 500 gallons). Currently, PZC regulations require developers to install underground tanks.

HazMC will identify key risks to the public and contact Town agencies who may be responsible to permit, inspect or regulate such risks.

**Adjournment**

*Motion:* At 9:04 pm, Hank Graver moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Steve Kops..

*Vote:* Carried - Unanimously

**The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 20, 2015.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

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*Judith Anderson Castellano*  
*Recording Secretary*