

Minutes of the Special Select Board Meeting Monday July 29, 2024

Attendance: Alyssa Johnson, Ian Shea, Mike Bard, Kane Sweeney, Tom Lietz, Karen Petrovic, Roger Clapp

Public Attendance: Chris Viens, Sandy Sabin, Nora Miller, ORCA Media, Nathan Dunbar, Lucy Ely Pagan, Lawrence Dennis, Rick Boyle, John Haase, Skip Flanders, CJ Gaunce, Erin Mooney, Brian Kravitz, Marieta Warnstedt, Liz Schlegel, Betsy Shapiro, Kathi Grace, Mike Dacey, Theresa Wood, Aero Anthony, Jessica Burrill, Billy Vigdor, Ben Ayers, Liam Loughlin, Mary Collett, Tom Gloor, Eric Gross, Katie Roberge, Lisa Scagliotti - Waterbury Roundabout, Matt Dugan, Garin Samuelson, April Hayes, Mal Culberton, Tessa Yip, Brandon Shea, Mike Griffith, Harry Shepard, Gordan Miller, Richard Cohen (Duxbury), Tom Stevens, Amy Chorey, Michelle Braun - Friends of the Winooski River, Jocelyn Depaolis, Joshua Cousino

Zoom: Jay & Kathy Provencher, Nora Miller, Lisa Meyer, Monica Callan, Dustin Spence, Logan, ORCA Media, Michelle and Jack Downing, Jack Egan, Charlie Hoffert, Dani Kehlmann, Antony Gnanapiragasam, Owen Setti-Ducati, Stacey Schwartz, Florenceteats, Paul Arnot, Scott Geba, Laura Hardie, Forrest MacDonald, Kathy Mackey

R. Clapp called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Approve Agenda: K. Sweeney moved to approve the agenda as written. M. Bard seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items: K. Sweeney moved to approve the consent agenda. M. Bard seconded the motion, a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Public: K. Grace commented the new Zoning Regulations increase density in the floodplain opposed to increasing it in areas such as Union Street.

Brief Overview of Potential Flood Mitigation Projects and other updates: T. Leitz provided an updated of where the Town is now in planning. The Town has hired a hydrologist specifically to look at the following: The cornfield; the bottom of Winooski Street to create a large culvert system to relieve the residence upstream; the storm drains that are lowest are here in the heart of the village, Fire Station, Elm/Randall and in front of the Wesley Church. There is a likely way to “fix” this but it is very complex. Route 2 between Jenny Davis and Little River Road has one culvert; the homes along this stretch have back yard flooding before the homes along the river. This is a prominent area of interest on the list for the hydrologist. The Ice Center land was considered years ago but needs to be looked at again with the scope of weighing options over mitigation and soccer. Sinkholes on Randall Street are appearing and need to be studied. Thatcher Brook studies along with Graves Brook to see if infrastructure studies can find mitigation plans along that river bed. Look at storm water regulations for new development to assist in mitigation. The Town needs to look at the land surrounding the wastewater treatment plant to both secure it and perhaps increase assist with flood mitigation as well.

Quick update on Buyouts – there are three homes on Union Street, one on Main Street and one on Route 2. There has been one approval to move a home but there are hurdles to find a new location and secure the move.

Elevations are less feasible because FEMA’s rules dictate all your living spaces and utilities are 2 feet above the flood plain. It is a daunting task with the funding being less than the cost of the project.

The Municipal Office utilities are exactly two feet above the flood plain. The maps are being redrawn and T. Leitz expects once those maps are completed, the utilities will be considered in the floodplain and require being moved.

Electronic water shut off valves for EFUD customers were discussed. These would allow to remotely shut off the water flows into damaged homes to assist in clean up efforts. Values are \$300+ per valve. T. Leitz and staff will investigate funding for these valves.

R. Clapp turned the meeting over to A. Johnson who introduced the next meeting agenda item. The structure for the rest of this meeting will be to break out into three smaller conversations to ensure all folks get their voices heard. Each person should introduce themselves and share ideas. There will be a notetaker in each group as well as the ability to rate the top ideas to narrow the scope of conversations as they continue.

T. Leitz answered an audience question regarding timelines of the grant funding that has an application deadline of August 16, 2024.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Idea Brainstorming – Small Group Discussions: The attendees were broken into three groups with approximately 15-20 participants each to discuss ideas and make notes of flood mitigation ideas.

Small Group Sharing and Report Back: N. Miller shared a slide of the ideas presented in her group highlighting: see slide

R. Clapp presented for his group which included cleaning debris from the corn field as well as mitigation on Armory Drive. Participants asked how the State of Vermont can help - noting the swales they installed are now blocked with debris.

A. Johnson's group was heavy on the cornfield, a wetland, plants trees and deep grasses that are there. Debris removal around bridges and culverts. The group talked about collaboration with neighboring communities as well as regulations for stormwater management and homeowner education to ensure folks are prepared for another flood.

Discussion and Prioritization for Top Flood Mitigation Concepts:

There was an exercise to weigh the options which also exists online by visiting <https://pollunit.com/polls/1aqsag5xyy1zov2meabrw>

R. Clapp called the meeting back to order at 9:07pm
Anyone with further ideas regarding mitigation may email tleitz@waterburyvt.com and Alyssa.johnson@waterburyvt.com

Next Meeting Agenda:

Add Dot summary flood mitigation & Flood Mitigation Grant Update
Road & Pedestrian Safety Plan – Speeding on Maple Street

Adjourn: K. Sweeney made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by I. Shea and passed unanimously.