

Floodplain Working Group Meeting – Monday, March 21, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.

Steele Meeting Room, Municipal Center Minutes

Attendees: Barb Farr, Rebecca Ellis, Bill Shepeluk, Steve Lotspeich, Rebecca Pfeiffer, Dan Currier, Dina Bookmyer-Baker, Rob Dombrowski

1. Assign volunteer meeting chair – Dan, minute taker - Steve.
2. Agenda review/modification -- No changes.
3. Announcements – Barb pointed out the interpretive displays on the flood recovery that are displayed in the meeting room. Credit for the panels, including the associated QR codes linked to interviews, goes to Rebecca E., her son Myles Rossi, Rob Hofmann, Steve, Ann Smith, and Laura Parette who did the graphic layout of the panels.
4. Review/approve January 5, 2016 Floodplain Working Group Meeting Minutes. Rebecca E. moved to approve, Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
5. CRO Items: Irene Anniversary Leaflet, Updates
 - Steve gave an overview of the Community Resilience Organization (CRO) project.
 - The main project we have accomplished is the creation of the flood resiliency panels that were set up in the meeting room for the grand opening for the Municipal Center on February 12th.
 - Follow up for the panels is to add the Waterbury logo and photo credits and get them on the Waterbury website and the CRO website.
6. The Winooski and Tributaries River Corridor Plan
 - The Plan has been finalized. Our comments were forwarded to the consultant by Dan. The cornfield near the State Office Complex has been designated as a possible floodplain reconnection project.
 - The Plan can now be used as the basis for mapping the River Corridors in Waterbury. If Waterbury wants to have Phase II River Corridors mapped based on the information in the study, Waterbury would need to make a request to Gretchen Alexander, the state River Scientist for our region. Gretchen can ask CVRPC to assist with the mapping.
 - The Plan identifies stream reaches where restoration projects can be done.
7. HMGP Grants Update including Planning Grant
 - HMGP Planning Grant. The decision has been made to have Barb Farr do the Pan update in-house. The update needs to be completed and approved by FEMA by December, 2017. The Select Board and Trustees will need to approve the revised Plan before it is forwarded to FEMA.
 - The HMGP funded project to elevate the house at 5 Healy Ct. that is owned by Whitney Aldrich and Wade Hodge has been advertised for design/build bid proposals. About 10 firms have been solicited directly as well.
 - A CDBG-Disaster Recovery Planning Grant of \$53,300 has been granted by ACCD to support the planning elements requested by the Division for Historic Preservation in advance of signing off on the HMGP Elevation Grant for the 8 historic properties on Randall, Elm and Union Streets. The conditions are being addressed so the FEMA

HMGP Grant Agreement for design and construction can be offered and executed. A Request for Proposals has been prepared to hire an architect with historic building expertise. Then an archaeologist and historic preservation specialist will also be hired to complete the project.

8. HMGP Floodplain Restoration Project.

- The CVRPC is no longer managing this grant funded floodplain re-connection project. It is now being handled by the state DEMES. Lauren Oates is now the state Mitigation Officer and is overseeing the project for the state and can give us periodic updates in the future. Theresa Wood, who is now one of our two State Representatives, is assisting with trying to move the project forward on the Harvey property in Duxbury.

9. Update re. Draft Flood Hazard Area Regulations

- The Planning Commission approved their draft of the Flood Hazard Area Regulations. The Select Board and Trustees held their joint public hearing on the amendments on March 7th. The controversial aspect of the proposed amendments is the requirement to elevate new structures three feet above the base flood (100-year) elevation. The alternative that certain property owners are advocating for is to require elevating new buildings two feet above the base flood elevation to be consistent with the state rules for development that is exempt from local zoning, and the state recommendations for projects going through Act 250 review. The issue of variance review was discussed. The propose amendments allow variance requests to be review under the lesser standard in the federal statutes. Rebecca P. said that the state has the opinion that the higher standards in the state statute has to be met. We will forward the opinions from the two attorneys that were hired by the town to Rebecca P. to be reviewed by the attorney with the state Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

10. Update re. CRS

- Steve reported that the final application for the Community Rating System (CRS) has been submitted and we are waiting for Gene Coles from the Insurance Service Organization to do our rating and notify us. We are hoping to get a rating of 8 (10% discount on flood insurance premiums) for the Village and 9 (5% discount) for the Town.

11. Set date and time for next meeting

- Monday, April 25, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.