

**Floodplain Management Working Group Meeting
Steele Community Room, 28 North Main Street
June 6, 2016 Minutes**

Present: Steve Lotspeich, Ann Smith, Rebecca Pfeiffer, Barb Farr, Natalie Sherman,

1. Introductions.
2. Ann volunteered to chair the meeting and Rebecca will be taking notes.
3. Agenda review/modification – Rebecca P suggested that the group discuss NFIP rates.
4. Announcements – Ann reported that the Friends of Winooski paddling event on June 5 was very successful! Over 100 paddlers participated.
5. Minutes – Steve moved to approve the minutes from April 25, 2016. Rebecca P seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. CRO/Resilient Vermont Conference. Steve, Ann, Rebecca P and Rebecca E attended the conference on May 20 & 21 at Norwich University.
 - a. Waterbury CRO displayed the posters that were the result of the Basin Harbor planning process last year.
 - b. Steve visited a farm that grew resilient crops. The farmer noted that the easement for the riparian buffer did not allow for crops, which was frustrating. Rebecca P mentioned that UVM might be doing work on “beneficial buffers.” Ann S will talk with Steve Libby at the River Conservancy about their policy.
 - c. On Saturday, Steve attended the CRO track. Rebecca Stone and Delia Clark were the facilitators; they had both facilitated the weekend retreat in 2015 at Basin Harbor Club. The towns represented at the conference included Waterbury, Hartford, Plainfield, and Londonderry.
 - d. Ann co-led a tour on both Saturday and Sunday of the Northfield buy-outs and restoration. Nearly 20 properties were bought out. Ann also attended a discussion of projects supported by High Meadows, where the grantees reported that it was difficult to achieve inter-municipal collaboration. Ann had further discussions with the Town of Plainfield, who mentioned the good work achieved by Waterbury.
 - e. Steve suggested that this group discuss at a future meeting how to build the Waterbury CRO into the community rating system.
7. Waterbury HMGP Updates
 - a. Home Elevation – Healy Court. This garage has been raised. The homeowners are living in the apartment above the garage while the house has been elevated. The most challenging aspect of the design was getting the entrance and egress

designed, since the house is now 3 feet higher. Phase 2 (\$44,000) will include insulation of the basement, entrance and exit finish, night lighting, railings, and walkway.

- b. Eight additional homes are historic (5 on Randall, 2 on Elm, 1 on Union).
 - i. Architectural drawings. Because these houses are historic, the SHPO has required architectural drawings. Wiemann Lamphere was chosen by select board on 5/16 to do the renderings. The homeowners met as a group last week with the architects.
 - ii. Archaeological Study. Bids on the RFP are due next week.
 - iii. Federal Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 review. Bids on the RFP are due next week.
 - c. Buy-outs. The Union Street house may be eligible for a buy-out, but the owner would prefer elevation. The Elm Street project may be eligible for a buy-out, and the owner is considering that option. If the buy-out was pursued, the town would own the property and could use it for parking.
 - d. Insurance. One homeowner tried to get information from an insurance company to determine savings that would result from an elevation. The insurance company refused to provide information until homeowner presents an elevation certificate. Barb F has been in touch with Rob Evans. Rebecca P suggested providing the insurance company with an elevation certificate based on the engineering plans. She can assist with this.
 - i. Increased cost of compliance (ICC) (\$30,000). Can the ICC money be used for the 25% match? Can the homeowner request ICC money from the insurance company? Rebecca P mentioned there might be a four-year deadline, and might require “substantial damage” (>50%) determination from the town.
 - e. Waterbury Hazard Mitigation Plan project edit lists. For organization purposes, the group suggested adding a third column to show 2016 edits, and to move accomplishments to the top of the list. Barb F asked the group to provide comments by the next meeting.
 - i. 2016 Middle Winooski River Corridor Plan
 - ii. Culverts
 - iii. Brook trout – additional money might be available if culvert replacement enhances the trout habitat
 - iv. State office complex -
8. Waterbury Flood Hazard Area Regulations. After years of effort, the select board and trustees have approved a new set of floodplain regulations on May 16th.
- a. 2 feet above the 100 year floodplain
 - b. No net rise
 - c. Variance procedure focused on historic structures. Even if a variance is granted, elevation of utilities is still required.

9. CRS and impact on NFIP rates: Steve reported that FEMA has awarded both the town and village of Waterbury a rating of 9 although the goal of the village was to receive a rating of 8. It will be effective as of October 2016. This means that homeowners in the NFIP Flood Insurance Program will be eligible for a 5% reduction in flood insurance rates. If and when conditions warrant a change for an improved rating, the town can reapply to the program. FEMA applied the same “open space” ratio to both town and village’s 100-year floodplain areas. Bill S asked Steve L to request an explanation from FEMA, especially since FEMA had asked town and village to separate all of its data, and Waterbury went to great effort to provide separate information.
10. Establishing a Vermont Association of Floodplain Managers. Rebecca P spoke with Brian Cote at Milone and MacBroom about establishing a Vermont Association of Floodplain Managers. Ann suggested that Milly Archer at VLCT might be a good contact. There are probably 20 or 30 certified floodplain managers in VT. The association could help support training for certified floodplain managers.
11. Set date and time for next meeting: Monday, July 11, 9:30am. Steele Community Room.

Topic for future meeting: NFIP checklist for public outreach credit for CRS.