

**Floodplain Management Working Group Meeting  
Steele Community Room, 28 North Main Street  
July 11, 2016 Draft Minutes**

Present: Steve Lotspeich, Barb Farr, Dina Bookmyer-Baker, Natalie Sherman, Rebecca Pfeiffer

1. Introductions.
2. Barb volunteered to chair the meeting and Steve will be taking notes.
3. Agenda review/modification – Rebecca P suggested that the group discuss NFIP rates.
4. Announcements – No announcements were made.
5. Minutes – Natalie moved to approve the minutes as amended from June 6, 2016. Steve seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Floodplain reconnection Grant Status – Theresa Wood is still discussing the project with the private landowner involved with the project to see if permission could be granted to do additional engineering work on the property.
7. Waterbury HMGP Updates
  - a. Home Elevation – Healy Court. This house has been raised, the foundation extended up three feet, and the house will be placed back on the raised foundation this week. The manhole for the wastewater pump station is also being raised. The Phase 2 (\$44,000+) funding for will include insulation of the basement, entrance and exit finish, night lighting, railings, and walkway has been approved by the Select Board but is still pending FEMA approval.
  - b. Eight additional homes are historic (5 on Randall, 2 on Elm, 1 on Union). The Town has hired consultants in the following areas:
    - i. Architectural drawings. Wiemann Lamphere met with the homeowners and is developing schematic drawings of how the homes will look if they are elevated.
    - ii. The Archaeological Phase I study of the sites is underway.
    - iii. Federal Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 review information is being prepared by Ann Cousins.

A follow up meeting with the homeowners involved has been scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm at the Municipal Center meeting room. Rob Evans with the state Floodplain Management Program will be discussing flood insurance scenarios. Then Steve Roy with Wiemann Lamphere will present the schematic drawings of the houses if they are raised. Then the archaeological information will be shared. August 1<sup>st</sup> is the target date for having all the consultant work complete and ready to present to the Select Board. Then the reports will go to the State Div. for Historic Preservation for a determination on the Section 106 review.

- c. Buy-outs. Both the owners of the 34 Union Street and 11 Elm St. houses have decided not to pursue buy-outs for their properties and are still interested in pursuing the home elevations.
- d. Insurance.
  - i. Increased cost of compliance (ICC) (\$30,000). Barb found out the ICC funds can only be applied for when a house is substantially damaged. Rebecca P. mentioned that if ICC funds are granted, the total amount of FEMA grants must still remain below the cap under the homeowner's insurance policy. There might be a deadline for applying for ICC funds that is four years after the disaster.
- e. Waterbury Hazard Mitigation Plan edited project list. Barb discussed the latest draft of the project list that is in tracked changes. The 2014 column has been eliminated leaving the 2012 and 2016 columns. Comments are requested at or before the August FMWGP meeting. At the next FMWGP meeting Barb would like to finalize the list then it would go to the Planning Commission prior to presenting it to the Select Board and Trustees in late September or early October. The goal is to have a final revised Hazard Mitigation Plan completed and approved locally by the end of 2016 or early 2017. Then it will go to FEMA for their approval.

Steve met with Ann Smith to discuss implementing possible projects that were identified in the 2016 Middle River Corridor Plan that have water quality benefits that will ultimately be required under the state Clean Water Act. One option is to meet with landowners in the Thatcher Brook watershed that have no or minimal buffers to streams that pass through cattle pastures and other agricultural uses. There may be federal Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) grant funding to pay the farmers to remove their productive farmland from production and create planted buffers.

- 8. CRS and impact on NFIP rates: FEMA has awarded both the town and village of Waterbury a rating of 9 that 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 the flood insurance premiums that they pay. Rebecca P. explained that FEMA publishes a manual once each year that gives the flood insurance rates and the discounts for the CRS communities. Rebecca will find out if there is a press release that Waterbury could use in an announcement about joining the CRS program. This announcement could be made in the context of an update regarding the flood recovery. This could be done in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene.
- 9. Other updates on floodplain related items: The flood hazard area regulations are in effect and one application for a deck has been reviewed under the new regs.
- 10. Set date and time for next meeting: Tuesday, August 2nd, 9:30am. Steele Community Room. Agenda items will include review draft list of HMGP projects, recap of August meeting re. home elevations, and 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene article.