

Floodplain Management Working Group Meeting
Monday, December 12, 2016 at 9:30am
Steele Community Room, 28 North Main Street
Draft Meeting Minutes

9:30 Regular Business

In Attendance: Barb Farr, Dina Bookmyer-Baker, Natalie Howell-Sherman, Ann Smith, Bill Shepeluk, Steve Lotspeich

1. Assign volunteer meeting chair. Dina Bookmyer-Baker will chair; Steve Lotspeich will take minutes.
2. Agenda review/modification. No modifications to the agenda were made.
3. Announcements. No announcements were made.
4. Review/approve October 28, 2016 Floodplain Working Group Meeting Minutes (handout). Natalie moved to approve the minutes, Barb seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
5. Update on Hazard Mitigation Projects
 - a. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
 - i. Barb gave an overview of the latest draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan including the planning process. She listed the various stakeholders in this process. She asked if we should do a public survey to identify essential risks in our community. We should survey and identify other risks to include in the Plan in detail such as the railroad and the hazardous materials that are carried by rail. The industrial risks are also a concern. The risk of accidents on I-89 is also a concern. There are also risks associated with the Waterbury Dam and Reservoir that include the routine releases into Little River and the potential of a dam breach and failure. We should consider establishing an alert system for all emergencies that will go directly to resident's phones and computers. The survey could also identify areas where people feel that they need education. The survey could give us credit and assistance with the requirements of the Community Rating System (CRS). The Planning Commission needs to be informed about this process. Barb offered to prepare a short progress report to be given to the Planning Commission this evening. It was agreed that Barb and Steve will draft a survey and circulate it for review prior to the next FMWG meeting. Barb asked that the Group review Chapters 4 and 5 in the current 2012 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- ii. The schedule for review and adoption of the Plan was discussed. The goal is to have the draft Plan approved locally by the end of November, 2017, and approved by FEMA by mid-March, 2018.
- iii. The group reviewed the Plan Assessment that was done by FEMA in 2012 in conjunction with their review of the Waterbury Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- iv. Ann Smith mentioned that the Friends of the Winooski now has a Flume Table that they can set up for demonstrations. They will also be doing training for community groups so they can operate the flume independently.

b. Elevation Projects

- i. Healy Court – The house has been elevated. Wade Hodge and Whitney Aldrich moved back into the house the week of Thanksgiving after the house was thoroughly cleaned. Barb and Steve attended the site visit by a FEMA representative last week. The request for FEMA to consider the insulation for the walls of the crawl space to be eligible for funding, was reviewed at the meeting. The extent of the topsoil, seed and mulch was also reviewed with the FEMA representative. We made the case that the entire seeded and mulched area should be eligible because it is all needed to get positive drainage away from the house.
- ii. The Funding Request Application to the Red Cross Vermont Disaster Relief Fund has been agreed to by the Red Cross. The funding Request Application RBW2016-1 to the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund is for \$14,262 in additional funds for the elevation will have a 25% match.
- iii. As part of the acknowledgement that the Healy Ct. project took much longer than expected, Bill Shepeluk presented a proposal to the Select Board and Trustees for tax abatement for 107 days which was the additional time that the homeowners had to be out of the house due to the delays as a result of the FEMA review. The tax abatement agreed to was for this prorated period of the tax year.
- iv. Section 106 (historic) and ARA (archaeological) review. The archaeological survey work at 5 Healy Court was done this fall.
- v. Four additional homes are remaining in the project. Several of the other homeowners have pulled out of the elevation project. We will be hiring as estimator with the CDBG Planning Grant funds to update the original cost estimates. It is probable that the average cost of the remaining four home elevations is now greater than \$175,000 meaning that a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) would have to be done to have those projects qualify for funding. According to the FEMA representative we may be able to achieve the qualifying BCA because we can consider the damages from the 1927 and 1938 flood events as expected rather than actual documented damages.

c. Floodplain restoration

- i. The state DEMHS has taken over this project. Dan will report on this project at the next FMWG meeting.
6. Discuss draft Annual Report for the Waterbury Town and Village Reports due in February. Barb circulated a draft the report for the Group to review. Barb would like all comments back by the end of December. Ann suggested adding some detail on public outreach related to the Community Rating System. Dina suggested that the links to reports, such as the Village of Waterbury to Little River State Park Study, that are available on our website should be included in the report. Certificates of Completion for projects such as the Main St. Cottages project were discussed. It was agreed that the \$50 fee for the Certificate of Completion should be charged at the time of application under the Flood Hazard Area Regulations.
7. Date and time for next meeting: Barb will do a Doodle Poll to set up the next meeting for late January, possibly the week of January 23rd.