

Floodplain Management Working Group Meeting
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 10:00am
Steele Community Room, 28 North Main Street
Meeting Minutes

10:00am Regular Business

In Attendance: Barb Farr, Steve Lotspeich, Dina Bookmyer-Baker, Rebecca Ellis, Natalie Sherman, Laura Ranker, Mindy Blank

- 1) Assign volunteer meeting chair. Barb Farr, chair; Steve Lotspeich, minute taker.
- 2) Agenda review/modification. Barb requested that we discuss the Statewide Hazard Mitigation Plan between 5b. and 5c. The updated agenda was noted.
- 3) Announcements/Introductions - Mindy Blank, the Executive Director of the Community Resilience Organizations (CROs) was introduced.
- 4) Review/approve the, May 9, 2017 Floodplain Working Group Meeting Minutes. Natalie moved and Dina seconded the motion to accept the minutes May 9, 2017. The motion passed with all voting in favor.
- 5) Update on Hazard Mitigation Projects:
 - a) Barb requested that everyone review the content for the first section of the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan. The FMWG is the core group reviewing and guiding the development of the Plan. The survey that was circulated at Town meeting was an important part of the public outreach for the Plan. Laura will provide Barb with the repetitive loss data for Waterbury. The Plan needs to note and update changes since the original 2012 Plan that was approved by FEMA in 2013. Stephanie Smith, with the State Hazard Mitigation office, will be reviewing the draft Plan. She has a review tool that she uses. Once the state has signed off on the draft Plan it will be sent to FEMA for review. The Strafford Plan is being used as a template for the new draft Plan as suggested by Laura Ranker and Stephanie Smith. The Vulnerability/Risk Assessment needs to be reviewed to see if there are additional items that need to be added. Section IV will be Mitigation Strategies that we have been working on for a number of years. The Mid-Winooski River Corridor Study done by Bear Creek Environmental will be incorporated. The vulnerability to forest pests such as Emerald Ash Borer was discussed. The Waterbury Tree Committee will provide information to Barb once they prepare an inventory of ash tree populations along Town roads. The need for an early

warning system for the Waterbury Dam for a potential dam breach was identified in the results of the survey. Possible hazard material spills on the rail line and I-89 were discussed as additional hazards to be listed. The state is doing an analysis of the risks for these spills. Forest fire threat is another risk, especially after an infestation of forest pests that kill certain species of trees. The flood vulnerability maps produced by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission with consultant assistance by the Dubois and King office in Randolph, were discussed. The latest 2D version of the HEC RAS computer modeling software was used on three sites including the area of Graves Brook near the confluence with Thatcher Brook near the Waterbury Park & Ride. This modeling develops information on velocity, scour and other factors that contribute to vulnerability. The Town just became a member of the VT Alert system and it will be tested using the transportation construction projects that are scheduled to impact traffic in Waterbury from 2018-2020. **Barb would like to have comments back on the Introduction and the Risk Assessment by June 28th at noon.** Barb will send out a reminder by e-mail.

b) Elevation Projects update: Barb passed out a summary of the Waterbury Elevation Pilot Project. The Community Development Block Grant is being closed out and some funds are being returned because we didn't need to do the remaining archaeological work for the four remaining homes that were in the project. The Healy Ct. project is complete and an after action meeting with the state DEMHS and FEMA staff was held. The revised cost estimates for the four remaining home elevations were received from Steve James. Two more property owners withdrew due to the new cost estimates, leaving two homes with estimated elevation costs as high as the current assessed home value. The costs all exceeded the \$175,000 FEMA threshold for the streamlined elevation program so Lauren Oates conducted a benefit cost analysis for the house on Randall St. to see if the property would even be eligible for the mitigation funds. The result of the analysis indicated that the Randall St. property was not eligible for the FEMA mitigation funds. It was then assumed, based on similar cost estimates, that the remaining home on Elm St. was not be eligible as well. The elevation pilot program is now closed out. We found out that the reduction in the flood insurance premiums for the 5 Healy Ct. property was approximately 50% as a result of the home elevation. This is one of the major long-term benefits of doing a home elevation.

6) Mindy Blank, the Executive Director for the CROs, gave a presentation on the CROs. Her background is in climate change and energy policy. She has developed a four-step "How To Guide" for implementing the policies. Mindy wants to develop Phase II of the CRO project that will be geared to implementation. The Community Assessment Tool was discussed and the confusion on the survey in the numbering system for the answers was identified as an

issue. Alternative ways of scoring were suggested. Dealing with the economic impact of the Main St. Reconstruction project over the next 3 years was discussed as a priority for Waterbury. The long-term need for public education around community resilience was discussed, especially in conjunction with the Community Rating System (CRS). Mindy presented various options/ideas for community outreach. The CROs has a small amount of funding available to help cover the cost a CRO event. Three \$300 micro-grants are available to assist with funding materials to carry out an event. Mindy is available to answer questions moving forward.

- 7) Date and time for next meeting: **The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 7/11 at 10:30am** in the Steele Community Room. The main focus of the meeting will be the ongoing review of the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan.