

Plainfield Hazard Mitigation Committee

MINUTES - October 18, 2018

Public Forum - Can the Great Brook Become a Safe Brook

Members present: Susan Grimaldi, Amos Meacham (Chair), Dan Gadd, Bram Towbin, Theresa Bienz, Michael Billingsley (Secretary)

Public Guests Present: George Springston, Peter Young, Charlie Cogbill

Meeting Convened - 6:45 p.m.

1. Minutes for September 20th meeting corrected to show start time of 6:10 p.m. rather than 7:10. Amos moves, Dan seconds that the Minutes be approved as corrected. Approved with one abstention.

2. Michael presented a slide show (with running commentary by participants, especially George Springston) of some of the findings from Milone & MacBroom's report; woody debris analysis by M&M with help from UVM's Aerial Survey team and ground-truthing; the primary bridge recommendation from both the Committee & participating public; updates on federal funding availability; the engineering study; and a secondary (fall-back) proposal to move to adjoining culvert design if the bridge falls through. George provided a PowerPoint evaluating all proposals to M&M.

3. Discussion turned to likely cost (as evaluated by M&M) of a replacement bridge on Brook Road matching the 1.0 bankful design specification accompanied by stream bed modifications. George explained the desired stream bed modifications. The secondary culvert design was discussed and was viewed by participants as a tenable alternative, with possible drawbacks of extra catch-points for woody debris and less water passage than the proposed bridge.

A 6x12' culvert design would increase capacity of the present Brook Road bridge from approximately 47% of flood flow, to approximately 82% of flood flow (decreasing the number of flood events destructive to the road and property in the future). Bram estimated that such a culvert... with engineering study... would cost less than \$250,000. Michael brought up a perspective from Lauren Oates of FEMA that if work commenced on a culvert it would both reduce funding for a bridge & move the town lower on the priority list for bridge funding.

Listening to all perspectives, the Committee passed a resolution: **"That the Select Board use the approximately \$87,000 FEMA study grant exclusively to pursue a design for a 1.0 bankful bridge as recommended by Milone & MacBroom."** Motion by Bram, seconded by Susan - passed unanimously.

4. Woody debris measurement (600 loose trees according to M&M) and dangers were discussed. A possible debris catcher in the wide floodplain just north of the bridge #4 on Brook Road was discussed. George proposed that the flood plain itself could, in future floods, act as a debris catcher and suggested watching the outcome before moving in Barre's footsteps. Barre's debris catcher will also be observed.

5. No other business - meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.