

Plainfield Hazard Mitigation Committee Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2017

Attending - Bram Towbin, Susan Grimaldi, Amos Meacham (Chair) and Michael Billingsley (Secretary). Public Guest - Gary Graves.

Meeting called to order at 6:20 p.m.

1. June Minutes. Moved by Amos and seconded by Susan, to approve June meeting Minutes as submitted - approved with one abstention.

2. Michael reported on GMP's filing of a Petition for a Certificate of Public Good. The two reasons to participate are (1) the exercise showed that at the time of evacuation, there was no actual evacuation plan in the towns affected... and that hindered the likely effectiveness of an actual evacuation, and (2) the Petition does not mention any work on the Emergency Spillway.

It was also mentioned that dangerous high rainfall events can occur during construction or repairs ie. in 1927. Gary Graves amended that to remind us the dam infrastructure was being repaired also in May 2011. Bram thinks much of the solution lies in the re-definition of liability. Bram

believes (because of proven risks to the public, fire personnel and dam workers) that the liability should be established by state regulation.

3. GMP dam emergency exercise - The May 24th cam exercise notes have still not been provided to participants. John Greenan has said he will send the exercise summary to Amos... and has not yet done so. Discussion on exercise design and weaknesses ie. real-world time frames for vehicles to travel especially on obstructed roads.

4. Committee Household Mailer.

VT Alert to be emphasized the mailer - Gary Graves suggested that we do phone follow up with recipients of the mailers to be sure it is understood... to increase participation. Amos asks that we set up a working group to decide the final language and to move forward with the mailer, now that a budget is approved. We'll try to have a draft at our next meeting in the last part of August, and shoot to have the mailer printed and distributed in October.

5. Emergency Management - It was discussed that saving the Emergency Management Director as a described job by one person, so that (described) job will be solicited, and someone good can take on all the important responsibilities and held accountable. It was also pointed out that a models for regional and state response in present and future disasters call for an Emergency Management Director in each town, with training and knowledge of tie-ins at the regional, state and federal level for effectiveness, coordination of resources and for clear communications..

6. Other Business

a. Gary asks - how to reduce actual Great Brook hazard. Great Brook is not free of woody debris. 600 trees are in place in the brook bed, ready to move. The big issue is the debris, and Gary recommended cutting it into smaller lengths that will easily pass under the Brook Rd. bridge.

The committee examined the various practical methods to solve the problems of debris and the undersized Brook Road bridge and the obstructions posed by the Mill Street bridge railing. Having an alternative back-up plan for an enhanced culvert system at the Brook Rd. #2 bridge

as well as a debris-catcher upstream of the village were agreed as desirable.

b. Wish to increase the freedom to post directly to the Town's website. This is the third time this has been discussed and agreed as an important part of the Secretary's function.

Michael moves to adjourn at 8:25, Susan seconds - all agree.