

Hazard Mitigation Committee Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2019
Special Budget Meeting

Present: Amos Meacham (Chair), Bram Towbin, Susan Grimaldi, Dan Gadd, Michael Billingsley (Secretary). Visiting Public: Laura Ziegler, Bob Atkinson

Meeting called to Order—6:10 p.m.

1. Minutes from our October 18, 2018 meeting were discussed and moved to be approved by Susan, seconded by Dan. Approved unanimously with no abstentions.

(There was no quorum in November, so meeting notes were for informational purposes only, and required no approval. There was no December Hazard Mitigation meeting.)

2. It was moved by Bram and seconded by Susan to amend the agenda to include a report by Bram and a request by Bob Atkinson for endorsement of a grant proposal.

3. Budget Discussion. Amos presented the ongoing projects and use of money by the Committee. The household mailing costs will be expended in February with printing costs of approximately \$650 and mailing costs of approximately \$200. Member education funds (\$300) will be used by costs associated with a May forum on coordinating resources during a town-wide disaster emergency (it is anticipated that we will have workshops during the forum, led by outside educators).

Because a July conclusion of the GMP dam cases will lead to new protocols for household awareness, evacuation routes, etc. it is anticipated than another all-household mailing will be sent in the fall. Also in the fall we intend to get as many committee members to the workshops at the VT Emergency Preparedness conference in Fairlee—so our education costs will include (with carpooling) sending at least two cars for two days to Lake Morey. As a consequence we will ask for level-funding for the committee in the coming year. (\$650 for printing, \$200 for mailing and \$300 for member education).

Susan moves and Bram seconds to present a level-funded 2019—2018 Hazard Mitigation budget to the Select Board. Unanimously approved with no abstentions.

4. Bob Atkinson presented a grant application he is working on to ask funds for

Plainfield to participate in a Model Communities project. A successfully—funded town will receive expertise and other assistance from the project's consultants. He asked the committee to endorse the project and suggested draft wording for that viz.

*VT Council on Rural Development Model
Communities Program – Review Committee
43 State Street Montpelier, VT 05602*

*Dear Jon Copans and Review
Committee,*

The Town of Plainfield Hazard Mitigation Committee is pleased to endorse the efforts of Bob Atchinson, Plainfield Energy Coordinator, in his application to the Vermont Climate Economy Initiative – Model Communities Program. In Plainfield, we are aware of the disasters caused by climate change in our community. For example, in 2011, the Town, specifically Great Brook and the accompanying roadway experienced the wrath of two hundred-year flood events. Since that time, there has been another flood which created major washouts, and caused the town to have a residence removed that was threatened by the ongoing erosion from these events. The bridge on Great Brook Road has been damaged each time and will need to be replaced with one of larger hydraulic cross-sectional area. Lately the Hazard Mitigation Committee has been investigating the structural integrity of the Green Mountain Power Marshfield Dam, to ensure that it can handle the worst that climate change caused events can throw at it. Because our

goals as a committee are both reactive and proactive, we are very interested in bringing the Model Communities project to Plainfield to help develop strategies that will make a difference for our Planet Earth, and its occupants. The voters of the Town unanimously endorsed a resolution which would address climate change and community action to mitigate it at our 2018 Town Meeting, and as committee members, we will be ready to team with other committee and community members to abate the effects of climate change and promote the local economies while doing so.

We are ready to go, and look forward to partnering with VCRD in the mission of making our community and Planet a healthier and safer place to live, raise our children, and foster economic viability.

Sincerely,

The Committee discussed the proposal and Dan moved and Bram seconded that the draft wording be approved as written. Unanimously approved with no abstentions. The letter was signed by Amos and Michael and given to Bob for submission.

5. Michael gave an update on the progress of the GMP dam Investigation and their Petition for a Certificate of Public Good. There was a site visit to 2 dams and the power generation facility on December 6th, and Michael noted that the reservoir levels were extremely high during that visit.

GMP has replied to the interrogatories and disputes Plainfield's introduction of questions about dam safety—which we believe were intended to meet the spirit of the Commissioners request that safety questions (of the Investigation) be potentially resolved during the Petition. New evidence has come forward from the 2018 Dam Safety Report which could make Plainfield's position stronger.

6. Bram gave a summary of projects around town and some updates for both the traffic improvement and pedestrian bridge.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.