

19 September 2019 Hazard Mitigation Committee

MINUTES

Attending: Bram Towbin, Susan Grimaldi, Michael Billingsley (Amos Meacham by phone). Public guest - John Lawrence

1. The Minutes for August 2019 meeting were amended by Susan Grimaldi to clarify Item 2 (dam emergency contacts). Bram moves and Michael seconds that they be adopted as amended. Approved (Amos abstaining).

2. Susan gave an overview of the status and location of Plainfield's archives and historic artifacts. - The collection of Plainfield artifacts is in the Old Fire Hall on School St. (condemned - possibly asbestos). The Historical Society attempted to fix it up, but a wall is sloping and the roof is bowing. A possible new location is upstairs in the Municipal Building. (Mold can be imported according to Bram.)

The most valuable assets the town has are two leather-bound property books... two ledgers. Now in the safe. Biggest advance (with Susan and Bob Fancher) has been digitizing all the photos. Over a 1000 old photos were done. Now have 200 added this year. They are both in slide and cloud-storage form. Prints will be donated to the Vermont Historical Society - originally made by Richard Pettit. He wrote the Plainfield History and collected many of the photos. He now lives in Fayston.

What are the physical artifacts? The original town telephone switchboard is in there. Some old mailbox stuff. Boxes of books... many moldy. A hat. (Nothing of great value.) An inventory was attempted and Bev Thomas and Dan can give a report on that.

Bram says the town attempted to get an estimate for moving and/or repair of the fire house... the winning bidder studied it and decided the building is hopeless. So they returned the money and wouldn't do it. An engineer came. Nobody wants to do it.

People would feel more safe to donate important materials and artifacts to the Historical Society if they would be kept in a safe building.

3. Public Utility Commission progress. Michael reported that GMP had taken a position, with respect to the newly-appointed Hearing Officer in the Marshfield f#6 Dam case, that Plainfield had raised no cogent objection to GMP's construction plans.

Plainfield (us) filed a letter of objection to this characterization, asking for clarification of its position... given that GMP and the Agency of Natural Resources had reached a Memorandum of Agreement. The Hearing Officer decided to call a Status Conference, so he could sort out the conflicting claims.

When Plainfield did not appear at a Status Conference (called specifically to hear Plainfield's objections) the Hearing Officer invited both GMP and Plainfield to submit an annotated list of all the exhibits and pre-filed testimony which might be relevant to their engineer's evaluation of merits and problems. GMP, and a week later Plainfield, presented comprehensive lists of their exhibits, including links to their location on the ePUC website.

We wait for the outcome of the engineers evaluation.

(Amos departs at this point.)

4. Other Business:

a. Monday there will be the VTrans Plainfield yellow-light intersection meeting. Hazard Mitigation is on it. Town Hall at 6 pm.

b. Town paving projects starting Sept.23rd. Also, Rte. 2 repaving will be a partial remediation in advance of 2023 (which will be a potentially major project)

c. Flooding at Gunnar Brook impacted Plainfield roads and Act 64 requires improvements to roads in the watershed include the southwest side of Plainfield. Thompson Road did go from Upper Road to Middle Road...before it was abandoned by the Town.

d. About dam emergency contacts: Bram suggests that the Town send a letter to GMP. According to the Select Board certain people must be notified - with or without a change in the EAP. The letter requesting updated contacts does not need to reference the EAP at all.

Bram moves Michael seconds - **To ask the Select Board to notify GMP of all the persons to be notified in Plainfield in the event of a dam emergency.** - Passed unanimously (without Amos present).