

Draft Minutes

Town of Brookline Special Meeting

Hazard Mitigation with Margo Ghia of Windham Regional Commission

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Present:

Town of Brookline Vermont:

Dorothy Maggio (DM) (Selectboard Chair)
Stanley Noga (SN) (Selectboard Vice-Chair)
Vanessa Ballou (VB) (Recording Clerk)
Oliver Ames (OA)

Windham Regional Commission (WRC):

Margo Ghia (MG)

1. Call the Meeting to Order
Dorothy Maggio called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.
2. Changes to the Agenda
No changes to the agenda.
3. Members of the Public
Oliver Ames attended the first half of the meeting.
4. Develop the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Brookline
Margo Ghia (MG) from Windham Regional Commission described the process for developing the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and the group discussed specific details and made decisions. Brookline's first Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA in 2017. Plans are reviewed and updated every 5 years; the original Plan has expired. FEMA has implemented new requirements which will need to be addressed in the next version. The process for developing the next version includes these steps:
 - Survey of Town residents and businesses about their experiences with hazards and which were most concerning
 - Public meetings to discuss survey results
 - Plan is drafted for Town review and then updated as needed
 - Updated plan is sent to Vermont Emergency Management for review and then updated as needed
 - Town of Brookline adopts the plan
 - Plan is sent to FEMA for approval

The process will probably take about 12 months. It is possible to submit a draft plan to FEMA so that the Town has a Hazard Mitigation Plan on file while finalizing this next version.

The group discussed who should be involved in the survey and the public meetings, how the survey and meetings will be publicized, and agreed on the following timeline for the initial activities:

Sep 13, 2023	MG will supply survey to Town for distribution
Sep 15 – 30, 2023	Survey Open Period Survey distributed and community provides input
Wed, Oct 11, 2023 at 6:30 PM Town Office & Zoom	1 st Meeting/Part 1: Review survey results, explain what Hazard Mitigation Plan is, prioritize hazards named in survey
Sat, Oct 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM Town Office & Zoom	2 nd Meeting/Part 2: Figure out mitigation actions for hazards identified in 1 st meeting

Oliver Ames (OA) asked if there was any benefit to individual property owners approaching FEMA separately about hazard mitigation. MG said she would follow-up within her organization about possible other avenues; Stan Noga (SN) explained that the plan would address repetitive loss structures as a distinct category. Additional topics of discussion included what changes have occurred in the community (eg, additional businesses), whether there are development pressures, whether invasive species will be considered as a hazard.

5. Set Agenda for Next Meeting
See above for Town Meetings.

6. Adjourn Special Meeting
Meeting Adjourned at 2:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vanessa Ballou
Recording Clerk