

Note: These proposed minutes should be considered preliminary until they are approved by the board at a future meeting.

**NORTHFIELD PLANNING BOARD;
JOINT MEETING WITH THE NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2020
REGULAR MEETING - 4:00PM
STANLEY WICKEY PAVILION, TOWN HALL, NORTHFIELD
MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Acting Chair Meg Riordan (MR); Tammy Pelletier (TP); Homer Stavely (HS)

Members Absent: Stephen Seredynski

Others in Attendance: Andrea Llamas, Northfield Town Administrator; Alexander R. Meisner, Northfield Selectboard Chair; Barbara "B" Jacque, Northfield Selectboard member; Helena Farrell, Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG); Alyssa Larose, FRCOG.

I. CALL TO ORDER

MR called the meeting to order at 4:10pm.

II. APPROVE MINUTES

MR tabled approving the previous meeting's minutes because the Planning Board did not have quorum.

III. HAZARD MITIGATION/MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PLAN DISCUSSION

MR introduced FRCOG representatives Helena Farrell and Alyssa Larose, who were in attendance to review and discuss the plan.

Highlights included:

- The plan includes a component: the Community Resilience Building Plan.
- This is a regional plan for Northfield and Warwick.
- Multiple government departments are involved in the administration and creation of this plan, and can fund different aspects of the work which may result from the plan.
- The difference between the various components of the plan, and their requirements and processes.
- Efficiencies within the plan that will serve multiple purposes.
- The difference between proactive planning and emergency response, especially in structures like culverts and power lines.
- This plan is centered around climate change and its effects on people and property.
- This plan will facilitate the town seeking funding to achieve the goals of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- How the plan can coordinate with and support the TRIAD program, which serves elderly residents, and opportunities for, and challenges with, doing so.

- How the plan will address assisting vulnerable populations, such as people with disabilities, in the event of an emergency. Andrea Llamas noted she is working on the town's ADA plan and applying for grants.
- Town/regional shelters for residents to use during emergencies such as lengthy power outages, or extreme heat/cold weather events. Where are the shelters? What do they need to function? What about shelters in buildings the town doesn't own? Outreach and agreements are needed.
- Collaborating with the Moody Center and Thomas Aquinas College on their emergency planning. Mutual aid is possible. A discussion ensued on forming a committee to work with their administration, and developing an MOU.
- Strategies for communications and outreach to all residents to prepare for and during emergencies, especially in reaching residents who have no cell phone service, or whose land-lines or internet are down. One idea: go door-to-door to check every house.
- Pet and farm animal sheltering during an emergency.
- The town's water and sewer system, and why this should be part of the Municipal Vulnerability Plan process. Andrea Llamas noted there's an immediate need for feasibility-study funding.

Upon the arrival of Selectboard Chair Alex Meisner at 4:50pm, the Selectboard meeting was called to order.

- Water quality issues, such as aging infrastructure, stormwater runoff, droughts, and other climate-change-related issues.
- The need for upgrades to the Northfield Water District's wastewater treatment plant.
- Dams along the Connecticut River, including the one owned by First Light, and how the associated ice dams and erosion affect the wastewater treatment plant, farmland, and cultural and historical concerns.
- Flood plain maps and how they have changed.
- Dam failure, including at the Vernon dam, and how this will be communicated to Northfield's residents and officials.
- The changes in emergency planning since Vermont Yankee closed and changed ownership.
- Issues—historically and present-day—with flooding, stormwater runoff, and washouts in Northfield, and their locations.
- The next steps for this plan, including future meetings. Helena Farrell encouraged interested parties to send her their comments, which FRCOG will collect and present to the Planning and Select boards, likely in October.

MOTION BY HS TO ADJOURN THE PLANNING BOARD MEETING AT 5:56PM; MOTION SECONDED BY MR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MOTION BY ALEX MEISNER TO ADJOURN THE SELECTBOARD MEETING AT 5:56PM; MOTION SECONDED BY B JACQUE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Submitted by Wendy M. Levy from minutes taken by Wendy M. Levy

Approves 1/14/2021 [Signature]