

[NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD & PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES]

August 27, 2020

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St
Stanley Wickey Pavilion

Selectboard Present: Alexander Meisner, Chair (4:50 pm); Barbara “Bee” Jacque

Selectboard Absent: Heath Cummings

Planning Board Present: Meg Riordan, PB Acting Chair; Homer Stavely; Tammy Pelletier (4:30pm)

Planning Board Absent: Steve Seredynski

Also Present: Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator; Helena Farrell and Alyssa LaRose, Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG)

Meeting called to order at 4:10 pm

Municipal Vulnerability/Hazardous Mitigation Plan

- Farrell and LaRose of the FRCOG presented the Community Resilience regional list of relevant hazards for Northfield and Warwick.
- The Executive Dept. of Energy & Affairs controls the MVP, MEMA controls HMP. The departments are combining to work with towns. Grants will be available.
- MVP focuses on climate change hazards with flexibility in emergency response; HMP is for any hazard and is more rigid.
- MVP takes a proactive, preventative approach; HMP reacts after the disaster.

(Pelletier joined at 4:30pm; Planning Board convened)

- LaRose defined high risk areas and asked the group to contribute climate related issues in the community.
- Topics: Shelters, seniors registering with TRIAD and outreach services, evacuation plans, ADA transition plans, renewable energy, generator upgrade.
- Creating MOU's with entities to include them in the discussion. Thomas Aquinas, Moody Center, the regions schools may have plans in place and could assist the community.
- Creation of a liaison committee to increase communication; hold drills to practice the plan

Environment

(Meisner joined at 4:50pm; Selectboard convened)

- The MVP could be used for engineering study and design.
- Sewer department needs major renovations to equipment and infrastructure. 280 users currently fund through sewer bills
- Proximity to the Connecticut River makes the plant vulnerable to flooding.
- Climate change issues contribute to over taxing the system
- Opening of Thomas Aquinas added significant increase of use
- Dam failure on the Connecticut River. Flood maps to be reviewed. Vernon Dam facility should be included in communications. Northfield Mount Hermon has an emergency action plan.
- Localized flooding issues; run off and failing culverts.

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Next Steps: the FRCOG will collect input, update the problem statements, and create a summary. Reconvene in the fall. Deadline is June 2021.

On a motion by Meisner, seconded by Jacque the board voted to adjourn at 5:56 pm.
Planning Board adjourned.

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk

9/14/20
Date Approved