

**Town of Craftsbury
Special Select Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 24, 2022
7 PM at Craftsbury Town Hall**

Present at Craftsbury Town Hall: Bruce Urie, Jim Jones, Susan Houston, Penelope Doherty, Alison Low, Brian Machesney, Linda Ramsdell, Steve Perkins, Kevin Gregoire, Farley Brown and Michelle Warren

Present via Zoom: Kris Coville, Margo Eastman, Mabel Houghton, Elinor Osbourn and Renee Rossi

Agenda:

- Public meeting to review Craftsbury's draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update and host public discussion on events and strategies; consider changes to and approval of same.

Meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Jim Jones.

Penelope explained that every 5 years towns update their hazard mitigation plan. The working Hazard Mitigation group put together an updated local Mitigation Plan for the Select Board to think through with the Craftsbury Community.

Penelope wanted to point out that the hazard mitigation is now just for natural hazards. It does not include man-made issues like power failures, pfas, etc.

She suggested that when the yearly emergency plan gets reviewed, the Hazard Mitigation Plan should also be reviewed.

Alison presented a slide show (see attached). Alison remarked that hazard mitigation is any sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from hazards and effects. Reasons for Hazard Mitigation includes community resilience, eligibility for the mitigation fund, increase assistance from Vermont in disaster declaration.

She further explained that since 2014 when a community had a natural disaster that effected roads and bridges, FEMA covered 75% of the damage and the State of Vermont helped made up the difference. Used to be half, 12.5% State paid and 12.5% town paid. Now to get additional funding, 4 things have to be in place. Craftsbury currently does 3 of the 4 items- participate in flood insurance, sign on to road standards and maintain local emergency plan-but they also need to have a FEMA 5-year hazard mitigation plan. If Craftsbury gets this plan, they can get extra funding during natural disasters.

Alison said they plan to have a draft ready for review next month. Before it goes to FEMA, it's brought to the Select Board to review. It then goes to Vt. Emergency management, then available for public comment. Notice of approval can be done at a regular Select Board meeting.

Survey results are now available. Wind damage and droughts were concerns. When people were thinking about future hazards, many comments about climate change and invasives, more than other communities.

The graph from the NOAA database showed the minimum temperature are rising faster for Orleans County, overall increase in precipitation could be more flooding, more storms, 9/10 inch more each decade. It could also increase drought. Essentially, an Increase in unstable unpredictable weather channels.

Alison said they were looking at impacts, compared to looking at events. Impacts can be mitigated, not events.

She noted that they took out landslides and earthquakes on the list, since unlikely low risk to the community. Also, they aren't profiling man-made hazards because FEMA funding isn't available for those hazards.

Alison stated they need to look at locations, what is prone to damage, how bad it's gotten in the past how likely to be done in the future.

The plan has to include concrete actions to reduce risk. Will need to consider a comprehensive range of mitigation actions for each hazard-natural system protections, local plans and regulations, education and awareness, etc. Will need to decide how actions will be implemented, who is responsible, priority and timeline for completing, potential funding sources and technical sources.

Penelope further explained that these were the Hazard Mitigation Group suggestions, the Select Board would be determining the people doing the tasks.

Susan remarked she was impressed with the work done, very comprehensive piece.

There was discussion about the Craftsbury Hazards and Proposed Mitigation Strategies, such as finding an alternate emergency shelter, finding a permanent location for the food shelter.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Warren
Craftsbury Town Clerk