

Moretown Planning Commission
Moretown Town Office
6:30 pm
April 3, 2018

Present: Planning Commission Members Jonathan Siegel Chair, Dara Torre, Rube Scharges, Karen Horn, John Schmeltzer.

Guests, Deborah Feldman Lister and former Zoning Administrator, Steve Smith Fire Chief and Emergency Operations Management Director, Laura Ranker Central Vermont Regional Commission (CVRPC).

Laura Ranker described the process for updating the Local Hazard Management Plan, the local officials and members of the public to involve, the process for securing approval from the State Emergency Management Division and FEMA. Moretown's Local hazard mitigation plan expired March 4. Laura explained that while a grant has been pursued, and is likely to be awarded, the grant has yet to be obligated by FEMA. Once a grant is secured, a 25% match is required locally, which may be met with in-kind services or contributions from the town.

Laura recommended keeping track of all time spent by the planning commission and town officials on updating the plan, particularly once the grant from FEMA is secured. There is no timeline for announcement of an award yet.

There will be 30 hours of time from CVRPC in technical assistance as well as 10 hours of mapping, which is available to the planning commission regardless of the FEMA grant decision.

Some things Laura recommended keeping in mind as the Planning Commission undertakes the plan update process:

1. FEMA wants to see public participation early in the process. Document all the work you do on the plan and everyone you involved in the discussion.
2. Include informational meeting for the public to say what biggest potential hazards are. Consider participation at any Town events (Morefest or events earlier in the summer).
3. Provide for a smaller group (planning commission and other local officials) to process information and compile list of most significant hazards.
4. Develop updated draft based on changes in hazard likelihood. Rank potential hazards, (such as floods, severe snowstorms, wildfires, known disaster events, etc.)

5. Identify projects completed to mitigate risk from identified hazards (Ridge to Rivers project, stormwater mitigation on roads, stone lining ditches etc.)

6. Take plan to the selectboard and then send it to state.

7. State VT Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Plan Program will review and then send to FEMA.

8. It generally takes FEMA two - three months to approve. With FEMA

9. Review the plan after every disaster that applies to your community. If you find events or priorities have changed then you can change that on an on-going basis. Don't need to send an amended plan to FEMA until next five-year increment.

Laura Ranker and Steve Smith left the meeting at approximately 8:00.

The next Planning Commission meeting is April 17.

John made a motion to adopt the minutes of March 27. Rube seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Rube made a motion to adjourn at 8:15.

*Respectfully submitted,
Karen Horn
April 4, 2018*