

2023.12.21 Plainfield Hazard Mitigation Committee

December 2023 MINUTES:

Members present - Maggie Baird, Jen Guarino, Joanne Szwed, Michael Billingsley

Guests present - Michele Braun

1. Meeting convened 7:12 p.m. (Chair, Maggie Baird)
2. Agenda Changes - Michael asks to add Great Brook landslide update
- 3.. Minutes from November

Amend Minutes to reflect discussion about Michel LaPointe's final decision about EWPP, with Michael and Maggie

(Michele interjects to say that she is working with Pär

- has preliminary design approved for changes
- intention to "soften" the field and remove the riprap so river can cross it
- river corridor easements obtained
- Stacy Pomeroy is the consulting River Scientist)

Jen moves to approve Minutes as amended, 2nd by Joanne  
Approved as amended, by committee vote (no abstentions)

4. Update on Great Brook landslides by Michael, augmented by Michele
  - multiple points of new slope failures and undercutting after Dec. 18 rains
    1. the road's valley cuts down into a unique kind of sedimental terrain
    2. the former bottom of glacial lake Winooski and glacial lake Hitchcock
    3. composed of soft layers including saprolite

## 5. Report on Committee Budget proposal to the Select Board

- \$874 Budget was approved, passed without any SB discussion

## 6. Michele Braun discusses Batchelder Dam and a potential review

- 1980s evaluation for micro-hydro (Joanne comments on that)
- Average dam useful life is about 80 years
- New study will look at benefits and deficits of the dam
  1. impact on aquatic habitats
  2. potential flood reduction
  3. river resilience
  4. phosphorus reduction
  5. aesthetics(each outcome dictates funding)
- Downstream impacts including plunge pool, water quality
- an "enhancement " project grant through Vermont Clean Water funding
- or an "ecological restoration" project focussed on phosphorus reduction
- funding proposal due late January - early February

Needed: Letter of Support from the Town of Plainfield for the Feasibility Study (paid for by Friends of the Winooski) approximately \$9000 - \$10,000

*Request to the Select Board to be gotten to the SB by their last meeting in January or their first meeting in February*

- Michele is working on this from different directions. 4 removal projects underway by the VNRC Dam Removal Task Force (statewide) assisted by the Aquatic Organisms team.

- So a feasibility study will begin as soon as the SB signs on and funding is secured.
- The age of the dam is a factor. It is old (built 1889, so about 135 years)
- Removing the dam will lower the flood elevation and change erosion depth

Conclusion: Michael moves, and Jen seconds - to send a resolution to the Select Board asking for their support of a Feasibility Study.  
Unanimously approved (no abstentions)

7. Jen moves to Adjourn, Maggie seconds. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.