

Plainfield Flood Recovery Grants Work Group Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 @ 10 a.m.

Attending:

Karen Hatcher (KH)
Michael Zahner (MZ)
Gary Smith (GS)
Josh Pitts (JP) - via Zoom
Karl Bissex (KB)
Michael Billingsley (MB)
Denise Wheeler (DW) – via Zoom
Arion Thiboumery (AT)
Bram Towbin (BT) – not available
Thad Leugemors, PMP (VEM Recovery Team)
Carter Ivey (VEM Recovery Team)
Sheila McGraw (TIG @ 11 am)
Celina Barton (Goddard) (CB) at 10:45 am

Agenda:

- **Potential 428 Projects for FEMA Application (working list of priority projects)**

GS - 428 projects funds require damaged areas to be abandoned.

KH - alternate procedure in case there are funds remaining under the Stafford Act.

Section 428 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, (Stafford Act)¹ authorizes FEMA to award Public Assistance (PA) funding based on fixed estimates. 428 funds, also known as the Public Assistance Alternative Procedures (PAAP) Program, are a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program

MZ - FEMA Fact Sheet and description.

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_public-assistance-fact-sheet_10-2019.pdf

JP - Open question: How does 428 integrate with federal highway funds?

KH- The purpose of this brainstorming is to name all the potential 428 projects we can imagine. This is only a brainstorming and very preliminary. A town engagement process will precede the planning for any project on the list.

428 WISH LIST:

- 1) Connect Recreation Rd. from Martin Meadow Rd. connecting the bridge to town land adjacent to the town water treatment plant. Realign Recreation Rd. adjacent to the river over Joey's land (corn field on Rte. 2)
- 2) Rte. 2 rest area across from Goddard
- 3) Cameron Rd. connection/extension to East Hill access for residents (this is an ancient road not thrown up by the Town) Gonyeau Rd. to Maxfield Rd. - alternative route to Middle Rd. to get to town
- 4) Bean Rd. goes to Marshfield and Nasmith Brook Rd.
- 5) Main St. bridge alternative - down railbed several 100 yards to bypass (past Lucky Day Farm) Main St. Bridge at Rte. 2
- 6) Upper village expansion project roads, sewer, water, utilities, sidewalks.
- 7) Infrastructure for Goddard connection - sidewalks and road crossings (in state ROW).
- 8) Goddard Campus biomass expansion to Plainfield residents
- 9) Secondary town garage at Goddard and garage for water/wastewater department
- 10) Relocating emergency services bldg to Goddard - maybe buy land from Goddard
- 11) Batchelder Dam
- 12) New Community Center & day care
- 13) Revive recreation field - connect to Vt. Rail Trail w/ Plainfield as a destination point
- 14) Build a park on property after buyout of houses (gardens, walking paths, greenspace, improved parking, community vegetable gardens, etc.)
- 15) Are there other potential housing options?
- 16) Will Goddard have a piece that is a non-profit - Mike D. is interested in a non-profit. Public private partnership. MB youth service building. CB partnering w/ TVSC. Intergenerational housing (senior, assisted & family), hospitality center, visitor accommodations, housing accelerator - eco designed housing (circular innovation center)
- 17) Community kitchen - food & craft center
- 18) Economic development - small business opportunities, business incubator
- 19) Expand Opera House - and include an arts center

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- 20) Transportation hub - increased parking capacity, charging stations at Goddard

KH - An idea for a potential municipal planning grant could be working on prioritizing this list and organizing ideas - what ties to what, etc.

PA Update

GS - timeframe to get damage inventory submitted to FEMA is January 19, 2025 and then years to get other projects done.

• FEMA PA (Sheila, TIG; Thad Leugemers and Carter Ivy, State of Vt.)

GS - damage inventory update - so far 200 identified items (more to add) need to add culverts (25 to 30 more projects to be added to inventory)

GS - Do potential 428's get listed in the damage inventory - yes (per Thad) - don't call them 428 projects on the damage inventory list - use feasibility money to identify projects (municipal planning grant)

GS - Still adding items to damage inventory - Brook Rd. bridges identified for engineering study, water/wastewater projects, parks & recreation, damages include GPS coordinates - Thad says inventory looks great. Thad will guide us through every project for funding at this point just adequately identify projects - engineering designs can be done later anything over \$1M gets fully reimbursed on actual costs - this is what TIG will do - always list as a damaged culvert even if the actual culvert isn't damaged but the surrounding area is damaged - must meet current state codes and standards. Line up ANR documents for FEMA reimbursement must meet current codes and standards.

GS and Carter will coordinate weekly meetings with TIG from 11 to noon every Tuesday - don't include Byron Daniels (FEMA) - state (Carter Ivey) to upload damage inventory Friday, 1/17/25 to FEMA portal.

Thad - Internal working group shouldn't do anything w/ FEMA until ready to submit damage inventory.

Site inspections - Thad carefully manage FEMA in the field - do table top inspections instead

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MB suggested a sound bar for better speaker quality - he will investigate and coordinate with Josh

428 Information:

What are 428 funds? Section 428 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, (Stafford Act)¹ authorizes FEMA to award Public Assistance (PA) funding based on fixed estimates. 428 funds, also known as the Public Assistance Alternative Procedures (PAAP) Program, are a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program

Large Projects Projects above a certain amount are considered "large." The threshold corresponds to the annually adjusted small project maximum. Alternative Procedures (428): For large permanent work projects using Section 428 PA Alternative Procedures, funding is made on the basis of a fixed-cost estimate agreed upon by the applicant, recipient and FEMA. PA funding is based on the estimated amount to restore the damaged facility to its pre-disaster design and function, including applicable and federally required codes and standards, and any identified eligible hazard mitigation measures. Once agreement on the fixed amount is made, the funding will not be adjusted. Applicants have the flexibility to use the funding to meet the post-disaster recovery needs, and not just build back what they had before. The applicant may also retain any excess funds for use on certain eligible activities. Standard Procedures (406): For large permanent work projects using the standard Section 406 process, funding is provided on the basis of actual costs as determined after the project is completed. The applicant's flexibility in use of the funding is limited, and they do not have the ability to retain excess funds. Small Projects Projects falling below a certain threshold are considered "small." The threshold is adjusted annually for inflation. For Fiscal Year 2020, that threshold is \$131,100. For small projects, final funding is based on the estimate at the time of project approval and certification of project completion is required when the project is done. The minimum amount that can be approved for any Project Worksheet under the PA Program for FY 2020 is \$3,300.