

Plainfield Flood Recovery Grants Work Group Meeting

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 @ 10 a.m.

Attending:

Karen Hatcher (KH)

Michael Zahner (MZ)

Gary Smith (GS)

Josh Pitts (JP) – part of meeting

Karl Bissex (KB)

Michael Billingsley (MB) – via Zoom

Denise Wheeler (DW) – via Zoom

Arion Thiboumery (AT) – via Zoom

Carter Ivey (VEM Recovery Team) via Zoom at 11 am

Sheila McGraw & Lauren Scott (TIG @ 11 am) - via Zoom at 11 am

Agenda: 10-11AM

- Updates on Brook Road repairs/status of engineering contract- Josh

Final emergency repairs – including guardrails completed in November 2024 –Josh will put together the final DDR report and photos for federal highway and submit the invoice w/n the next couple of weeks – **next step is to hire a municipal project manager** to bring together a list and track places that need permanent fixes – Chris (TIG) is putting together numbers - he can assess damage but not dollar figures – hire DuBois & King to do this and an engineering study. MZ said need to break up into 2 locations because can't give entire road repairs to one firm because it will exceed the maximum reimbursement allotment – Ross Gouin (Vtrans) said to break into 2 locations so work can get started because of **timeline for completion of 9/30/2026 - get all engineering and permits done now** SLR to be the project manager (they are a scientific engineering group) reserve them for high quality scientific engineering. **VHB letter is ready to go out – MZ to work w/ Josh and Ross on letter then send to individual firms and negotiate costs – MZ point person.**

MB – suggested Bear Creek Environmental – they have done work for the town previously.

Plainfield Flood Recovery Grants Work Group Meeting

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 @ 10 a.m.

Page 2

- Response to VTrans email- Michael Z./Josh

Don't need to do a follow up letter – MZ has clarified w/ a phone call to Ross Gouin – GS concerned about communication - we don't want any surprises

KH said the emergency phase is done - next step is long term repairs, impacts and costs

MB - Great Brook basin has to be considered a whole project per George Springston - the brook can't be closed in (narrowed) again because it will cause a rapid (shute like) flow downstream and cause new damage – will the DuBois & King study be finished before April – need to consider both sides of the question scientific and roads – Josh needs total costs.

What is the DuBois & King scope of work for \$30K? Josh said they are on call for engineering services and to evaluate existing services – the town may request field visits, attendance at SB meetings, review existing data, etc. - MB said the town needs a river engineering study. MZ will review scope and move things forward with D&K.

KH - River & Road Issues – Vtrans & Fed. Hwy. – need to get more information and learn how to bring the issues together.

GS – there is a damage inventory line for town engineering services – look at the funding clock

Finalize Roundtable Presentation (1/7/2025)- Michael Z. – **all set**

KH – need to identify these 3 things - Background, current challenges and help needed

- Emergency Watershed Protection Grant Report and next steps- Karen – see reports - 4 properties have been identified – how town funds 25% of costs of buyouts – should property owners be notified they are qualified & town working on how to address the match? Or first work with Keith, CVRPC?
- Update on Village Expansion Project- Arion

Informational Meetings: Plainfield Town Hall Opera House on Thursday, Jan 9, 6:30–8:00 p.m. Or online and Sunday, Jan 12, 1:00–2:30 p.m. Or online. The flyer is done – next steps is to present the project to the community and get input and keep moving forward – GS recommends help relocating lost homes first – this project will be presented at the March 2025 town meeting - funding for a ten years requires a vote via Australian ballot – if the town goes w/ 5 year funding it would be a floor vote – Arion will email SB & Town admin asst. the project proposal ahead of the next SB meeting.

Plainfield Flood Recovery Grants Work Group Meeting

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 @ 10 a.m.

Page 3

AT- Results of the FEMA buyout will be some time in February.

Mill St. Bridge – MB – Geo Springston and others learned that Vtrans scoured out the brook and the impact now is it is now like a water slide (shute) – the next heavy rainfall will take out houses on Mill St. and Hudson Ave. and the bridge – Vtrans needs to come back and widen the brook – this is a new problem – left to us by Vtrans – need river engineer with heavy equipment to re-widen the brook – Vtrans created the problem - how do we get Vtrans to fix problem? MZ said the best leverage is for a state engineer to say this is a huge problem to get Vtrans to fix it – Sheila agreed it would be good to have an engineer say Vtrans left us in a vulnerable position that the fix performed will cause additional problems – put in writing to state – this is a massive mitigation project – MB/KH to draft letter to Vtrans w/ review by Geo Springston and then signed by SB – Sheila said to add info on 50/50 rule.

11AM-12PM

- FEMA PA Damage Inventory Status Update- Gary/TIG

GS – is the \$100B congressionally directed funding all set? Will this be part of FEMA funds? TIG will look into this funding.

Carter – thinks yes this will flow to Vt.

GS – damage inventory is in good shape – TIG has tweaked it – GS has cleaned it up and coordinates are in sink w/ Google earth and town maps – he has added bridge numbers and culverts to the damage inventory for evaluation by FEMA – wants to be sure everything is entered correctly.

Lauren – State will only review project grouping and FEMA will do the data entry.

Carter – will enter grants in the portal and the final damage inventory then FEMA (Byron) will input line items into grants manager side – Lauren said it all looks good

Sheila and Lauren reviewed with the group questions of items DI spreadsheet – best to leave things in and take out later – clarified projects (ie Goddard).

Carter – asked if all damages are covered?

GS – should work done by Vtrans to Great Brook and now needs to be corrected by Vtrans be added?

Lauren - 428 or Hazard Mitigation?

Carter – will review and then determine if DI is final and then reach out to Byron (FEMA) – final wrap up by 1/14.