Weston Flood Resiliency Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 28th 2024 at 6:00pm

**Present:** Jim Linville, Lisa Yrsha, Will Freeman, David Raymon, Geof Brown, Deborah Granquist, Wayne Granquist, Susanna Gellert and Jen Probst

**Zoom:** Michael Neff

**Absent**: Linda Saarnijoki, Travis Schwartz, Joanne Prouty

Public: None

Meeting was called to order at 6:10pm

1. **Elect Officers:** Geof Brown moved to make Jim Linville chair of the WFRC seconded by Lisa Yrsha and was unanimously approved. Jim Linville asked if anyone would like to be Vice Chair of WFRC and there were no takers. Lisa Yrsha moved to make Geof Brown Secertary of WFRC and seconded by Deborah Granquist and was unanimously approved. It was decided that Shawna Batogowski will provide assistant with scheduling and meeting minutes.
2. **Review Current Status**:
   1. Jim Linville reviews the *Three Town Cooperative*- which is made up of representatives from Towns Weston, Londonderry and Jamaica. These towns are starting to look at flood mitigation efforts as a region versus individual town which is a concept fully supported by WRC. At the second meeting a letter to VT Housing Committee on Environment and Energy, VT Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, VT Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. This letter states the need for resources in both professional support and funding.
   2. Jim Linville reviewed the status of the USACE planned work to begin this spring and to be complete by the summer. Work will include redoing the Gambian wall and replacing stones on the riprap wall both above and below the Lawrence Hill bridge. It was indicated that this a funded effort to the tune of 680K but will not address bridge nor dam as they are not in the USACE purview.
   3. On March 26, 2024 there will be a meeting of WRC and 2 Rivers Committee to update on progress of Mill Dam and Lawrence Hill Bridge study. At this point, there has been no funding allocated by two rivers for Hydro study or any other aspects of project. Jim noted that the 50K MTAP funds that were assumed secured in December in fact require a SOW, according to Chris Campany. With a Statement of Work needed to be complete before funding Jim Linville Susanna Gellert, Geof Brown and Chris Campany will start work on this. A question was raised as to whether or not the Town of Weston does its own Hydrological study and use the MTAP Grant once it is available to fund it. This was discussed but no decision was made.
   4. The buyout candidates were reviewed. All of the forms needed from the Town of Weston and the applicants have been submitted and we are waiting to hear what comes next.
   5. Jim Linville said that he has made a call to the Weston Market Place to see what if any progress is being made on clean up of the building and the outside of the building. He has not heard a response back.
   6. It was agreed that Will Freeman will be inviting Doug Farnum (VT ‘s Chief Recovery Officer), Alison Clarkson (Majority Leader of VT’s Senate) and Tim Baker (FEMA) to discuss the committee purpose as well a support us with funning and professional support. Will agreed to this but would like to have a meeting before hand with local businesses and others that is focused on letting them know the issues plaguing the system. The goal would be to have this meeting by the end of the month.
3. **Discuss Mission Statement**: Tabled until more information on what this committee will be helping with.
4. **Discuss Hiring a Specialist to guide committee:** Tabled until more information on what this committee will be helping with.
5. **Schedule Future meeting**: Tabled until more information on what this committee will be helping with.
6. **Other Business**: None

David Raymond moved to adjourn meeting seconded by Lisa Yrsha. Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm

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Jim Linville, Chair Geof Brown, Secertary