

January 18, 2024

The first LHMP (All Hazard Mitigation Plan) was held at 10 a.m. Present at the meeting were:

Noah Bond, hired Consultant; Theresa Perron, Town Administrator; Phil Brooks, EMP; Nick Ecker-Racz Licensed VT Forester; Jim Bowes, Environmental Consultant; Noel Ford, Tina Ghantous, B.A. Environmental Science; Liz Nelson, Artist and Retired Farmer.

We opened the meeting with an introduction and questions about Noah Bond. Several people asked about his experience and his role in the town of Brighton.

Theresa suggested that the 72- page plan be broken down into sections and handed out to each person to work on a section, proof-reading and editing then bring those edits back and she will forward the edits to Noah.

It was suggested by Liz Nelson that we come up with a less involved way of doing this. Noah suggested that he revise the plan in 20-page sections, send those sections to the team, those sections get proofed, and changes faxed back to him. He explained that is how he did the Brighton Plan and it worked well. We all agreed that this is the way we will move forward. He advised that he could have the first 20 pages by next week. Noah suggested a deadline to have the plan finalized and ready to send to FEMA for approval by June 28th, 2024. He called this an Agile Project Management where we set a date, work toward that date, but there is room for an extension.

Nick Ecker-Racz brought up concerns he thought relevant to the mitigation plan. He discussed the Glover School has its own emergency plan, and we need to know that plan before we try to do the town plan. He said that, had the town built a second floor to the fire department building when it was erected, the fire department would have been the evacuation plan for the school in crisis event. He discussed the superintendent's recent September tentative "Banding" plan, to transport students to other schools due to lack of teachers. Nick believes it to be critical to communicate with the school. Nick said the town of Glover does not own the school building, it belongs to the school district, and the town has no control over the school building and what will become of it in the future. Noah suggested incorporating the school's mitigation plan into the town's plan.

Theresa stated that even though there are these concerns we still need to move forward with the Mitigation Plan and throughout the year the plan can change as needed. Noah suggested adding contingencies to the plan to offer options for change to existing plans, buildings and ideas.

Tina indicated there are many legal aspects of the "banding plan", that it may be a good deal of time before it's implemented.

Phil Brooks shared the morning of the flood he received a phone call offering the school for shelter. Liz Nelson stated that knowing that brings relief, because someone is aware that the school is the location for shelter. It was mentioned that the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) was updated and listed the school as a shelter. All emergency phone numbers were updated as well. That is a separate plan from the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) that we are working on. The LEMP plan offers immediate emergency contact information for first responders at the Town Clerk's Office.

Phil Brooks brought up that the Fire Station is designated as the Red Cross Shelter. Nick stated that this is good if the emergency is localized in the town. However, if it is a county-wide incident, the Red Cross may relocate to the larger communities. Nick suggested the focus be divided. First family (a family loses its house to fire, they use the shelter for a week), then sub-community and then community-wide and what do we need for each of those scenarios? He said we may not be able to do the community-wide scenario but should consider things to think about such as food, water, and shelter.

Nick asked if Noah could offer a list of resources that are available to the town regarding grant funding for mitigation and whether the town of Glover qualifies for that support. Noah suggested coming up with annual goals for the town, choosing a minimum of 3 goals and work to find grants to support those goals.

Tina suggested that we include mental health aspect to our mitigation plan. She stated it would be beneficial to offer resources to help someone alleviate the long-term emotional affects they suffered from losing their home. She volunteered to spearhead that section of the plan.

The team will be notified of the next meeting or zoom meeting.

Theresa will forward the first 20 pages to everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05.