

Chesterfield Emergency Planning Committee

Minutes of the April 27, 2023 Meeting

Present: Larry Holmberg, EMD; Fred Drake, Planning Board; David Hewes, Fire Dept; Trish Colson-Montgomery, Select Board; John Follet, Conservation Commission; Mike Malouin, Police Dept; Joe Gazillo, MVP Committee; John Chandler, Board of Health; Mimi Kaplan, PVPC

Called to order at 18:05 hours

1. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

This is the kickoff meeting for the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, last reviewed in 2016 and will take several meetings. Mimi Kaplan of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) was introduced as the consultant for this work. PVPC has been retained by the Town to assist the Committee. This work is being paid for by a grant which requires a 5% match that will come from volunteer and staff time. This will require Committee members to keep track of their time spent.

Mimi Kaplan provided an overview of the Hazard Mitigation Plan review process.

Joe Gazillo observed that there were similarities between the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant process and the Municipal Vulnerability Project Grant process, both of which includes a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) component. In order to qualify for a Hazard Mitigation grant, the town must show that it is a repetitive historical problem. Onetime events in general don't qualify. The town must also show through historical data the continuing costs to repair the problem. The BCA is a quantitative matrix where for any given problem the town must show that the benefits outweigh the costs.

Section 3 of the current plan, *Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment*, was reviewed. Several revisions were suggested based on the experiences over the last seven years. John Follet opined these assessments were done on a subjective basis rather than using a quantitative approach.

Section 4 of the current plan, *Critical Facilities*, was reviewed. Several revisions were made due to facilities being built or no longer in existence or change in ownership.

The next Committee meeting will be on May 31, 2023 at 18:00 hours and most likely at the Community Center.

The first public information session will be June 14, 2023 at 18:30 hours, location to be determined.

2. CEMP Plan update

Larry Holmberg will finalize the plan update and send it out to the Committee for review and comment prior to the next meeting with the goal that the Committee will approve the plan at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 19:45 hours

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Holmberg

Approved May 31, 2023