

Worcester Planning Commission
MINUTES
July 18, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
via ZOOM and in-person at Town Hall

Attending: Chani Waterhouse, Will Baker, Bill Arrand, Toni Kaeding

Guests: Kurt Dickson, Shirley Wild, Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, John Kaeding, Kyle Devitt, Michele Hill, Roger Strobridge, Amy Thornton, David Jablonski, Lincoln Frasca, Keith Cubbon

Housekeeping

- Chani called the meeting to order at 5:43pm with a welcome and explanation that the Planning Commission meeting would occur in conjunction with a Public Meeting arranged by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to discuss the update of Worcester's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019).
- Minutes of 5.16.24 were duly approved by unanimous vote
- Chani asked if anyone present objected to amending the Agenda to move the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to the first Agenda item. No objections were offered and Chani turned the meeting over to Selectboard member Roger Strobridge who made introductory remarks and welcomed Keith Cubbon and Lincoln Frasca from the CVRPC.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

Worcester's current LHMP was approved in 2019 and has now expired. The update and approval of a new Plan is critical to Worcester's eligibility for State financial support during natural disasters such as flooding. Note: Worcester recently experienced two major flood events on July 10, 2023 and July 10, 2024 and is in critical need of support for repairs.

This was the first of two Public Meetings that will review Worcester hazards analysis, mitigation action ideas, and hazard locations. Keith and Lincoln led a spirited public discussion about the identification of Worcester's natural hazards, their level of threat, and nascent ideas around mitigation.

Please see slides for discussion specifics. (NOTE: We are awaiting slides from CVRPC. Upon arrival, Minutes will be amended to include.)

ACTION:

Worcester will contract with CVRPC to collect needed information (hazard priorities, mitigation action ideas and location) from citizens and officials, collate info and write draft of updated Plan. Town will participate in process and retains right to regular review and editing of evolving draft.

ACTION:

Town to schedule 2nd Public Meeting following satisfactory review of proposed mitigation actions. Must be preceded by minimum of 2 weeks to allow time for public review and comment.

ACTION:

Complete Plan and submit to VT Emergency Management for approval. Goal: August 2024

Next steps and Adjournment

Chani recommended the tabling of additional Agenda items to next month's WPC meeting and the group agreed. Tabled items to include general updates from CVRPC (Bill), report from Energy Task Force (Chani), and review of Annual Calendar

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

Toni Kaeding

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