



6 December 2022

Town of Brandon
49 Center St
Brandon, VT
05733

LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN HEARING

In attendance:

Selectboard: Seth Hopkins (chair), Brian Coolidge, Ralph Ethier; Tracy Wyman (late).

Others: Jan Coolidge, Neil Silins, Jackie Savela, Stephanie Bourque (RRPC), Jack Schneider, Cecil Reniche-Smith (both Brandon planning commissioners).

By phone: David Atherton

SELECTBOARD

Seth Hopkins
Chair

Tracy Wyman
Vice-chair

Brian Coolidge
Clerk

Tim Guiles
Selectman

Ralph Ethier
Selectman

1 Meeting was called to order by Seth Hopkins, chair of selectboard, at 6:30PM. On motion of Brian Coolidge and second by Ralph Ethier the agenda as warned was adopted for the meeting, 3-0. Public present sat around the tables with the board.

2 Stephanie Bourque of RRPC provided the up-to-date completed draft copy of Brandon's local hazard mitigation plan and led the board through an examination of all aspects of it. Content up to page 14 had been reviewed with the selectboard and public at the August public hearing, so we started on page 14 with hazard mitigation strategy. She introduced the LHMP review tool as a guide and encouraged us to work through the table 6 recommendations which call for hazard mitigation to be integrated throughout all town operations; annual evaluation and action aspects were highlighted in an accompanying chart.

It was noted that Brandon is one of only four towns in the Rutland Region with the enhanced 17.5% Vermont ERAF reimbursement match to the 75% FEMA eligibility, due to our having completed all four requirements plus the additional river corridor rules.

Next steps are to publicize that the plan is ready for public comment which is open through 19 December. We will have another hearing on that date, then send our plan to the State of Vermont for review; upon return, the board will be in a position to address any revisions required by state review, and then adopt the plan and submit to FEMA.

3 Public comment: Seth Hopkins and others thanked Ms Bourque for the plan's clarity and ease of application. Neil Silins inquired as to how the people of the community would be alerted in a non-internet way if there were a town-wide hazard of an emergency nature. Discussion ensued regarding the old fire siren; more thought is needed on this area.

4 On motion of Brian Coolidge and second by Ralph Ethier a not debatable motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 4-0.

Adjournment came at 6:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Hopkins, chair of selectboard