

New Ashford Select Board/MVP Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom
May 2, 2022

Present: Jason Jayko, Mark Phelps, Lori Jayko, Keith LaCasse, Susan Supranowicz, Richard George

Zoom: Doreen DeFazio, Rob Polsinelli

Absent: Ken McInerney, Frank Speth

Meeting opened at 6:00

1. Municipal Vulnerability Planning: Doreen gave an overview of the process. The town applied for an EEA grant and selected CMC as its vendor. CMC will follow the community resilience process, including an 8-hour workshop to gather the information necessary for the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and for becoming an MVP community. They will create a combined HMP/MVP report in order to get action grants and have an approved HMP from MEMA and FEMA. The workshop needs to include the pertinent stakeholders in town and regional partners, such as DCR or any shared resource holders. The workshop is the main event, then the risk matrix assessment is created identifying risks. The focuses will be understanding climate change risks, identifying and mapping vulnerabilities and strengths in infrastructure, societal and natural resource risks, and exploring nature based solutions. Actions will be developed and prioritized delineating next steps and identifying opportunities for action to reduce problems due to climate change.

A core team will be established to provide local data and identify the top hazards. Doreen and Rob will do a site visit. The permitting process often impedes our fixing problems. For example, when we wanted to repair a road on DCR owned land, we had to hire a botanist to get a permit, which was costly and time consuming. CMC recommended inviting representatives from those organizations to help with the process so they can assist in next steps. The amount of state money to fix town roads does not allow for optimal road maintenance and repair. The 10 miles of roadway the town has includes 4 miles of dirt road, some with steeper grades.

The workshop is an invitation only event for 20 to 30 people. Ideally, invitations should go to people who can represent all the issues of the town. CMC will send out a list of suggested stakeholders and will do their site visit on May 23 at 2:00, followed by a meeting with the Select Board at 6:00. CMC will reach out to DCR, Mass DOT, and the State Police to get them involved in the process.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50