

Branford Coastal Vulnerability ad hoc Working Group
Town of Branford, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2020, 4:30 PM

Zoom Meeting (recorded)

1. Call to Order
Called to order at 4:36 pm
2. Roll Call
Present : Hentschel, Muniz, Erlanger, Ells, Everson, Finch, Cosgrove, McCarthy-Bercury
3. Approval of meeting notes
March 9, 2020 minutes will be issued with today's minutes, April 2020 PowerPoint presentation will be posted to group directory
4. Initial public comments
Cinda Cash requested participation in commission
5. List of recent additions to Dropbox

Several documents have been added to the CVWG dropbox (<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xot5mxfyjnt8ai8/AAC2xuPI-UJVn6iAgT8zBeAVa?dl=0>) for your review.

- **SCRCOG** – Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience - Legal, Policy, and Regulatory Assessment Guide
- **CIRCA** Webinar 5/26/20 – “Resilient Connecticut Tools: Exploring CIRCA's Latest Products” the presentation and the recording can be accessed at - https://resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu/2020/05/11/rct_tools_and_maps_webinar/
- **Scientific American** article “Removing 1 Million Homes from Flood Zones Could Save \$1 Trillion” can be viewed at - <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/removing-1-million-homes-from-flood-zones-could-save-1-trillion/>
- **Western Carolina University** article “Coastal Hazards and Targeted Acquisitions: A Reasonable Shoreline Management Alternative” can be found in dropbox subdirectory #2. Dropbox webpage is public, includes project section, funding section, CIRCA section, and others.

The Chairperson will add resources as they are provided.

Log of meetings is also included.

Recent additions noted above.

6. Report on Creek Court property acquisition:
 - The proposed acquisition of 17 Creek Court was not approved by the June RTM meeting
 - A case was made for the more careful preparation of the means and methods of property acquisition before the Town pursues future opportunities.
Committee will include consideration of policy development in the upcoming year
7. Diana McCarthy-Bercury – Branford's new Compliance & Sustainability Manager:
Position includes consideration of sustainability and other resource management roles.
8. Discussion and Establishment of 2020 Goals: (suggestions)

Targets for the next 6 months. Goal to have subcommittees work on each topic. Muniz noted that the Goal is a resilient Branford, able to resist and recover from coastal events. Ells noted that work on all 6 goals in Year 1 is likely too ambitious. Hentschel noted that the primary deliverables will focus on the first two bullet points below - the remaining activities will entail continuing work over the next few years.

- Outreach and Communication

Goal hold one community event and one neighborhood event this year. Potentially expand awareness of existing documents, existing problem statements and existing potential solutions. Utilize, Expand and Re-organize the Malone & MacBroom PowerPoint presentations. Develop a revised community-wide presentation. Also, develop individual presentations focused on individual shoreline neighborhoods.

Members: Muniz, Everson, Waters, Hentschel, Cosgrove

- Develop a Resiliency Action database

Organize lists/database of vulnerabilities and potential actions identified in Coastal Resilience Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, and SCROG Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience Plan. Develop a searchable list of recommended projects and actions.

First Selectman Cosgrove: Pointed out that YSF&E proposed actions are not officially promulgated; they are third party information resource.

Members: Hentschel, Muniz, Ells, Hoefflerle

- Legal

Research and develop actions for implementing resiliency particularly where private interests are at stake.

Members: Ted Ells, Susan Bryson

- Zoning

Study and consider regulations useful to implement private, commercial and public resilience. What have other towns done? What zoning sensitivities to coastal changes are greatest?

Members: Ells, Everson, Harry Smith

- Funding

Research and develop a database of funding and grant resources available for resiliency activities. Jim Finch will add his Power Point presentation regarding the Coastal Resilience Fund to our directory

Members: Erlanger, Finch, Muniz

- Web Resources

Continue to collect and catalog online sources of resiliency information and tools. Will add webinars, on-line tools, articles etc. that members and residents can consult.

Members: Hentschel

Subgroup participation: subgroups can email, conference call, or meet during the month. Meetings can include outside members such as other residents, town officials and relevant experts. Subgroups will update the CVWG at each monthly meeting. Offline subgroup meetings should begin this month.

9. Consideration of Town Acquisition of Private Property

Discussion: Should CVWG establish **criteria** for consideration of acquisition? Should RTM be asked to approve such criteria? This topic will be further discussed by: Hentschel, Cosgrove, Finch, Bryson, Hoefflerle, Bercury, Harry Smith

10. Public Comment: Cinda Cash wishes to join

Motion to adjourn 5:49 pm Muniz, second Ells.

Next meeting will be October 19, 2020 (Special) at 4:30 by Zoom

Submitted by Paul Muniz