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

Paul Muniz, Tracy Everson, Jonathan Waters, Peter Hentschel (chairperson)
invited: Curt Johnson, Sharon Huttner

Wai E. Apin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Zoom Meeting Agenda: Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 5:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84036324433?pwd=dHI5dTUrZ1dXZHVXbXhrVnRaRmtDdz09>
Meeting ID: 840 3632 4433, Passcode: 696075, Phone 646-558-8656

- Call to Order and Roll Call
- Approval of Meeting Notes for 9/26/23 and 6/27/23 meeting notes
- Discuss status and next steps on the following initiatives:
 - a. Nature based solutions to resilience – Curt Johnson
Goal: identifying nature-based solutions to coastal resilience in marshlands and beaches
 - Brief presentation by Curt
 - b. Research on Regs and Ordinance tools - PZC / CVWG joint working group.
Goal: to determine actions to build resilience through ordinances and/or zoning regulations.
 - (UCONN Law / CIRCA) Louanne Cooley's legal "tool kit" for municipalities
 - CCM - request to research recent ordinances and zoning regulations.
 - CIRCA website – review of new resources
 - SCRCOG – resources that might be available thru scrcog
 - c. SCRCOG Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan
Goal: to determine which Branford projects SCRCOG has recently prioritized
 - Special meeting scheduled for Thursday with John Hoeffler
 - d. DEEP's role in resilience action
Goal: to determine roles DEEP plays in control over resilience activities - protecting low roadways, nuisance flooding retention walls, etc.
 - Call to DEEP regarding flood walls and zoning issues
 - e. FEMA - to add a FEMA info section to the website
Goal: to add an informational section to the CVWG web page explaining flood insurance and mapping.
 - Update on discussions with Michael Amatrudo
 - f. Approaches to resilience by other towns and states
Goal: to determine if other towns have taken innovative steps to resilience.
 - Update on any contacts made
 - g. Next Presentation – Branford River Neighborhoods
Goal to build public awareness, feedback, and public involvement.
 - Report on subgroup strategy meeting
 - h. WWTP vulnerability study
Goal: to promote the "hardening" of the town's sanitary system and treatment plan.
 - Report on status of the Phase 1 engineering study

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- i. CVWG page of Town Website
Goal: to make our webpage more interactive and responsive to public needs regarding coastal resilience.
 - Q&A portal on the website - review of webpage draft
- j. Cattle Crossing flood gate study
Goal: to track this project and to determine how AMTRAK has responded to issues regarding flooding against their elevated track beds
 - Update on CIRCA/Fuss and O'Neil study and Special Meeting with John H
- k. Stony Creek CV sub-group
Goal: work with the SCA subgroup to initiate actual resilience projects in the Stony Creek.
 - Update on recent meetings

Peter Hentschel, Chairperson

Peter:

- change future meeting time to 5:00 pm
- draft a CCM request letter for research on recent ordinances and zoning regulations for Jamie to sign. send draft with cover letter to BOS (since a CCM fee is involved)
- send committee the link to CIRCA document "10 steps to resilience."
- invite John H to a mtg to update CVWG on key elements of the SCRCOG Mitigation Plan, Branford Annex Update and the Amtrak response to the Cattle Crossing proposal.
- Call Sharon's DEEP contact to see who we should be contacting about better understanding their review process and for low nuisance flooding road sea wall issues.
- call Christine Cohen to see if she has any links to DEEP and let her know what we are trying to set up. Also ask her about the 146 DOT pres.
- PH to email all the info on the FEMA Community Rating system that Sharon found including a list and manual.
- set up a zoom call with JW and TE regarding a Branford River centered community presentation - approach and boundaries. Look at the SCRCOG Annex report for related focal points within this area.
- Q&A portal on the website - review of webpage draft
- complete the draft Q&A webpage proposal.
- continue study of SC roadway tidal floodwalls and SC secondary access route
- contact Curt Johnson in October re participation in our meetings.

Sharon:

- call Louanne Cooley re legal "tool kit" for municipalities if no response by Friday 9/26
- review CIRCA website resources in more detail to find relevant recommendations.
- contact the director of SCRCOG to explore research on what other towns have done re resilience regs and ordinances.

Paul:

- set up a time to zoom w Michael Amatrudo of the Flood Depot LLC, Branford to discuss FEMA information that might be included on the website for public edification – include PH and TE – PH will set up the actual zoom.
- push Kevin and John H re final presentation of the WWTP study results and suggest that CVWG should be at the table. Also, check regarding Chris Diadamo who will replace Winnick on WPCA – get more info on this change.

Tracy:

- possible mention of the SCRCOG Update at a future RTM meeting.
- call Janice Plaziak in Guilford to start a dialog about what Guilford has done regarding resilience.
- review your previous email which outlined SLR overlay district used in Maryland, research and possible call? Also, review the CIRCA toolkit library which covers "overlay district usage" also.
- determine info on the funding basis and application of town's Resilience funds to the cattle crossing study.