

Growth Planning Committee
Minutes March 16, 2021

Attendees: Dan Saunders, Chair, Jim Fitzgerald, Paul Hogan, Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning And Development, Janet Powell

Absent: Jim McMann, Mike Corsie

Guests: Liz Durfee, Tom Morgan

Dan called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Liz Durfee outlined the first draft of Chapter 16, Hazard Mitigation.

This master plan chapter is intended to serve as a supplement to the **York County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2015)**. Its update and submission to FEMA every five years is required in order to be eligible for certain federal non-emergency disaster assistance. Specific emphasis is placed on

1. Documenting coastal hazards
2. Exploring the intersection between hazards and climate change
3. Evaluating response to human-made hazards such as a pandemic
4. Reviewing objectives from the York County Hazard Mitigation Plan that are related to land use planning.

Hazards noted in the county-wide plan are

1. Severe winter storms
2. Flooding, dam failure, coastal erosion, landslides
3. Severe summer storms, including tornado, hurricane, tropical storm
4. Wildfire-urban interface and forest fire

Critical Facilities and Evacuation Routes (Evacuation Route Signs and Emergency Shelters Report (SMPDC))

The primary evacuation route for Kennebunkport is Route 9 with signage along the road identifying it as such. However, with no east-west evacuation route identified, the current route parallel to the coast may be vulnerable to coastal flooding and high traffic. It is recommended that alternative routes away from rivers be identified and that residents, especially those here seasonally, be informed and be provided maps indicating the safest routes away from the coast. Proposed roads are Goose Rocks Rd. to Log Cabin and Old Cape to Log Cabin.

Fire stations, law enforcement facilities, schools and government buildings are identified in the GIS database.

The Kennebunk Middle School, located west of I95, has been identified as the emergency shelter for Kennebunkport, Kennebunk and Arundel. The three towns are tasked with funding the shelter with necessary supplies. The Police Chief has been designated as the Emergency Management Director. Additional information can be found in the Regional Coordination Chapter of the York County Hazard Mitigation Plan. It was suggested that this topic be included in Public Outreach to better determine residents' response to an emergency evacuation. (Where would they most likely go? Would they be able to stay with friends or family? What transportation would they utilize?)

Coastal Hazards

1. Coastal flooding/ inundation of beaches and adjacent areas as a result of storms, hurricanes, erosion or landslides (Hazard Mitigation Plan)
2. Storm surge/ abnormal rise in sea water level measured at the height of the water above the HAT, typically caused by storm winds pushing the water onshore. (NOAA)
3. Coastal erosion/loss of shoreline sediment
4. Sea level rise/due to melting glaciers and ice sheets and thermal expansion of seawater as it warms (NOAA)

Climate Change and Natural Hazards

1. Increase in temperature during heat events and increase in frequency of severe winter events pose health risks. Access to cooling centers during extreme heat events should be identified..(Library, KMS)
2. Likely increase of extreme weather events and power outages suggest that additional emergency shelters with greater capacity will be needed. (KMS capacity 150-200)

Pandemic

Given the unpreparedness for such an extreme and extensive health crisis as COVID-19 at all levels of government, it is imperative that we expand our HM planning to include pandemics.

Hazard Mitigation/Land Use Planning Objectives

KPT has adopted and continues to refine LUO that discourages residential and commercial development of hazard prone areas and supports regulation that further prevents hazard damage.(floats, docks)

1. HM has been an ongoing part of the town's planning and action related to key public facilities. (Gov't Wharf, King's Highway and Dyke Rd.)
2. Property Owners/ voluntary/ education of residents on how they can in relatively simple ways mitigate hazards on their own property is ongoing through discussions with the Planning Office.
3. Landscapers would benefit from Town guidance on best practices for sustainability and protection of resources.
4. Tools to reduce development in vulnerable areas include overlay zones, setbacks and buffers, working with developers, using armory techniques, not walls.
5. Werner informed the Committee that the town has applied for a free service provided to towns by the Army Corps of Engineers. Entitled "Silver Jackets", the team reviews town's vulnerable sites and offers guidance on the best ways to enact hazard mitigation specific to their locations.

After Liz's presentation, the Public Outreach Surveys were discussed with favorable comments. The Committee then discussed specifics of the Growth Area Map, including percentages of permits approved in Growth, Transitional and Rural. It was unanimously agreed to move Binnacle Hill 2 into the Transitional Growth Area.

Tom announced the Climate Council Webinar on March 29th at 2:00PM. Abbie Sherman will be a guest at our next GPC meeting to report on the State's new Climate Action Plan. Tom also reported that he spoke to Matt Eddy, the Biddeford Planning Director and that the Biddeford Conservation Committee (Christine Gastelum) is very open to collaborating with KPT on monitoring the water quality of the Little River.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.