

**Town of Whitingham**

**Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2017**

*These Minutes shall be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.*

Members of the Whitingham Selectboard attended a Hazard Mitigation/Resiliency Plan public meeting hosted by the Windham Regional Commission on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 6:00pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Chair, Keith Bronson; Members, Karl Twitchell and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Stanley Janovsky, Jr., Road Commissioner, Alyssa Sabetto, WRC.

**Meeting summary**

Alyssa Sabetto explained that the point of having a Hazard Mitigation Plan is to take pro-active steps to reduce the Town’s vulnerability in hazardous situations.

By having a plan, the Town will benefit with receiving increased Emergency Relief Assistance Funds (ERAF rate). Our current reimbursement rate is 7.5% (town pays 17.5%), with a Hazard Mitigation Plan it would increase to 12.5% (town pays 12.5%). If we were to add River Corridors to the Zoning Regulations it would increase the reimbursement rate to 17.5% (town pays 7.5% of any emergency spending).

The first step in creating a plan is to look at every potential hazard that could affect the town. Alyssa had quite an extensive list which the group went through and rated by frequency of occurrence, warning time and potential impact with points 1-4 awarded for each category. The points were then totaled and the highest point categories became our highest priorities to address in the mitigation plan. The categories were: flooding, invasive species, landslides and fluvial erosion.

Alyssa gathered other information from the group such as location and history of hazards, ideas on how to mitigate the hazards, etc. With all this information she will create a draft Hazard Mitigation/Resiliency Plan for review and eventual submission to FEMA.

**Adjourn**

The meeting ended at approximately 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray