

Town of Westerly HM&FMP Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting #2: Wednesday November 30, 2022 from 9-10:30am at the Westerly Town Hall (45 Broad St, Westerly, RI) in the Development Services Conference Room

Committee Members in Attendance: Alyse Oziolor (Chair), David Murphy, Peter Chiaradio, Shawn Lacey, Kyle Zalaski, Paul Gingerella, Fawatih Mohamed-Abouh, Michelle Pinto, Gina Fuller, Dan Lathrop, Joan Beth Brown, John Mackay, Marc Doherty, and Kim Jacobs - Committee Technical Advisor (TA); (*Designees Attending without voting privilege: Nancy Letendre, Max Sposato, Arianna Zurell, Kimberlie Rayner-Russell*)

Members of the Public: Carl Rosen (Hopkinton); Pete Ogle (Westerly)

Meeting Notes:

- The Chair opened the meeting at 9:03am.
- The Committee reviewed the status of following items from the previous meeting:
 - The meeting originally scheduled for the morning of December 21 will be changed to December 20 from 4:45-6pm (just prior to the Committee's Public Informational Meeting).
 - The Committee reviewed the status of the various public outreach activities: project webpage is up; newspaper article was in the November 22, 2022 Westerly Sun; radio broadcast - Gina Fuller was on WBLQ; social media – information on Facebook posts, news flash, etc.; informational posters – have been put up around town; public opinion survey is live through December 15, 2022 and 40 responses have already come in; and an email about the project was sent to the Coordination with Agencies & Organizations.
- The Committee reviewed and modified the draft Critical Facilities list.
- A discussion took place on the elements included in a hazard profile which is part of the Risk Assessment. Committee members discussed Flood-related hazards and will be provided draft profiles of other hazards to review for future meetings. Input and comments for Flood-related hazards were noted and the draft will be modified accordingly. Some of the topics discussed included the number, location and functionality of dams in Town, significant brooks, areas of sheetflow in Town, king tides, and seawalls and coastal wetland restoration projects.
- Public Comment:
 - Peter Ogle of Westerly - expressed that he is concerned about flooding along Canal Street; concerned over deforestation in the watershed that may impact flooding in Westerly; and indicated that there is debris from the former Stillmanville Dam which blocks the flow of the waterway.
 - Carl Rosen of Hopkinton – indicated that in 2010 the Rockville dam break caused most of the flood problems that Westerly experienced; and that when the Town remediates the mill, the sluiceway will be eliminated which will minimize or alleviate some of the issues with the Potter Hill Dam.
- The Chair closed the meeting at 10:42am