

Minutes of Public Hearing to discuss proposed Flood Inundation Bylaws
July 14, 2014 6:00 PM
Orange Town Hall

In attendance: Selectmen Ron Tallman, George Wild, Jr and Dustin Comstock
Planning Commission Chair Tom Peairs, Staff members Kathie Felch and Lee Youngman, Agency of
Natural Resources staff member Sacha Pealer.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Ron Tallman and he asked Sacha Pealer to give a brief overview of why we should adopt these higher standards. She listed several reasons:

- Our current standards do not meet federal minimums and without adopting a new bylaw, we will be unable to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program
- Without Flood Insurance, the town is not qualified to receive post-disaster relief
- Without Flood Insurance, the town is not qualified to receive hazard mitigation grants
- The % of cost of projects funded with other state grant money could be reduced to as low as 7.5% of cost, rather than the up to 17.5% cost-sharing the state is willing to provide if we become an "early adopter" UNTIL 2016. Ron asked the Planning Commission to start working on the River Corridors – will have to be in place by the 2016 deadline.
- These standards reduce the risk of loss of property to the community
- We become more competitive at the State level for federal grants
- We avoid making flood risks worse for existing properties

Ron Tallman then asked Tom Peairs to give us an overview of why he thinks we should adopt these higher standards. He listed several reasons as well:

- It's important to keep costs for the town as low as possible. Property and infrastructure damage from floods is costly, and without federal disaster relief, the burden of fixing roads, bridges, culverts and property damage must be shouldered by tax payers.
- The town has had a flood bylaw on the books since 1977, but has not enforced it. Enforcement is critical to success of the program.

On a motion made by George Wild and seconded by Dustin Comstock, the select board voted to approve the Flood Inundation by-laws as presented.

Attest:

Lee Youngman, Assistant Town Clerk