

MINUTES

ESSEX STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021, 7:00 PM TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM, 30 MARTIN STREET

Attendees: Dana Menon, Ruth Pereen, Dick Denton, Wes Burnham, John Bediz, Mark Renzi, Mike Burke, Julie Scofield, Diane Corrao, Scott Shepherd, Brendhan Zubricki, Annie Cameron

Dave Frithsen - absent

Agenda and Minutes

- *Introduce New Town Planner, Dana Menon.*

Dana introduced herself and the committee did the same. Dana's email: dmenon@essexma.org

- *Approve minutes from the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting of August 10, 2021.*
No minutes available. Will approve at next meeting.

- *Continue to receive reports from assigned Committee members on each of the Strategic Plan goal areas.*

Dick Denton and Ruth Pereen presented "Town Responses to Hazards, Emergencies and Environmental Risks" – informed by *Town of Essex Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 Update*

Who owns responsibility for this plan? Local Emergency Planning Committee puts together list of identified risks/hazards

1. Collaborate with community to identify unmet needs.

Ruth and Dick are interested in querying townspeople on their sense of what personal and property risks exist.

Increase communication – what is existing communication vehicle

Who owns the responsibility and for what?

Do we need to create the position?

2. Create awareness of high -risk Town geographies, Town facilities, and Townspeople and available mitigation services

Discussion about communication

3. Enhance hazard mitigation and expand risk management solutions

Regional dispatch collects this data

Discussion

Dick advocates that we collect data—Julie suggests that Dick create a goal for collection of the data to inform risks

- Risk assessment and audit
- Financial audit
- Quarterly call with insurance
- Add the elements to the plan and the draft document

Scott asked about cable broadcast – Brendhan explained the work the town is doing with 1623. 1623 does have about 3 channels for broadcast.

Vulnerable seniors – do we know who does not have a generator and who is medically vulnerable?

- senior center and public safety collaborate on this

Dick: Query the public on “What’s happening now and what do we expect?”

Talked about state incentives for regionalization.

Mark Renzi – prospect of large development in Hamilton – impact on aquifer—at Chebacco—how do address water resource

Bruce Tarr and Peter Phippen - MAPC task force will reach out to each community for a regional study

- Regional membership round-up – get data from Brendhan
- Brendhan updated committee on moratorium
- Grant – have MAPC come in to study what we have now
- Grant for 75K – specific proposals for planning board

- Assign members to develop individual draft Strategic Plan goal sections based on Committee input.

Revisited what outstanding goal sections

Mark reviewed where we are against the strategic plan points– discussion of Allen property

Still owes –

#1 -Renew and finance Critical infrastructure - complete

#2 – Fire call/Emergency Services – in process

#3 – Maintain and develop a strong business community

#4 – protected land -water health – Dana has

#5 – recreational assets – Diane complete (to committee for review?)

#6 – fiscal responsible planning zoning – Annie and Mark plan mtg

- #7 – housing needs – Annie and Brendhan
- #8 – Build coastal resilience – Julie and Brendhan
- #9 – School goals – Annie and Mark
- #10 – Comprehensive Zoning Ruth Wes, John Bediz

Development question came up relative to the Allen property/status of property –
Brendhan reviewed current state

- *Plan for compilation of a first working draft to be coordinated by Town Planner.*
Dana will begin to flesh out the plan as we send her our plans
- *Date for next meeting.*
 - October 25 7 pm in person

Adjourn – motion made by John Bediz and seconded by Ruth Pereen – it passes.