

**Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness
Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2018
Approved: October 9, 2018**

Eric Broadbent opened the meeting at 10:11am in the Volunteer Government Room in Town Hall, 13 Ayer Road, Harvard

Members Present: Eric Broadbent (Harvard Energy Advisory Committee), Kerri Green (Agricultural Advisory Committee), Sharon McCarthy (Board of Health) and Kara McGuire Minar (Select Board)

Staff Present: Liz Allard (Land Use Board Admin)

Others Present: Pete Westover, Kelly Erwin and Christopher Curtis

Individuals from Conservation Works (CW) were present to discuss their proposal for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan. Chris Curtis, the Team Leader for CW, worked with the Town of Deerfield to create the first State-approved MVP Plan. Peter Westover is a Managing Partner of CW. Kelly Erwin is the Agricultural Facilitator for CW. Additional resources for the process include Jon Clement, Apple Advisor, UMass Cold Spring Orchards and UMass Extension Tree Fruit Specialist and Bill Obear, Bearpath Farm, Orchardist, Compost Producer and Retailer and long-time Agricultural Commission member.

Mr. Curtis reviewed the scope of work, which is as follows:

- Establish Core Group
- Data Collection on Climate Trends & Impact
- Establish Farm and Climate Advisory Committee
- Community Resilience Building Workshops
- Submission of Draft Recommendations
- Town-wide Listening Sessions
- Amendments to the Plan & Submission of Final Plan
- Implementation of Recommendations

As detailed in the grant application, CW would focus on agriculture in Harvard by assisting in the establishment of a Farm and Climate Advisory Committee to discuss key issues and mitigation strategies. Additional experts can be brought in to discuss specific topics such as migration of insect pests. CW will prepare a summary of the agricultural/climate issue applicable to Harvard.

CW proposes to provide grant funding sources to implement the actions detailed in the final plan, along with identifying the action that require immediate attention and those that can be achieved over time. CW understood the concern with providing reasonable solutions to the farming community to implement the actions of the final plan is essential in getting the attention of the stakeholders.

Post Interview Comments

After discussing the three consultants interviewed by the committee, members agreed to check the references of Harriman. In addition, Eric Broadbent will follow up with Harriman to determine if they are willing to conduct two agricultural based workshops, revise the final plan based on the listening session and assist in the process of applying for round two grants from the State. Should Harriman be amenable to these request and references are good, the committee agreed to move forward with Harriman as the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness consultant.

Upcoming Meetings Scheduling

Committee members agreed to meet on October 9, 2018 at 10:00am to establish the timeline to complete the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness process.

Adjournment

At 12:30pm Kara McGuire Minar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon McCarthy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

DOCUMENTS & EXHIBITS

- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Sub-Committee Agenda, September 21, 2018
- PowerPoint© presentation Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness for Harvard
- Conservation Works proposal, dated June 30, 2018