

**TOWN OF CHESTER
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**March 21, 2016
Minutes**

PRESENT: Tom Bock; Tom Hildreth; Randall Wiggin; Claudio Veliz

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Jason Rasmussen; Michael Normyle; Arne Jonynas; John Broker Campbell; Todd Meneese; Jill McNally; Scott McNally; Joe Epler; Cathy Hasbrouck; Harlan West; Russ Monier;

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Bock.

1. FLOOD RESILIENCE:

Tom Bock provided a brief overview of the purpose of this meeting. He introduced John Broker-Campbell from the Agency of Natural Resources as well as Jason Rasmussen from Regional Planning.

Jason Rasmussen stated that this meeting will discuss the new Flood Resilience Chapter of the Town Plan. He stated that the problem flood areas in town need to be identified as well as discussing what the town can do in the future. Jason Rasmussen introduced Todd Menees, Stream Alteration Engineer for the State of Vermont.

John Broker Campbell provided a power point presentation. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Claudio Veliz questioned if there have been climatology studies to show the frequency of future flooding events. Todd Menees noted that there have been studies done which show that flooding events will increase in future years. He further noted that historically there are major events every 13 ½ years.

John Broker Campbell showed the Natural Resources Atlas and how it works. The map shows the FEMA mapped area as well as the River Corridor boundary.

Joe Epler and Harlan West questioned the debris that still remains in the river. Todd Menees responded that the tree debris is more of a financial issue. It is very expensive to remove them. John Broker Campbell stated that the trees also go a long way to slow down flood waters.

Discussion ensued regarding the flood hazard areas and how they are regulated. Jason Rasmussen noted that it is possible for the town to create additional flood hazard areas. The discussion continued regarding the best ways for the town to handle future flooding events.

Jason Rasmussen stated that the river scientists are performing a study of the Williams River which will better inform the town of what is taking place with the river.

Michael Normyle reminded the Planning Commission that there should be flexibility in the Bylaws to allow property owners to build in other locations on their property away from the stream. Todd Menees mentioned adding riparian buffer planting projects as well.

Discussion took place regarding the river corridor boundaries and their lack of factual boundary. Jason Rasmussen discussed that there are options for regulation in the river corridor area which is not the same as regulating in the FEMA flood area.

Tom Bock thanked everybody for coming. He stated that the next meeting is April 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Tom Hildreth to adjourn. Seconded by Claudio Veliz. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Julie Hance
Planning Director

Thomas Bock
Chairman of the Planning
Commission