

Minutes of the July 29, 2026 Meeting

Members : Suzanne Swope, Chair

Paul Riordan , Vice Chair

Marty Finn, Member (on zoom)

Participants: Anthony Marino, Town Manager, Martin Pillsbury

Meeting Time: 4:00 pm

Place: Harvey Hearing Room

Summary

The Committee of Public Health, Safety, and Public Works held a meeting to review the Winthrop Hazard Mitigation Plan, with Councilor Swope leading the discussion and Tony presenting updates. The meeting focused on reviewing a memo with suggested revisions to the plan, including corrections to discrepancies, dating inconsistencies, and internal references. Key topics discussed included funding opportunities through FEMA's BRIC grants, which were recently reinstated after being cut the previous year, and the town's challenges with coastal flooding and sea level rise projections. The group examined specific infrastructure concerns including stormwater systems, Lewis Lake dredging needs, and the high school and senior center's location in FEMA AE flood zones. Tony explained that while the high school was built elevated, the senior center would be at risk in flooding scenarios, and discussed plans for implementing flood mitigation measures including permeable driveways and local stormwater fees. The committee also reviewed emergency preparedness measures, public communication systems, and the town's environmental justice designation, with participants noting that while the plan included good recommendations, implementation would require ongoing coordination between various town departments and staff.

The Committee of Public Health, Safety, and Public Works held a meeting to review the Winthrop Hazard Mitigation Plan, with Councilor Swope leading the discussion and Tony and Martin presenting updates. The meeting focused on reviewing Council Swope's memo and Tony's response that included suggested revisions to the plan, including corrections to discrepancies, dating inconsistencies, and internal references. Key topics discussed included funding opportunities through FEMA's BRIC grants, which will hopefully be reinstated after being cut the previous year, and the town's challenges with coastal flooding and sea level rise projections. The group examined specific infrastructure concerns including stormwater systems, Lewis Lake dredging needs, and the high school and senior center's location in FEMA AE flood zones. Tony explained that while the high school was built elevated, the senior center would be at risk in flooding scenarios. The Committee discussed plans for implementing flood mitigation measures including permeable driveways and local stormwater fees. The committee also reviewed emergency preparedness measures, public communication systems, and the town's environmental flood zone designations, with participants noting that while the plan included good recommendations, implementation would require ongoing coordination between various town departments and staff.