



TOWN OF WARNER

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Selectboard Meeting DRAFT Minutes February 23, 2024

Flood Plan Mapping Meeting - 2/23/2024

Meeting held at Fire station

Meeting called to order by Harry Seidel at 10:06 AM

Additionally, the BOS meeting was called to order by selectmen Brown and Seidel

Minutes:

Attending: Ed Mical Emergency Management Director, John Leavitt resident, Allan Brown Selectperson, Barb Marty ZBA Chair, Kathy Frenette Town Administrator, Nancy Ladd Librarian, Tim Blagden resident, Ken Cogswell Warner Conservation Commission, Harry Seidel Selectboard

100-year Flood and 500-year Flood were discussed.

Ed explained that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and BEA have circulated "preliminary" flood mapping updates. FEMA's current flood mapping program is called RISK MAP (*Mapping, Assessment and Planning*). As the lead agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), FEMA has requested that the Office of Planning and Development (**ODP**), of the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) conduct a "compliance review of municipalities' current floodplain management regulations." Warner's maps have not been approved yet and approval will be beneficial to Warner and Warner residents.

Warner is in the Contoocook watershed. There is a 90-day appeal period during which challenges to the proposed FEMA flood plan maps can be made. The 90-day appeal period has not commenced but is expected this Spring. (2024) Reference was made to the Flood Insurance Study created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Ed had copies printed of the Flood Insurance Study (Volume 1 of 4) and presented a summary of the study, along with suggestions for further links to more in-depth information not given out due to the volume of paper required. The National Insurance Program also a product derived from FEMA was discussed and the relationship between the two was explained. These together inform property owners of the impact the flood plan may have on their property's development potential. From the municipal standpoint, recognition and acceptance of the updated Flood Plan mapping is a requisite for FEMA-funded grants and will negatively impact FEMA Flood insurance for towns and residents.

1 Without completion of the FEMA Flood Mapping review, flood plan insurance may be denied. Therefore Warner
2 must execute the process of Flood Plan Mapping review to be compliant. After review of the Flood Mapping, the
3 next step will be to follow through with review and approval of Warner's Floodplain Management Regulations and a
4 Floodplain Development ordinance that shall apply to all Warner property designated as having a special flood
5 hazard by FEMA.

6 FEMA's Flood Plan maps can be found at [FEMA.Gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/ searchload.action](https://www.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/searchload.action) To open a map
7 page you must first download the page to a file and then open the file.

8 A general discussion followed about how to execute the mandate, to approve FEMA's preliminary flood mapping
9 updates.

10 How do we evaluate the updated mapping and differences from earlier maps? It is unlikely and difficult for us to
11 measure/comprehend flood plan mapping and we have many maps to review. (22 maps)?

12 John Leavitt advised that the public needed to be included in the process. Allan Brown mentioned that having
13 property owners partaking sounds good, however the process will bog down terribly.

14 Nancy Ladd offered that the Library is a willing partner and that the Library newsletter can be a strong contributor
15 to disseminating information.

16 Consensus was made that having overlays showing the previous flood plan mapping would be helpful and if that is
17 impossible, somehow having the ability to compare the two would expedite the process. Having topographic
18 delineation would also help with understanding the relative width of flood areas. Tim Blagden knows of resources
19 he has consulted in the State government that offer GIS and topographic delineation. He added that various
20 resources exist from which to gather topographic delineation.

21 Kathy, the Town Administrator, offered that she has reliable NH State connections that may be useful. The Warner
22 TA's office is committed, however possible, to facilitating approval of FEMA's flood mapping updates.

23 Barb Marty (ZBA) mentioned that Flood Plan Mapping can be useful for Land Use regulation and suggested that
24 having a Planning Board member involved in the initiative would be beneficial. Ed agreed to contact Alvina Snegach
25 at the Office of Planning to ask about getting overlay mapping that shows both the current and previous flood
26 areas. Ed also mentioned that if that option is not workable, he may pursue other methods to provide some kind of
27 comparison and/or useful topographic delineation.

28 The meeting was adjourned by Harry Seidel at 11:32 AM.

29 The BOS meeting was adjourned by selectmen Brown and Seidel 11:32 AM.

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31 Submitted by Harry Seidel, Selectboard