

Otisfield Resilience Committee Minutes November 28, 2023

Otisfield Town Hall Annex

- 1) Meeting Called to order at 6:35 PM
- 2) Members present, Tom Dash , Linda Poto , Patricia McCoy, Sarah Burnham, Maureen Howard and Noreen Edwards
- 3) Guests Present: Brendan Bedell
- 4) Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:  
Minutes approved by voice vote 6:40 PM
- 5) New Business:
  - A) Maureen Howard agreed to continue as Chairperson for the Resilience Committee. Tom Dash agreed as well to continue as Secretary.
  - B) Maureen Howard reviewed the grant proposal submitted last June and approved in September. Not all proposals were accepted and the total grant received on November 27<sup>th</sup> was \$30,126.00.
  - C) Funds were received for an energy audit of all town building by John Snell. Funds were also received for a resurvey of town owned land on Swampville Road. Original survey documents are no longer available. Responsibility for the survey should be under taken by the town Board of Selectmen.
  - D) Funds for a school pollinator garden were also received in the amount of \$12,972.00. Maureen Howard provided members with a rough outline of the school grounds in question. The committee is awaiting suggestions and ideas from the school administration and custodian, for desired placement. Additional funding through the State Resilience Program may be required. Linda Poto stressed the need to use native plant species for low maintenance. Noreen Edwards suggested the hiring of a local landscaper with garden design experience. A previous pollinator garden at the school fell into disrepair, so long term maintenance is a priority. Brendan Bedell recommended we start small, with possible additions in years to come.
  - E) Emergency kits were funded in the latest grant for \$10,364.00. The committee anticipates the need for perhaps 40 kits with items included in Noreen Edwards report from last spring. Discussion arose as to how to identify truly vulnerable residents, and how to contact them in the event they do not have internet access. Noreen Edwards offered to draft a letter of introduction to all town residents informing them of the availability of the kits as well as location where they may be picked up. Collection of items for the kits warrants further discussion. The committee hopes to have the draft letter ready for the Board of Selectmen's

review by mid- January 2024 Distribution points for the kits were suggested as Town Hall, Community Center and perhaps Spurrs Corner fire station.

- F) The Board of Selectmen has requested the committee to resubmit a request for funding for an electronic sign for the Community Center. Maureen Howard recommended we try to reword the request to more fully comply with the objectives of the State Resilience program. She will try to learn the exact reason why the original request was rejected. Discussion also arose as to coordinating with other towns for combined grant requests as indicated in the award letter from the state.
- G) Adjournment: At 8:55 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 12/14 at 5PM in the Town Hall Annex.