

From: Craig Kelley [craig@craigkelley.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 12:31 AM
To: Albano, Sandra
Subject: Please print- My questions about the Hazard Mitigation Plan

Sandra:

Could you print this for me, please?

Thanks a lot.

Craig

From: Craig Kelley [mailto:craig@craigkelley.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 1:46 PM
To: 'Peterson, Lisa'
Cc: 'Healy, Bob'
Subject: My questions about the Hazard Mitigation Plan

Hi Lisa:

Here are the bulk of the notes I jotted down on my copy of the plan. I really enjoyed reading the plan and was impressed not only with the variety of its content but also with the clarity of the writing and the lack of grammatical errors. Someone obviously paid attention to putting this together.

Thanks a lot. See you tomorrow.

Craig

1. Other than what seems like a disproportionate amount of flooding, I saw little mention of the Cambridge Housing Authority. Were they partners in creating this plan? How will we make sure they're partners in addressing the hazards (i.e.- heat, power outages, snow clearance)?
2. The Public School system seems to be mentioned only in a couple of places, again for flooding issues. Given that they have thousands of our kids for so much of the year, how will they be part of the mitigation plan? Page 17 notes that schools are critical facilities, but I couldn't figure out what, for example, CPS does to address earthquake issues at the Tobin or K-Lo schools (I was surprised the Morse wasn't on that list- I guess it's not built on fill). Or even how they handle snow challenges, which is a much more likely cause of injury or death than an earthquake, though not as large in scale.
3. On page 2, Table two has four colleges, but not the Episcopal Divinity School.
4. Also on page 2, at the bottom there is a note that the City's population quadruples in the daytime. From memory, I think it doubles in the daytime, and that of the 100,000 people who work here, 25,000 also live here (the other 50,000 Cambridge residents who work do so elsewhere).
5. On Page 4, I wondered where the waste disposal acreage is. Is it Danehy Park?
6. On Page 6, it notes that North Point is still owned by Jones Lange LaSalle. I think that may have changed, though I can't claim to understand North Point at all.
7. On Page 12, I was wondering if we could say where the repetitive loss property was.

8. On Page 18, I was wondering who inspects the dams we own. Where are reports filed? Dam failure is a huge concern nationally, though it has not (yet) happened very often. Much like bridges.
9. On Page 23, I was hoping we'd have a map of displaced households for various hazards. That sort of visual might help the plan seem more relevant to people.
10. Also on page 23, I read it to say that if a category 4 hurricane hits Cambridge, we'll lose 2/3 of our building value! That's amazing. What about the large-scale personal property in them, such as laboratory equipment?
11. On page 24, I thought that the last paragraph had a variety of assumptions that seemed a very loose way of estimating flood threats. I would think that we could be much more accurate with our GIS.
12. Concord-Alewife has flooding, earthquake liquefaction and hurricane surge issues. When we rezoned this area a few years ago, my memory is that we focused only on the flooding.
13. At bottom of page 25, I wondered if the overflow valve has ever been used. If so, when and why?
14. Throughout the discussion on flooding (which I found very interesting) there is talk of various retention tanks. I don't have any concept of how big they are or what they can handle and I think it would be useful to note that information in the report.
15. What does the salt do to our roads and structures (and also, can you get the folks picking the salt up to either clean up the big pile by St. Peter's after the storm or not drop it their in the first place. At this point in time, it's just about a speed bump)?
16. On page 28, I wondered who does DCR's catch basin cleaning?
17. On page 28, I wondered how much land we have in the floodplain.
18. On page 29 and 30, the plan talks about Belmont's tie in to us. Do we charge them for this service? And how can we regulate how much pressure they put on it?
19. On page 30, I wondered what "drawdown" of Little Fresh Pond consists of.
20. On page 30, in paragraph 5, I wondered if the pumps were electric.
21. On page 32, how, and by whom, is the Linnaean Street backwater valve shut off? Does that solve the problem?
22. On page 33, I wondered if the MBTA pumps discharged to Somerville Ave directly onto the street or into a system.
23. On page 33, I wondered if the CHA used vendors for moving water or for providing backup services.
24. On page 34, I wondered if the flooding noted in 21-23 is now worse. I've received some complaints that people's yards flood worse now than before recent work.
25. On page 34, in item 26, what's the difference between a dry and a wet interceptor? And what is a 'surcharge'?
26. On page 34, what's the status of the construction that was to take place in 2007?
27. On page 35, item number 26, existing mitigation, is self-referential for the last two paragraphs.
28. On page 36, what's the current status of the Western Ave project that was to be designed in 2007?
29. On page 37, there is a note about MIT's water damage from broken pipes, etc. Do we have such info for CPS and City buildings? I know that's been an issue at the Baldwin.
30. On page 37, what is SGVD and what is 12.35 NGVD in terms that people like me would understand?

31. On page 37, I wondered what DCR had decided about its dams.
32. On page 37, it says that CWD regularly inspects its dams, but I understood from earlier wording that it happens every two years. How often are they inspected?
33. On page 38, when talking about trimming trees NSTAR is not mentioned. They do a lot of tree work (to some people's consternation).
34. On page 38, when talking about wind and contractors, do we have special training or check lists for City staff to use when giving wind advice to contractors?
35. On page 39, in the first paragraph, 7th line down, the period goes inside the quotation marks.
36. Also on page 39, I wondered if we'd want to discuss our free shoveling programs for specific populations, our enforcement plans, our citations stats, etc.
37. Also on page 39, I think it would be very useful to explain how much many various storms cost Cambridge. For example, freezing rain could cost one thing, 4 inches of snow another, etc. People may (or may not) be more understanding of snow issues if they understand the cost of addressing this hazard. If we have data on snow-related accidents, especially ones involving poor clearance of snow from streets and sidewalks, that would be helpful as well. I think that is really our number one safety hazard in many ways.
38. What is a "main" when talking about water.
39. The plan doesn't seem to address air quality. That is sort of an offshoot of extreme heat, but not exactly the same.
40. On page 42, it mentions that Harvard employs someone to work, at least partially, on bed bugs. I've heard of two infestations. How big a problem are bed bugs in Cambridge?
41. On page 42, we should clarify who these goals apply to.
42. On page 42, we should note whether the Fieldhouse was certified as Silver and what the LEED status of the CPD HQ and new library are/will be. And the CRLS renovation and West Cambridge Youth and Community Center as well.
43. On page 42, the plan mentions updates. What's the schedule for those?
44. On page 43, I wondered if MIT hired a full-time emergency coordinator as was noted they wanted to do.
45. On page 45, item 33, what's the status?
46. On page 45, how does one measure success for handling snow?
47. On page 46, the top hazard is labeled "wind related" but I think it might want to be "winter related."
48. On page 46, City-wide and MIT are mentioned for being protected regarding fire, but not Harvard or Cambridge College or any of our other large institutions.
49. On page 47, I wondered how consistently we encourage people to be prepared for a hazard event.
50. Also on page 47, do we have rules or plans for an organized and efficient evacuation (I realize some of this will be discussed on Monday, and also at the Camera meeting on Thursday).
51. On page 48, what non-English speaking groups are we reaching out to?
52. On page 50, what does SCADA mean? It's probably someplace, but I couldn't find it.

53. On page 51, were CPA funds used for the stormwater work at the Golf Course at all?
54. On page 51, halfway down, was there an investigation about release of hazardous materials during an hazard event? If so, what was the result?
55. on Page 52, I wondered why the shelters couldn't accept infants.
56. On page 52, about communications, the period goes inside the quotation marks. And I'd like to see CPS clearly pulled out as a partner as well.
57. Have we set up a funding program to help folks address mitigation issues, as noted on page 52?
58. Page 53- what was the result of the review of the dams' ability to withstand a larger stand?
59. Page 53- why do various City departments care about the schedule for changing the dam's water?
60. Page 55- What's the status of the top two bullets.
61. Also on page 55, is water level at Spot and Spy ponds an issue?
62. On page 56, have we increased tree funding, set up a debris management plan, set up funding for private tree work or zoned for hurricane surge zones?
63. Can we put snow in the harbor?
64. Can we stop using salt? Do we have partners? Do plows have GPS systems?
65. Page 57- Do we have a process to expand uses of homeless shelters during heat emergencies?
66. If we want to improve facilities for biking and walking, doing a better job of clearing our sidewalks and streets of snow would be a good (though expensive) start.
67. Page 58- have we done anything to reduce single occupancy vehicles that's been successful? Do we have data?
68. Have we expanded the recycling center?
69. What is district steam and why do we want to expand its use?
70. What's the status of these various potential mitigation measures?
71. Page 64- Has the chair been selected?
72. Has the local implementation group been done.
73. Have we done the annual survey?
74. On page 65, with other initiatives, I didn't see CPS, CPD or CFD mentioned.