

Narrative Description:

On March 19th we had a public meeting in the Methodist Church in East Middlebury. Eleven residents, Kathleen Ramsay, Town Manager, Roy Schiff, Project Engineer and Amy Sheldon, Project Manager attended. The proposed project plans and narrative were presented. There were questions about raising the berm at the upstream of the project area, timing for construction considering the re-paving of Route 116 and long-term monitoring decisions and maintenance costs.

On March 8th FEMA requested to see the updated budget and revised BCA for the Phase II work prior to signing off on the Phase IB archaeological survey. By March 12th they had all of the information and the Spring was spent inquiring when we would know if we could move forward with the Phase 1 Archeology work

On April 24th Christin Bland contacted me regarding sink holes forming in her back yard. Project Engineer Roy Schiff was contacted and did a site visit on June 8th and did not find undermining of the wall on the river side, though the water was high. May 31st Vermont Emergency Management promised approval 'soon'. June 11th the contractor who completed the original archeology work was asked to put a proposal in for the Phase 1. It was received July 17th.

July 27th Christin Bland reports that the sink holes behind her house are getting bigger. July 31st Brian Cote visited the site to evaluate the sink holes at 422 East Main Street. On August 7th an email was sent to Sen. Leahy's office. On August 9th Tom Berry replied, indicating he had talked with VEM, Sen Sander's office and Rep Welch's office.

On August 14th approval to continue work under our grant agreement with FEMA to complete the Phase 1 Archeological Assessment was finally received. August 28th we had a signed contract for the Archeological Phase 1 Survey with New England Archeology. On September 4th the scope was sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer and approval was received on September 26th.

On September 14th an email response from the Project Engineer regarding the efficacy of the floodwall was received: "We looked at wall and discussed with a structural engineer. The wall seems to have some issues since it has lost some protective riprap, has some erosion on the end, and has some sink holes. However, the sink holes are small and the wall is not tipping. With what we have seen, it seems like the wall is not in immediate danger of failing. It could give way during a larger flood, with or without the issues we are discussing since it has had problems in the past. Hopefully we do not have large flood before next year's repairs. Let's keep monitoring for movement of wall and larger holes moving forward."

As landowner contacts were started, it became clear that the Phase 1 Survey did not include the access areas behind Goodro's Lumber because they were not in the original Archeological Resource Assessment. An amendment to include this area in the Scope of Work is underway. The work is scheduled to be done between October 16th and 24th.