# Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan Addendum:

## Towns of Clarksburg, Hinsdale, Mount Washington, & New Ashford

**Prepared by the**
**Berkshire Regional Planning Commission**
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***Overview***

Berkshire County has a Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The small Towns of Clarksburg, Hinsdale, Mount Washington, and New Ashford decided to join in the plan after the regional plan was already complete. The Towns of Clarksburg, Mt. Washington, and New Ashford did not participate in the previous 2005 plan. Subsequently, all of their actions are new. The Town of Hinsdale did participate in the 2005 plan and their actions have been updated. This plan is an addendum to the 2012 regional plan.

The Towns of Clarksburg, Hinsdale, Mount Washington and New Ashford engaged in a comprehensive community planning process spanning a year that identified hazards and risk assessments as well as specific mitigation strategies within their towns. Each community agrees with the goals as outlined in the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Towns of Cheshire and West Stockbridge began the planning process, but ended up rescinding their interest in the Hazard Mitigation Addendum planning process after their initial public meetings.

***Coordinating Role of Regional Planning Agency***

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission worked with the participating communities and coordinated the development of this plan. BRPC was established in 1966 to provide regional land use, transportation, and environmental planning expertise to the two cities and 30 towns of Berkshire County, MA. When county government was dissolved in 2000, BRPC became the only quasi-governmental organization for the region. In its capacity as a regional planning agency, BRPC has conducted numerous detailed land use, transportation, and environmental planning studies.

***Planning Process***

The planning process for these four communities was identical to that used in the regional planning process. Each of the six municipalities identified “community champions” within their respective towns located below.

**Table 1. Community Champions**

| Town | Hinsdale | Cheshire | Clarksburg | New Ashford | Mount Washington | West Stockbridge |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Community Champion | Ray Boldoc<br>EMD | Mark Webber<br>Town Manager | Mike Williams<br>Police Chief | Chuck Marrone<br>Selectman | Brian Tobin<br>Selectman | Mark Webber<br>Town Manager |

These individuals became the main point of contact for the hazard mitigation planning process. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) staff conducted initial outreach to each community champion to discuss the planning process and ask them to solicit a broad array of community participation. Each community champion acted as a liaison to the towns' respective select boards and as a contact for valuable key stakeholder input such as highway departments, emergency management personnel, depart of public works, conservation commission members, and the public. The community champion engaged with these planning participants and ensured a placement at a select board meeting for the first community meeting.

Each of the participating communities was involved in a number of ways. A series of three meetings were held in each participating community. The first community meeting was a public meeting that tended to be at a Select Board meeting and open to the public. The second was a working meeting typically comprised of emergency responders, planners, administrators, public works staff from the respective community as well as any other interested stakeholders. The communities were also given a chance to comment on any sections directly involving their community as well as the entire plan. The third meeting was a public meeting at a subsequent selectboard meeting to go over the findings of the plan and solicit comments on the draft report.

Each town's first community meeting was held with their respective selectboard at a public meeting. Critical municipal stakeholders and interested community members were encouraged to attend. BRPC staff provided a presentation regarding the hazard mitigation planning process, responded to inquiries, and facilitated preliminary discussion. After each initial community meeting the town's designated community champion facilitated a working group meeting. Prior to that meeting BRPC staff, the community champion, and other interested participants engaged in meaningful correspondence identifying potential areas of hazard mitigation for the working group discussion. Any relevant planning documents, studies, reports, or technical information were provided to the BRPC. At each working group meeting, BRPC staff provided a GIS map of each town along with an array of materials to identify areas of potential hazard mitigation in addition to relevant materials for the working group to discuss.

The public was involved throughout the planning process, having opportunities at each of the local community meetings to present ideas. Any information received, through the public, regional plan or from local knowledge, was reviewed by the local committee for accuracy. All the towns utilized their own websites as well as BRPC's website to post information and solicit comments about the plan, except Clarksburg which does not have its own website.

Other organizations and neighboring communities throughout the region were sent letters soliciting their input on the hazards they see facing their communities as well as problem areas and potential mitigation activities. They were also invited to review the draft plan and provide comments. A list of these organizations can be found in Appendix 2. All comments received by these organizations, and the public that actually dealt with hazard mitigation, were incorporated into this plan where appropriate. A second round of review by the communities occurred after the plan was updated based on FEMA's comments on the draft plan. These letters, with links to the plan posted online, were also sent to the

communities surrounding each community. The list of these communities can be found in Appendix 2. No comments were received from the second round of review.

During the development of this addendum, BRPC and local representatives have taken every opportunity to coordinate all aspects of emergency management planning. This includes reviewing the regional goals and objectives to ensure they meet local needs, but that also compliment local and regional goals established in the development of the CEMPs, various Homeland Security Plans, and the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

BRPC staff and the local communities reviewed local plans, by-laws, and reports to inform this plan update. If plans discussed aspects of hazard mitigation, the comments were incorporated into the hazard mitigation plan. In addition to these specific documents listed, technical information for this plan came from meetings with town staff and the public. Hinsdale is the only community that had a previous hazard mitigation plan (2005 Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan), and they have not done any plan development since the plan was written, so they have not had an opportunity to incorporate items from the 2005 report into their local plans. A review of current watershed plans, greenway plans, economic development plans were conducted and incorporated into planning efforts including:

- Stormwater Assessment In the Hoosic and Housatonic Watersheds Report
- Western New England Greenway Bike Path Study
- Berkshire County's 2013 Community Economic Development Strategy (currently in progress)
- The Housatonic "Rest of River" Initiative
- Review BRPC's participation in the Statewide Stormwater Seminar Series

Two municipalities, Cheshire and West Stockbridge, elected to forgo the hazard mitigation planning process after their initial public meetings and prior to their working group meetings. Both small communities were initially engaged in the process however both communities experienced town management and Board of Selectmen seat transitions during the planning process. BRPC staff worked closely with the champions of each town until they both decided that the project wasn't of use to their communities.

The communities within this addendum will incorporate the hazard mitigation plan into all relevant planning documents, such as master plans and open space plans, as they are developed and or updated in the future. This plan will be forwarded to all appropriate boards and departments for inclusion in their respective planning documents. All data and actions from the regional plan and addendum that is relevant to any future planning endeavors in the communities will be incorporated as appropriate.

***Natural Hazard Identification***

As part of this addendum to the 2012 plan, all the hazards were reviewed and updated based on recent data.

***Community Profiles***

A Community Profile was crafted for the small towns of Clarksburg, Hinsdale, Mount Washington, and New Ashford. Each Community Profile contains an array of pertinent geographic and demographic information. The Community Profiles include the location of each town in relation to Berkshire County as well as natural features. Also the community profiles outline the various economic dynamics of each town. Demographic information such as population, housing utilization, transportation, and the municipality's educational offerings are included.

The towns outlined the natural hazards that affect their respective communities by documenting the past occurrences. The natural hazards identified are based on the hazards identified in the Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan. In concert with the 2012 BCHMP update, natural hazards are discussed, including past occurrences, conditions contributing to the risk and future occurrences. As part of each town's natural hazard identification specific hazards were identified and profiled including flood related hazards, coastal storms, atmospheric and winter related storms, geologic hazards as well as other pertinent natural hazards.

Each town's Community Profile includes a critical facility matrix. The data included is taken from each town's Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and updated throughout the planning process. Flood prone areas are outlined in detail along with a correlating Flooding Vulnerability Assessment (FVA). Each FVA determines the number of buildings located in floodplains and provides loss estimates for properties located within the floodplain that has a one-percent annual chance of flooding.

Additional information is included in each Community Profile including the identification of structurally deficient bridges, bridges of concern over waterways, and the hazard potential of concerning dams which are detailed in an individual dam matrix for each municipality. Other areas of potential concern addressed include landslides, wildfires, winter storms, as well as other natural hazards relevant to each town. Each Community Profile closes with an overarching natural hazard risk assessment as determined by each town.

All of these towns are small with limited resources and few staff. As such, none of them clearly document the hazard events that occur throughout their communities, so the information presented in the addendum is largely based on the regional plan as well as information provided verbally from the towns. All towns will keep track of future hazard events to better inform the community for future plan updates.

Although the towns of Cheshire and West Stockbridge did not complete the planning process for their respective communities, BRPC staff conducted extensive outreach to both towns and completed initial research into their draft community profiles that was not reviewed for accuracy and updated by municipal stakeholders.

*Town of Clarksburg Natural Hazard Risk Assessment*

**Community Profile**

The Town of Clarksburg covers an area of 12.79 square miles. The town's population is 1,702, giving a density of approximately 133 people/square mile. There are 675 housing units, resulting in a household size of 2.5 people per household (US Census Bureau). The predominant land uses in town are forest (82.5%), residential (6.1%), agricultural (4.0%) and commercial/industrial (.3%) (MassGIS, 2010). The town utilizes its own elementary school, Clarksburg Elementary through eighth grade and sends high school aged students to Drury High School in North Adams as well as Charles H. McCann Technical High School also in North Adams.

Clarksburg is nestled on the Northern border of Berkshire County adjacent to Vermont and between the Massachusetts towns of Williamstown to the west and Florida to the east and north of the City of North Adams. The town is bordered on two sides by mountains, with East Mountain and Bald Mountain to the west, and the Hoosac Range to the east. Between the two ranges, Hudson Brook and the north branch of the Hoosic River flow through the valley, merging just south of the town line. In the northern part of the valley is Clarksburg State Park, operated by the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation. The park is home to Mauserts Pond and offers picnicking, hiking, and camping, as well as other recreational activities. On the Vermont side of the border lies the Green Mountain National Forest. The Appalachian Trail crosses from north to south through the town, passing just west of the peak of East Mountain, the highest point in town, at 2,300 feet (700 m). Route 8 is the only state route through town, and is the main road.

Clarksburg is a small town with limited resources, and as such does not track hazards that occur throughout the town. The information on the hazards is limited to the information from the regional plan and information gathered from the community based on conversations.

**Critical Facilities**

A list of the critical facilities within the community is shown in Table 2. This data was taken from the communities CEMP and revised during the data collection process. These facilities were digitized into GIS and used for determining vulnerability to the various hazards. None of the facilities are within the flood prone areas but would all be vulnerable to the hazards that could impact the entire town.

**Table 2. Critical Facilities – Clarksburg**

| Type | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|
| Fire | Fire Station | 181 Cross Road |
| Health Services | Senior Center | 712 W. Cross Road |
| Staging Areas | Clarksburg Elementary | 777 W. Cross Road |
| Public Works | Public Works Building | 714 W. Cross Road |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Emergency Operations Center (EOC) | Fire Station | 181 Cross Road |
| Alternate EOC | Town Hall | 712 W. Cross Road |

**Flood Prone Areas**

There are several flood prone areas in Clarksburg mostly due to the elevation of Florida Mountain to the east of the town including:

- Multiple areas along Carson Ave.
- Demers Ave.
- Several locations along Rivers Rd.
- Bridge on Daniels Rd.
- East Rd.
- Several locations along northern Middle Rd. prior to connecting with River Rd.
- The area between Middle Rd., Cross Rd., and Lincoln Dr.
- Several areas along Houghton St. intersecting with:
  - Gates Ave.
  - Inga Ave.
  - Gleason St.
  - School St.

**Flooding Vulnerability Assessment**

An analysis of the FIRM flood hazard area maps indicates that there is a total of 85.91 acres of floodplain that has a one-percent annual chance of flooding within the town. This amounts to 1% of the total town. Based on additional analysis, 9.29 acres (13.5%) of the floodplain are developed.

Currently there are 4 commercial buildings (40%), 4 industrial (100%) and 56 residential buildings (8.5%) within the floodplain (Table 3). The percentage of buildings is then multiplied by the total property value, as determined from the Department of Revenue, to come up with a potential loss. In addition to this, an additional percentage of the value was added to represent the contents of the properties. This can be found in Table 4.

The town does have a floodplain bylaw.

**Table 3. Number of Buildings in Floodplain – Clarksburg**

| Buildings in Floodplain | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residential | | Commercial | | Industrial | | Total | |
| No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent |
| 56 | 8.5% | 4 | 40% | 4 | 100% | 64 | 9.5% |

Source: (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 2010)

**Table 4. Loss Estimate for Properties within the 100-year Floodplain ($18,602,000) – Clarksburg ($000)**

| Residential Property | Residential Contents (50% Property Value) | Commercial Property | Commercial Contents (100% Property Value) | Industrial Property | Industrial Contents (125% Property Value) | Total Loss Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $9,991 | $4,995 | $797 | $797 | $907 | $1,133 | $18,602 |

Source: (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 2010)

**Structurally Deficient Bridges over Waterways**

MassDOT has no listings for structurally deficient bridges in town. (MassDOT, 2010).

**Hazard Potential of Dams**

Community stakeholders did not identify any dams in potentially hazardous conditions. Stakeholders indicated that the Briggsville Dam, one of the largest dams to be dismantled in MA, was removed in 2010.

The Office of Dam Safety indicated that the Town of Clarksburg has one dam, Mauserts Pond Dam, of an "intermediate" size and of "significant" hazard, however the Office of Dam Safety correlates the condition of this dam as "good".

Two other dams are referenced as "non jurisdictional" meaning they are defined as being less than 6 feet in height and store less than 15 acre-feet of water. There is no data available on the condition of these dams because the Office of Dam Safety does not inspect these dams. (Office of Dam Safety, 2004).

**Wildfires**

The town considers itself to be at a relatively high risk to wildfires due to the size Clarksburg State Forest encompasses in the western region of the town. From 1995 to 2000 there were four reports of wildfires, totaling 2.25 acres (MEMA, 2004 and town representatives). Stakeholders indicated that larger forest fires occurred 30-50 years ago. The town could not obtain local records on fires since 2000 and the state could not provide more recent information. Fires could occur anywhere in town that is forested, which is almost the entire town, however there is a higher likelihood in the western portion, which is the state forest. Wildfires, due to the climate and vegetation, tend to only burn understory brush. Any wildfire would most likely be isolated and impact only a house or two and would most likely provide enough notice to prevent casualties.

**High Winds and Winter Storms**

The entire town considers itself to be at a high risk to high winds and winter storms. Damage could occur anywhere in town, however damage would mostly be a few trees or powerlines down, unless the town was hit by a tornado, in which case damage would be more, resulting a possible destruction of

buildings. There is a slightly higher likelihood of high winds and winter storms in the western portion of the town, which is at a higher elevation. Hurricanes, strong storms and winter storms all provide enough notice to prevent casualties; however tornados do not provide much notice and may cause casualties.

**Other Natural Hazards**

Other than the above mentioned hazards, the Town of Clarksburg does not have any specific locations in town that are more susceptible to natural hazard events. Landslides, earthquakes, drought and extreme temperature can all occur at any location in town. All of these events would cause little to no structural damage to the towns buildings or infrastructure. Ice jams can occur at any location along the Hoosic River, however little damage would occur from it.

**Natural Hazard Risk Assessment**

Based on the hazards identified in this plan and the assessment of the risks of the Town of Clarksburg, the town considers itself to be at a **high risk** for flooding, winter storms (blizzards / snow / ice storms), severe storms (thunderstorm, wind, hail, lightning) and tornados; **moderate risk** from hurricane and tropical storms, extreme temperatures and drought; and **low risk** for wildfire, landslide, earthquakes dam failure, and ice jams.

***Town of Hinsdale Natural Hazard Risk Assessment***
***Hinsdale Community Profile***

**Introduction**

The Town of Hinsdale originally wrote a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) in 2005. The current community profile, existing protection matrix, and mitigation action plan include updated material from the previously written HMP which has been reviewed and vetted by critical community stakeholders. Additional relevant material has been incorporated into the HMP through research, data collection, and community input.

**Community Profile**

The Town of Hinsdale covers an area of 21.7 square miles. The town's population is 2032, giving a density of approximately 94 people/square mile. There are 1,133 housing units, resulting in a household size of approximately 2 people per household (US Census Bureau). The predominant land uses in town are forest (67.5%), residential (5.1%), agricultural (3.8%), commercial/industrial (.2%) and transportation (.3%) (MassGIS, 2010). Hinsdale is one of the seven towns in the Central Berkshire Regional School District, the largest district (by land area) in the Commonwealth. Students in Hinsdale attend the Kittredge Elementary School in the town for elementary school, along with students from Peru. All students in the district travel to Dalton to attend Nessacus Regional Middle School for sixth through eighth grades and Wahconah Regional High School for the high grades. There are no private schools in Hinsdale, with the nearest being in the Pittsfield area.

Hinsdale is located in the Berkshire Hills, with most of its population located in a valley along the East Branch of the Housatonic River, whose origin is just south of the town line. Much of the land around the river south of the town center is part of the Hinsdale Flats Wildlife Management Reserve, and is generally a swampy area. There are four reservoirs within the town (Belmont, Plunkett, Cleveland Brook and a portion of the Windsor Reservoir), as well as part of Muddy Pond in the south and most of Ashmere Lake along the Peru town line. The town, which contains the peak of Tully Mountain along the western border, also is traversed by a portion of the Appalachian Trail, which crosses the mountain. The town also has several summer camps, and a country club.

Since the 2005 Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan, which Hinsdale participated in, there has been no growth or development in a hazard prone area.

Hinsdale is a small town with limited resources, and as such does not track hazards that occur throughout the town. The information on the hazards is limited to the information from the regional plan and information gathered from the community based on conversations.

**Critical Facilities**

A list of the critical facilities within the community is shown in Table 5. This data was taken from the communities CEMP and revised during the data collection process. These facilities were digitized into GIS and used for determining vulnerability to the various hazards. The Town of Hinsdale has very few municipal buildings and utilizes the Town Hall and Fire Station for numerous purposes. None of the

facilities are within the flood prone areas but would all be vulnerable to the hazards that could impact the entire town.

**Table 5. Critical Facilities – Hinsdale**

| Type | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|
| Fire | Fire Station | 95 Maple Street |
| Police | Police Station | 136 South Street |
| Health Services | Hinsdale Ambulance | 95 Maple Street |
| Staging Areas | Kittredge School | 136 South Street |
| Public Works | Dept. of Public Works | 95 Maple Street |
| Emergency Operations Center (EOC) | Fire Station | 95 Maple Street |
| Alternate EOC | Bolduc Home | 520 Creamery Road |

**Flood Prone Areas**

The Town of Hinsdale has several areas prone to flooding. The Main Street as connecting roads in downtown Hinsdale experiences a number of flooding locations including:

- Depot Street
- Curtis Street
- Commonwealth Road
- Mill Street
- River Road
- Plunkett Avenue
- Verge Drive
- Walsh Road
- Holmes Road
- Church Street
- Goodrich Street

Additional areas of potential flooding concern include the Plunkett Lake environs (top three bullets) as well as Ashmere Lake and environs (remaining bullets):

- Plunkett Reservoir Road
- Michaels Road
- Rose Drive
- George Schnopps Road
- Lake View Road
- Shore Drive
- Henry Drive

- Ashmere Drive
- Cove Lane
- Pine Road
- Hill Road
- Ashmere Road
- White birch Lane
- Hemlock Lane

Other flood prone areas include various culverts along the CRX rail line.

**Flooding Vulnerability Assessment**

An analysis of the FIRM flood hazard area maps indicates that there is a total of 1,868.31 acres of floodplain that has a one-percent annual chance of flooding within the town. This amounts to 13.46% of the total town. Based on additional analysis, 35.08 acres (1.88%) of the floodplain are developed. The town does not currently have a floodplain bylaw.

Currently there are 7 commercial buildings (24.1%), 0 industrial (0%) and 44 residential buildings (4.7%) within the floodplain (Table 6). There was no development in the floodplain since 2005, so there has been no change in the number of buildings in the floodplain. The percentage of buildings is then multiplied by the total property value, as determined from the Department of Revenue, to come up with a potential loss. In addition to this, an additional percentage of the value was added to represent the contents of the properties. This can be found in Table 7. The Town of Hinsdale was accepted into the NFIP in 1981 without having a floodplain management ordinance. The town will work with the BRPC and the State NFIP Coordinator to adopt a proper floodplain management ordinance.

**Table 6. Number of Buildings in Floodplain – Hinsdale**

| Buildings in Floodplain | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residential | | Commercial | | Industrial | | Total | |
| No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent |
| 44 | 4.7% | 7 | 24.1% | 0 | 0% | 51 | 5.2% |

Source: (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 2010)

**Table 7. Loss Estimate for Properties within the 100-year Floodplain ($24,727) – Hinsdale**

| Residential Property | Residential Contents (50% Property Value) | Commercial Property | Commercial Contents (100% Property Value) | Industrial Property | Industrial Contents (125% Property Value) | Total Loss Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $11,121 | $5,560 | $4,023 | $4,023 | $0 | $0 | $24,727 |

Source: (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 2010)

**Structurally Deficient Bridges over Waterways**

MassDOT has no listings for structurally deficient bridges in town. However community stakeholders indicate that the Cady Brooke bridge under repair. (MassDOT, 2010).

**Hazard Potential of Dams**

Community stakeholders did not identify any dams in potentially hazardous conditions although the Office of Dam Safety indicated that the Town of Hinsdale has eight dams. Three dams are designated "Small" and "Low Hazard." Five dams are designated as "Large" with "High" hazards (Office of Dam Safety, 2004). Of the eight dams, one is designated in good condition, four are in fair condition, one is in poor condition, and two are in unknown condition (Office of Dam Safety, 2004).

**Wildfires**

The town considers itself to be at a low risk to wildfires due to type of forests as well as its climate. From 1995 to 2000 there were two reports of wildfires (MEMA, 2004). The town could not obtain local records on fires since 2000 and the state could not provide more recent information. Fires could occur anywhere in town that is forested, which is almost the entire town. Wildfires, due to the climate and vegetation, tend to only burn understory brush. Any wildfire would most likely be isolated and impact only a house or two and would most likely provide enough notice to prevent casualties.

**High Winds and Winter Storms**

The entire town considers itself to be at a high risk to high winds and winter storms. Damage could occur anywhere in town, however damage would mostly be a few downed trees or utility lines, unless the town was hit by a tornado, in which case damage would be more, resulting a possible destruction of buildings throughout town. Hurricanes, severe storms and winter storms all provide enough notice to prevent casualties, however tornados do not provide much notice and may cause casualties.

**Other Natural Hazards**

Other than the above mentioned hazards, the Town of Hinsdale does not have any locations in town that are more susceptible to natural hazard events. Landslides, earthquakes, drought and extreme temperature can all occur at any location in town. All of these events would cause little to no structural damage to the towns buildings or infrastructure. Ice jams can occur at any location along the Housatonic River, however little damage would occur from it.

**Natural Hazard Risk Assessment**

Based on the hazards identified in this plan and the assessment of the risks of the Town of Hinsdale, the town considers itself to be at a **high risk** for flooding, winter storms (blizzards / snow / ice storms), severe storms (thunderstorm, wind, hail, lightning) and tornados; **moderate risk** from dam failure, hurricane and tropical storms, extreme temperatures and drought; and **low risk** for wildfire, landslide, earthquakes and ice jams.

**Town of Mount Washington Natural Hazard Risk Assessment**

***Mount Washington Community Profile***

**Community Profile**

The Town of Mount Washington covers an area of 22.39 square miles. The town's population is 167, giving a density of approximately 7 people/square mile. There are 74 households, resulting in a household size of approximately 2 people per household (US Census Bureau, 2010). The predominant land uses in town are forest (94.1%), residential (.9%), and agricultural (1.2%) (MassGIS, 2010). The Town has an agreement with the South Berkshire Regional School District to send its students to the regional schools. Kindergarten and first grade students attend the South Egremont School, second through sixth grade students attend Undermountain School in Sheffield, and seventh through twelfth grade students attend Mount Everett Regional High School in Sheffield.

The Town of Mount Washington is bordered to the west by both Columbia County, New York and Dutchess County, New York. Its southern border is Litchfield County, Connecticut. Its northern border is the Town of Egremont and its eastern border is the Town of Sheffield. Mount Washington is both the westernmost as well as the southwestern most located municipality in Massachusetts. The Town of Mount Washington is located within the Taconic Mountain range with Mount Everett to the east and Alander Mountain to the west. It is a secluded town with only three roads that lead out of the town, and only one, East Street, connected to the rest of Massachusetts through Egremont. Bash Bish Falls State Park is located in the town and serves as a popular natural attraction.

Mount Washington is a small town with limited resources, and as such does not track hazards that occur throughout the town. The information on the hazards is limited to the information from the regional plan and information gathered from the community based on conversations.

**Critical Facilities**

A list of the critical facilities within the community is shown in Table X. This data was taken from the community's CEMP and revised during the data collection process. These facilities were digitized into GIS and used for determining vulnerability to the various hazards. The Town of Mount Washington has very few municipal buildings and utilizes the Town Hall and Fire Station for numerous purposes. As the floodplains have not been mapped, it is not know if any of the buildings are in a flood prone areas but all of them are vulnerable to the hazards that could impact the entire town.

**Table 8. Critical Facilities – Mount Washington**

| Type | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|
| Temporary Morgue | The Potato Storage Building | East Street |
| Health Services | Town Hall/Dept. Public Works (DPW) | 118 East St./5 Cross St. |
| Staging Areas | DPW/Town Hall/Camp Hi Rock | 5 Cross St./118 East St./162 East St. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mass Care Shelters | Town Hall/Church of Christ/Dept. Public Works | 118 East St./East St./5 Cross St. |
| Special Needs Facility | Camp Hi Rock | 162 East St. |
| Camp | Camp Hi Rock | 162 East St. |
| Emergency Operations Center | Town Garage | 5 Cross Road |
| Alternate EOC | Town Hall | 118 East St. |

**Flood Prone Areas**

There are several flood prone areas in town. The center of Mount Washington, where the majority of residences are located, is a low laying north-south stretch with Mt. Washington State Forest located to the east of the town center and Mt. Everett State Forrest to the west. The flood prone areas are typically located at intersections between seasonal run off from the mountains where culverts are located.

The following locations are susceptible to flooding:

- The area of Mt. Washington road, which runs north to south, turning into West Street.
- East Street, which often parallels West Street along with a few intersecting streets.
- The northern intersection of East Street and West Street.
- The intersection between Bash Bish Falls Road and West Street.
- The private road located on the western side of East Street.
- Just south of that flood prone private road access point on East Street at the intersection between East Stree t and Mt. Everett Road.
- Old Plantation Pond Road and the intersection between Whitbeck Road and East Street.
- Bash Bish Falls Road is susceptible to erosion due to heavy rains.

Mt. Washington works to continually maintain their ditches, catch basins, and replace small culverts when necessary.

Mt. Washington is home to several ponds; Guilder Pond, Hunts Pond, Lee Pond, Plantain Pond, as well as the Lee Pond Brook Reservoir.

**Flooding Vulnerability Assessment**

The Town of Mt. Washington's flood plains have never been mapped, therefore it is unknown which, if any, buildings are located in flood plains. Mt. Washington is not in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) however remains eligible for disaster relief funds. Based on the terrain of the town, any damage that does occur from flooding is most likely related to road damage identified above.

**Structurally Deficient Bridges over Waterways**

MassDOT has no listings for structurally deficient bridges in town. (MassDOT, 2010).

**Hazard Potential of Dams**

There are 6 dams in the Town of Mt. Washington. Two of these dams are non-jurisdictional, on account of being too small, and the other four are in fair condition as designated by the Office of Dam safety (Office of Dam Safety, 2004).

**Wildfires**

The town considers itself to be at high risk to wildfires due to type of forests as well as its climate. The Mt. Everett State Reservation and the Mt. Washington State Forest are the areas of particular concern, particularly at higher elevations. While there have been no reports of wildfires in the town since the Great Taconic Wildfire of 1930 there has been numerous reports of smoldering. (MEMA, 2004 and town representatives). The town could not obtain local records on fires since 2000 and the state could not provide more recent information. Fires could occur anywhere in town that is forested, which is almost the entire town. Due to the climate, vegetation and few buildings in town, the risk to the buildings is minor. Any wildfire would most likely be isolated and impact only a house or two and would most likely provide enough notice to prevent casualties.

**Severe Storms and High Winds**

The entire town considers itself to be at a high risk to high winds and winter storms. The areas of higher elevation are considered to be at greater risk for thunderstorms, wind, hail, and lightening. Damage could occur anywhere in town, however damage would mostly be a few downed trees or utility lines, unless the town was hit by a tornado, in which case damage would be more, resulting in possible destruction of buildings throughout town. Hurricanes, severe storms and winter storms all provide enough notice to prevent casualties, however tornados do not provide much notice and may cause casualties.

**Other Natural Hazards**

Other than the above mentioned hazards, the Town of Mt. Washington does not have any locations in town that are more susceptible to natural hazard events. Landslides, earthquakes, drought and extreme temperature can all occur at any location in town. All of these events would cause little to no structural damage to the towns buildings or infrastructure. Small ice jams may occur in the various streams in town, but no damage would likely occur.

**Natural Hazard Risk Assessment**

Based on the hazards identified in this plan and the assessment of the risks of the Town of Mt. Washington, the town considers itself to be at a **high risk** for flooding, winter storms (blizzards / snow / ice storms), severe storms (thunderstorm, wind, hail, lightning), and wildfires; **moderate risk** from hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms, extreme temperatures and drought; and **low risk** for dam failure, landslide, earthquakes and ice jams.

**Town of New Ashford Natural Hazard Risk Assessment**

***New Ashford Community Profile***

**Community Profile**

The Town of New Ashford covers an area of 13.5 square miles. The town's population is 228, giving a density of approximately 17 people/square mile. There are 112 housing units, resulting in a household size of 2 people per household (US Census Bureau). The predominant land uses in town are forest (91.7%), residential (1.2%), agricultural (4%) and commercial/industrial (.2%) (MassGIS, 2010). The town utilizes the Lanesborough Elementary School for students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade and sends students from grades seven through twelve to the Mount Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown.

New Ashford sits in a small valley within the Taconic Mountains. Mount Greylock Reservation rises to the east, with the mountain itself peaking just northeast of the town. The peak of Saddle Ball Mountain, a part of the range, lies within the eastern part of town and is the highest point in town, reaching 3,220 feet above sea level. Brodie Mountain runs along the western border of town. U.S. Route 7 is the only state route in New Ashford and is also the main road.

New Ashford is a small town with limited resources, and as such does not track hazards that occur throughout the town. The information on the hazards is limited to the information from the regional plan and information gathered from the community based on conversations.

**Critical Facilities**

A list of the critical facilities within the community is shown in Table X. This data was taken from the communities CEMP and revised during the data collection process. These facilities were digitized into GIS and used for determining vulnerability to the various hazards. The Town of New Ashford has very few municipal buildings and utilizes the Town Hall and Fire Station for numerous purposes. None of the facilities are within the flood prone areas but would all be vulnerable to the hazards that could impact the entire town.

**Table 9. Critical Facilities – New Ashford**

| Type | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|
| Fire | Fire Station | 4 Ingraham Road |
| Health Services | Fire Station | 4 Ingraham Road |
| Staging Areas | Town Hall | 188 Mallery Road |
| Public Works | Town Hall | 188 Mallery Road |
| Emergency Operations Center (EOC) | Fire Station | 4 Ingraham Road |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alternate EOC | Town Hall | 188 Mallery Road |

**Flood Prone Areas**

The Green River flows through the center of Town of New Ashford. In addition to numerous Green River tributaries there are a few small ponds and bodies of water. New Ashford's floodplain is predominantly located in the northern-central region of the Town flowing along the Green River and surrounding the northern half of Route 7. Twelve houses and two commercial businesses are located in the floodplain.

Other flood prone areas include a bridge on Beach Hill road that has washed away twice in the past thirteen years. This location has been identified by FEMA on two occasions for being eligible for Pre Disaster Mitigation Funds as well as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. While there are times when this area is often dry, frequent run off from Brodie Mountain during storms can be extremely damaging. Another area of ongoing flooding is located on Ingraham Road where two culverts, very close in proximity, are both inadequate.

**Flooding Vulnerability Assessment**

An analysis of the FIRM flood hazard area maps indicates that there is a total of 85.91 acres of floodplain that has a one-percent annual chance of flooding within the town. This amounts to 1% of the total town. Based on additional analysis, 9.29 acres (13.5%) of the floodplain are developed.

Currently there are 2 commercial buildings (15.4%), 0 industrial (0%) and 12 residential buildings (13.2%) within the floodplain (Table 10). The percentage of buildings is then multiplied by the total property value, as determined from the Department of Revenue, to come up with a potential loss. In addition to this, an additional percentage of the value was added to represent the contents of the properties.

**Table 10. Number of Buildings in Floodplain – New Ashford**

| Buildings in Floodplain | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residential | | Commercial | | Industrial | | Total | |
| No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent |
| 12 | 13.2% | 2 | 15.4% | 0 | 0% | 14 | 13.5% |

Source: (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 2010)

**Table 11. Loss Estimate for Properties within the 100-year Floodplain ($9,349) – New Ashford**

| Residential Property | Residential Contents (50% Property Value) | Commercial Property | Commercial Contents (100% Property Value) | Industrial Property | Industrial Contents (125% Property Value) | Total Loss Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $4,487 | $2,244 | $1,309 | $1,309 | $0 | $0 | $9,349 |

Source: (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 2010)

**Structurally Deficient Bridges over Waterways**

MassDOT has no listings for structurally deficient bridges in town. However community stakeholders indicate that the Bridge located on Beach Hill Road needs to be reevaluated for additional mitigation efforts. (MassDOT, 2010).

**Hazard Potential of Dams**

Community stakeholders did not identify any dams in potentially hazardous conditions although the Office of Dam Safety indicated that the Town of New Ashford has three dams. All three dams are designated "Small." One dam has a "significant" hazard designation while the other two have a "Low" hazard designation (Office of Dam Safety, 2004).

**Wildfires**

The town considers itself to be at a low risk to wildfires due to type of forests as well as its climate. However, the Mt. Greylock Reservation acreage located within the Town may pose a slightly additional risk. From 1995 to 2000 there were no reports of wildfires (MEMA, 2004 and town representatives). The town could not obtain local records on fires since 2000 and the state could not provide more recent information. Any wildfire would most likely be isolated and impact only a house or two and would most likely provide enough notice to prevent casualties.

**High Winds and Winter Storms**

The entire town considers itself to be at a high risk to high winds and winter storms. Damage could occur anywhere in town, however damage would mostly be a few downed trees and utility lines, unless the town was hit by a tornado, in which case damage would be more, resulting a possible destruction of buildings. Hurricanes, strong storms and winter storms all provide enough notice to prevent casualties, however tornados do not provide much notice and may cause casualties.

**Landslides**

The Town considers itself to be at high risk for landslides throughout the town, however the Route 7 corridor is a higher risk. Recently the Route 7 experienced a rock fall that required a detour. While stakeholders did not feel that there is any hazard risk moving forward, they concurred that the incident posed a challenge for commuters who had to utilize a detour for approximately one year.

**Other Natural Hazards**

Other than the above mentioned hazards, the Town of New Ashford does not have any locations in town that are more susceptible to natural hazard events. Earthquakes, drought and extreme temperature can all occur at any location in town. All of these events would cause little to no structural damage to the towns buildings or infrastructure. Small ice jams may occur in the various streams in town, but no damage would likely occur.

**Natural Hazard Risk Assessment**

Based on the hazards identified in this plan and the assessment of the risks of the Town of New Ashford, the town considers itself to be at a **high risk** for flooding, winter storms (blizzards / snow / ice storms), severe storms (thunderstorm, wind, hail, lightning) and tornados; **moderate risk** from dam failure, hurricane and tropical storms, extreme temperatures and drought; and **low risk** for wildfire, landslide, earthquakes and ice jams.

***Existing Protections***

The Clarksburg, Hinsdale, Mount Washington, and New Ashford communities reviewed and documented their respective existing protections. Each municipality also reviewed their participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Towns of Clarksburg, Hinsdale, and New Ashford are currently in the NFIP, however only Clarksburg and New Ashford currently comply, are active participants and have a floodplain bylaw. Hinsdale, while part of the program, does not have a floodplain bylaw or other alternative provisions protecting the floodplain. The Town of Mount Washington has chosen not to participate in the NFIP at this time. The communities will comply with the NFIP by continuing to enforce the floodplain bylaws in Clarksburg and New Ashford (planning board and building inspector), the wetland protection act (conservation commission and building inspector) and the state building codes (building inspector).

**Table: NFIP Claims**

| **Community** | **Policies** | **Insurance** | **Insurance Premiums** | **Total Losses** | **Total Payments** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clarksburg | 9 | $904,300 | $8,151 | 1 | $2,255.11 |
| Hinsdale | 3 | $764.000 | $1,516 | 2 | $2,031.78 |
| Mount Washington | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| New Ashford | 1 | $136,400 | $1,067 | 0 | 0 |

As part of the hazard mitigation planning process the four towns reviewed their building codes, related structural mitigation, as well as any pre-existing existing protection matrixes and revised existing protection matrices.

**Table 12. Existing Protection Matrix – Clarksburg**

| Type of Existing Protection | Description | Area Covered | Effectiveness | Improvements Needed | Municipal Official Responsible / Funding |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Building Code | The town enforces the current version of the state building code | Entire town | Effective | None | Building Inspector / General funds |
| Floodplain Bylaw | The town enforces the floodplain bylaw | Floodplain | Effective | None | Building Inspector / Planning Board / General funds |
| Collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Recreation | The town utilizes strong communication with DCR regarding the Clarksburg State Forrest in order to deal with excess dry timber and mitigate potential forest fires. | Clarksburg State Forrest | Effective | None | Selectboard / NA |
| Stormwater System Program | The town has and actively maintains a system of stormwater control. | Entire town | Mostly effective | Replace/maintain drainage system where flooding occurs. | Public Works / DPW Budget |
| Tree Trimming Program | The town works with the utility companies to ensure that trees are efficiently trimmed to prevent power outages during storm events | Majority of town | Effective | None | Public Works / DPW Budget |
| Wetland Protection Act | The town enforces the wetland protection act | Floodplain | Effective | None | Building Inspector / Conservation Commission |

**Table 13. Hinsdale Existing Protection Matrix**

| Type of Existing Protection | Description | Area Covered | Effectiveness | Improvements Needed | Municipal Official Responsible / Funding |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Building Code | The town enforces the current version of the state building code | Entire town | Effective | None | Building Inspector / General funds |
| Stormwater System Program | The town has and actively maintains a system of stormwater control. | Entire town | Mostly effective | Replace/maintain drainage system where flooding occurs. | Public Works / DPW Funds |
| Tree Trimming Program | The town works with the utility companies to ensure that trees are efficiently trimmed to prevent power outages during storm events | Majority of town | Effective | None | Public Works / DPW Budget |
| Ditch maintenance program | The town regularly maintains their system of ditches. | Entire town | Effective | None | Public Works / DPW Funds |
| Catch Basin Maintenance program | The town regularly maintains their catch basins. | Entire town | Effective | None | Public Works / DPW Funds |
| Replacement of Small Culverts | The town has replaced culverts that are too small over the last few years. | Entire town | Effective | Continue to replace undersized culverts | Public Works / DPW Funds/ Chapter 90 |
| Wetland Protection Act | The town enforces the wetland protection act | Floodplain | Effective | None | Building Inspector / Conservation Commission |

**Table 14. Mount Washington Existing Protection Matrix**

| Type of Existing Protection | Description | Area Covered | Effectiveness | Improvements Needed | Municipal Official Responsible / Funding |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Building Code | The town enforces the current version of the state building code | Entire town | Effective | None | Building Inspector / General funds |
| Collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Nature Conservancy | Utilize strong communication with DCR regarding the Mt. Washington State Forest as well as strong communication with the Nature Conservancy regarding the Mt. Everett State Reservation. | Mt. Everett State Reservation and the Mt. Washington State Forest | Effective | None | Selectboard / NA |
| Stormwater System Program | The town has and actively maintains a system of stormwater control. | Entire town | Mostly effective | Replace/maintain drainage system where flooding occurs. | Public Works / DPW Funds |
| Tree Trimming Program | The town works with the utility companies to ensure that trees are efficiently trimmed to prevent power outages during storm events | Majority of town | Effective | None | Public Works / DPW Budget |
| Ditch Maintenance Program | The town regularly maintains their system of ditches. | Entire town | Effective | None | Public Works / DPW Funds |
| Catch Basin Maintenance Program | The town regularly maintains their catch basins. | Entire town | Effective | None | Public Works / DPW Funds |
| Replacement of Small Culverts | The town has replaced culverts that are too small over the last few years. | Entire town | Mostly Effective | None | Public Works / DPW Funds/ Chapter 90 |
| Wetland Protection Act | The town enforces the wetland protection act | Floodplain | Effective | None | Building Inspector / Conservation Commission |

**Table 15. New Ashford Existing Protection Matrix**

| Type of Existing Protection | Description | Area Covered | Effectiveness | Improvements Needed | Municipal Official Responsible / Funding |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Building Code | The town enforces the current version of the state building code | Entire town | Effective | None | Building Inspector / General funds |
| Floodplain Bylaw | The town enforces the floodplain bylaw | Floodplain | Effective | None | Building Inspector / Planning Board / General funds |
| Collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Recreation | Utilize strong communication with DCR regarding the Mt. Greylock reservation. | Mt. Greylock reservation | Effective | None | Selectboard / NA |
| Stormwater System Program | The town has and actively maintains a system of stormwater control. | Entire town | Mostly effective | Replace/maintain drainage system where flooding occurs. | Public Works / DPW Funds |
| Tree Trimming Program | The town works with the utility companies to ensure that trees are efficiently trimmed to prevent power outages during storm events | Majority of town | Effective | None | Public Works / DPW Funds |
| Wetland Protection Act | The town enforces the wetland protection act | Floodplain | Effective | None | Building Inspector / Conservation Commission |

***Vulnerability / Risk Assessment***

The Towns of Clarksburg, Hinsdale, Mount Washington, and New Ashford engaged in a comprehensive hazard vulnerability and risk assessment. The assessment included an overall assessment of hazard vulnerabilities. Specifically, each assessment addressed repetitive loss properties, structure identification, vulnerability to wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes as well as region wide hazards. The assessment sections assess potential vulnerability by estimating potential losses primarily due to flooding. In addressing vulnerability each community estimates potential losses as well. None of the four communities currently experience severe repetitive losses or repetitive losses.

BRPC staff conducted initial research into the vulnerability/risk assessments for the Towns of Cheshire and West Stockbridge. Although the Towns did not complete the planning process for their respective communities, BRPC staff conducted extensive outreach to both towns to solicit involvement in reviewing the preliminary research and to participate in the process. Without participation from the Towns, the material could not be vetted for accuracy and updated as needed.

***Mitigation Strategy***

Each municipality developed a detailed and individual mitigation strategy. Each strategy includes mitigation measures, implementation of mitigation actions, and the prioritization of the mitigation actions as well as the specific mitigation actions. Hinsdale reviewed their mitigation plan from 2005 and updated it to reflect what has been done since 2005 and what the timing and priorities of the remaining actions are, as well as adding new actions.

**Table 16. Mitigation Action Plan – Clarksburg**

| Category of Action | Description of Action | Benefit | Implementation Responsibility | Timeframe / Priority | Resources / Funding |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Structural Project - Flooding | School Street Culvert structural replacement. | Improving this bridge will reduce the risk of flooding. | Town - Public Works | 1-3 years/ High | General Funds / DPW Budget/ Chapter 90 / FEMA |
| Structural Project - Flooding | Monitor flooding along Houghton Street culverts. Determine if replacement is needed. | Should the assessment reveal an excessive amount of flooding, the town can work to identify solutions. | Town - Public Works | 1-3 years/ High | General Funds / DPW Budget/ Chapter 90/ FEMA |
| Structural Project - Flooding | Monitor flooding along River Road's culverts. Determine if replacement is needed. | Should the assessment reveal an excessive amount of flooding, the town can work to identify solutions. | Town - Public Works | 1-3 years/ High | General Funds / DPW Budget/ Chapter 90 / FEMA |
| Structural Project - Flooding | Monitor flooding along culverts upper Middle Road as well as the area of Middle Road/Cross Road/Lincoln Drive. Determine if replacement is needed. | Should the assessment reveal an excessive amount of flooding, the town can work to identify solutions. | Town - Public Works | 1-3 years/ High | General Funds / DPW Budget/ Chapter 90 / FEMA |
| Planning – All Hazards | Incorporate hazard mitigation planning into future community plans (i.e. Comprehensive Plans, Open Space & Recreation Plans) | Incorporating hazard mitigation into other planning documents will help ensure that the community | Town – Planning Board | 1-3 years / High | General Funds / State Funds |

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| | | reviews hazard mitigation for all municipal projects | | | |
| Natural Systems Protection – All Hazards | Establish an education program for land owners on the benefits of having a forest management plan for hazard reduction through a working group of municipal, state and large private land owners. | Properly managed forest will help mitigate hazards by reducing runoff, reducing wildfire risk. | Town – Selectboard, DCR, Private Land Owners | 3-5 year / Low | General Funds/ DCR / Private Funding |
| Education and Awareness – All Hazards | Distribute educational material to residents on hazards of highest concern in town and how to mitigate them for existing and new construction | Educating locals about the location and risk associated with hazards can help in dealing with disasters, but can also help obtain buy in for expensive structural mitigation activities and ensure new development is not susceptible to hazards. | Town – Emergency Management | 3-5 years / Low | General Funds / Free material |
| Planning – Flooding | New Floodplain Maps | New Floodplain maps would improve the identification of flood prone areas and allow the town to more effectively prevent development within the | FEMA, Planning Board | 1-3 years / High | FEMA – Map Modernization Program |

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| | | floodplain | | | |
| Planning – Flooding | Join the CRS | Joining the CRS will allow homeowners to reduce their insurance while better preparing the town for hazards and reducing risks | Town – Emergency Management | 3-5 years / Low | General Funds |
| | | | | | |
| **Non Mitigation Actions** | | | | | |
| Prevention – Winter Storms, Severe Storms, Hurricane & Tropical Storms | Identify trees near power lines that need trimming. Determine whether the Town and/or utility company will trim the trees. Trim the trees as needed. | Removing the trees and branches around utility lines will reduce the risk of power failure during storms. | Town - Public Works | 2-4 years/ Medium | Town/Utility Companies |
| Prevention – Natural Resource Protection – Wildfire | Identify debris in the Clarksburg State Forrest. Determine whether the Town and/or DCR remove the debris. Remove the debris as needed. | Cleaning debris from the forest will help in reducing the chance of wildfire. | DCR and Town | 3-5 Years/ Low | DCR |

**Table 17. Hinsdale Mitigation Action Plan**

| Category of Action | Description of Action | Benefit | Implementation Responsibility | Timeframe /Priority | Resources /Funding | Status from 2005 or New |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Structural Project | Replace Cady Brook Bridge. | Damaged from Tropical Storm Irene. | Public Works | Completed | FEMA | New |
| Prevention – Flooding | Adopt a Floodplain Bylaw | Adopting a floodplain bylaw will give the town additional review over future projects within the floodplain, ensuring the project is not susceptible to flooding | Planning Board | 1-3 years / High Priority | General Funds | New |
| Prevention – All Hazards | Determine ability of town governmental centers to withstand a variety of natural hazard events. | Ensure continuity of local and regional governmental operations. | Emergency Management | 3-5 years/ Low Priority | General Funds | No Action Taken, Town has a limited number of municipal buildings and did not prioritize a natural hazard assessment of those facilities. |
| Prevention – All Hazards | Keep more detailed record-keeping of local natural disasters and their impacts. | Ensure continuity of local and regional governmental operations. | Department Heads, Emergency management | 2-4 years/ Medium Priority | General Funds | No Action Taken, Town experienced staff turnover, this will be addressed moving forward. |
| Prevention – All Hazards | Apply for grants to mitigate damage to historic | Protect the character and vitality of the | Historic Commission, MEMA, Chamber of Commerce | 2-4 years/ Medium Priority | FEMA | No Action Taken as funding has not been available. |

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| | property. | downtown. | | | | |
| Prevention - Flooding | Incorporate new FEMA floodplain data and maps into existing and future planning efforts. | New FEMA maps would be more accurate and allow for a more accurate assessment of the flooding risk. | FEMA | As funding is available/ Medium Priority | FEMA | No Action – FEMA is not prioritizing the region and has not allocated funding for map updates. When maps are available floodplain data will be reviewed and used for future planning efforts. |
| Prevention – Flooding | Large beaver dams, where beaver control devices have not worked, will be breached in a controlled manner. | Mitigate the impacts of floods. | Public Works, Mass. Fish & Game (F&G) | Complete | Public Works | Complete - Town utilizes a licensed contractor when necessary. |
| Prevention – Flooding | Investigate permanent measures to minimize beaver impacts. | Mitigate the impacts of floods. | Public Works, F&G | 1-3 years/ High Priority | Public Works | No Action due to installation of beaver control devices listed in above action - The Town's licensed contractor will be in contact with Mass. Fish & Game to review & provide recommendations to the Town. |
| Prevention – Flooding | Determine which critical facilities and major transportation routes are in | Protect critical facilities from flood events. | Emergency Management, Dam Owners, MEMA | Complete | Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC) | Complete: No critical facilities or major transportation routes are in inundation areas. |

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| | inundation areas for dams of High or Significant Hazard. | | | | | |
| Prevention – Flooding | Provide local residents with leaflets to landowners in hazard prone areas that discuss hazard mitigation. | Mitigate the impacts of floods. | Emergency Management, Public Works, MEMA | 3-5 years/Low Priority | FEMA pamphlets, General Funds for copy | No Action Taken, Town will pursue this outreach when funding is available for copies. |
| Prevention Flooding | Monitor intersections/ culverts for flooding. | Determine potential for redesign. | Public Works | 2-4 years/ Medium Priority | Public Works | New |
| Planning – All Hazards | Incorporate hazard mitigation planning into future community plans (i.e. Comprehensive Plans, Open Space & Recreation Plans) | Incorporating hazard mitigation into other planning documents will help ensure that the community reviews hazard mitigation for all municipal projects | Town – Planning Board | 1-3 years / High | General Funds / State Funds | New –The town has not done any community planning since the previous hazard mitigation plan was approved, but will incorporate hazard mitigation into any new plans. |
| Natural Systems Protection – All Hazards | Establish an education program for land owners on the benefits of having a forest management plan for hazard reduction through a | Properly managed forest will help mitigate hazards by reducing runoff, reducing wildfire risk. | Town – Selectboard, DCR, Private Land Owners | 3-5 year / Low | General Funds/ DCR / Private Funding | New |

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| | working group of municipal, state and large private land owners. | | | | | |
| Education and Awareness – All Hazards | Distribute educational material to residents on hazards of highest concern in town and how to mitigate them for existing and new construction | Educating locals about the location and risk associated with hazards can help in dealing with disasters, but can also help obtain buy in for expensive structural mitigation activities | Town – Emergency Management | 3-5 years / Low | General Funds / Free material | New |
| Planning – Flooding | Join the CRS | Joining the CRS will allow homeowners to reduce their insurance while better preparing the town for hazards and reducing risks | Town – Emergency Management | 3-5 years / Low | General Funds | New |
| Prevention – Flooding | Town will review any infrastructure expansion proposals in hazard-prone areas. Town will not allow proposals if additional flooding is deemed likely. | Mitigate the impacts of floods. | Public Works, Planning Board | Low Priority /5-10 years | General Funds | No Action Taken. Hinsdale has had no development & infrastructure expansion in the floodplain since the 2005 plan. |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prevention – Flooding | Develop a communication plan with the town of Dalton regarding flood preparedness in the event of a dam failure. | Mitigate the impacts of floods. | Emergency management, Dalton EMD and first responders | 1-3 years/High Priority | General Funds | No Action Taken as the town has not had the resources to handle this, to date however going forward this is a high priority. |
| Prevention – Flooding | Develop an emergency response and flood mitigation plans with the CSX railroad. | Mitigate the impacts of floods. | Emergency management, CSX, MEMA | 5-10 years/ Low Priority | General Funds | No Action Taken as the town has not had the resources to handle this, Town will engage with CSX moving forward. |
| Prevention – Flooding | Conduct flood mitigation activities as prescribed in the above mentioned comprehensive mitigation plan with CSX. | Mitigate the impacts of floods. | Emergency management, Public Works, CSX, MEMA | 5-10 years/ Low Priority | FEMA | No Action Taken as the plan has not been developed, Town will engage with CSX moving forward. |
| Prevention – Flooding | Develop bylaws that require on-site containment of stormwater. | Mitigate the impacts of floods. | Town of Hinsdale, BRPC | No Longer necessary | NA | No Action Taken, Town has determined that this action is no longer necessary because stormwater has not been an issue. |
| Prevention – Flooding | Town will require low-impact development techniques for proposed developments, especially in flood-prone areas. | Mitigate the impacts of floods. | Planning Board | 5-10 years/ Low Priority | General Funds | No action taken as there has been no development in flood-prone areas. |

| | | | | | | |
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| **Non Mitigation Actions** | | | | | | |
| Prevention – All Hazards | Conduct local disaster response drills and feature them in local news media. | Mitigate the impact of all potential disasters. | Emergency Management, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) | Complete | WRHSAC, REPC | The Central Berkshire REPC has conducted exercises each year, in which the town has been involved in. |
| Prevention – All Hazards | Develop and publicize local and regional evacuation routes and shelter locations. | Mitigate the impact of all potential disaster responses that may involve sheltering. | Emergency Management, Selectboard, LEPCs | 2-4 years/ Medium Priority | General Funds | The WRHSAC has developed a regional evacuation plan detailing evacuation routes throughout the region, including Hinsdale. |
| Prevention – Emergency Communications | Develop formal and legally binding Mutual Aid Agreements for DPWs. | Improve inter-operability capacity & communication systems throughout the region. | Selectboard, LEPCs, Western Regional Homeland Security Council (WRHLSC), MEMA | Complete | WRHSAC | The WRHSAC has taken steps to improve interoperability throughout the region. |
| Prevention – Emergency Communications | Add new towers where communication gaps exist. | Improve inter-operability and communication systems | Fire/Police, WRHLSC, LEPCs | Complete | WRHSAC | Purchased a tower utilized by all emergency responders. |
| Emergency Response | Increase local and regional emergency response training | Increase response effectiveness | Emergency Management, WRHLSC, LEPCs | Complete | WRHSAC, REPC | The town participates in the Central Berkshire REPC, which conducts trainings and exercises throughout the year. |
| Emergency Response | Identify additional shelters where | Improve the capacity of local shelters | Emergency Management, School Districts, | 3-5 years/ Medium Priority | WRHSAC | The WRHSAC has developed a regional |

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| | the needs are greatest. | to provide safe haven for all residents in the event of a wide-spread disaster based on high seasonal populations. | REPC, MEMA | | | sheltering plan and Hinsdale will avail itself of the planning document to populate. |
| Prevention – All Hazards | Municipal leadership will sign agreements (MOUs) for use of shared mass care shelters in the event of a disaster. | Ensure continuity of local and regional governmental operations. | Selectboards, Shelters, LEPC, MEMA | 3-5 years/ Medium Priority | WRHSAC, REPC | The WRHSAC has developed templates for mass care while sheltering plan and Hinsdale will avail itself of the planning document to populate. |
| Prevention – All Hazards | Teach local officials how to protect critical documents and materials. | Ensure continuity of local and regional governmental operations. | Emergency Management | 5-10 years/ Low Priority | General Funds | No Action Taken, Town has a limited locations for housing critical documents and did not prioritize reviewing these locations and associated policies. |
| Prevention – Winter Storms, Severe Storms, Hurricane & Tropical Storms | Identify trees near power lines that need trimming. Determine whether the Town and/or utility company will trim the trees. Trim the trees as needed. | Removing the trees and branches around utility lines will reduce the risk of power failure during storms. | Public Works /Utility Company | 1-5 years/Medium Priority | DPW Funds/Utility Company | New |
| Prevention - Flooding | Remove debris from streams where flooding is an issue in collaboration with DEP. | Removing debris from streams would reduce damming and the flooding it may cause. | Public Works | 5-10 years/Low Priority | DPW Funds | New |

**Table 18. Mount Washington Mitigation Action Plan**

| Category of Action | Description of Action | Benefit | Implementation Responsibility | Timeframe / Priority | Resources / Funding |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Structural Project – Bank Stabilization | Perform engineering study of Northern Mt. Washington Road embankment. | Ascertaining the road's condition will be a critical step in determining resource requirements | Public Works | 1-3 years/ High | FEMA, Public Works, MassDOT, Chapter 90 |
| Structural Project – Bank Stabilization | Perform engineering study on Bash Bish Falls Road. | Ascertaining the road's condition will be a critical step in determining resource requirements for the project. | Public Works | 1-3 years/ High | FEMA, Public Works, MassDOT, Chapter 90 |
| Planning – All Hazards | Incorporate hazard mitigation planning into future community plans (i.e. Comprehensive Plans, Open Space & Recreation Plans) | Incorporating hazard mitigation into other planning documents will help ensure that the community reviews hazard mitigation for all municipal projects | Town – Planning Board | 1-3 years / High | General Funds / State Funds |
| Natural Systems Protection – All Hazards | Establish an education program for land owners on the benefits of having a forest management plan for hazard reduction through a working group of municipal, state and large private | Properly managed forest will help mitigate hazards by reducing runoff, reducing wildfire risk. | Town – Selectboard, DCR, Private Land Owners | 3-5 year / Low | General Funds/ DCR / Private Funding |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | land owners. | | | | |
| Education and Awareness – All Hazards | Distribute educational material to residents on hazards of highest concern in town and how to mitigate them for existing and new construction | Educating locals about the location and risk associated with hazards can help in dealing with disasters, but can also help obtain buy in for expensive structural mitigation activities and ensure new development is not susceptible to hazards. | Town – Emergency Management | 3-5 years / Low | General Funds / Free material |
| Planning – Flooding | Map the floodplain | Mapping the floodplain of the town can help identify locations that have the potential for flooding as well as preventing future development to occur within the floodplain | FEMA, Planning Board | 1-3 years / High | FEMA – Map Modernization Program |
| Planning – Flooding | Join the NFIP | Joining the NFIP will allow homeowners to obtain flood insurance on their properties as well as better control development within the floodplain. | Town – Emergency Management | 3-5 years / Low<br><br>The town is not interested in joining the NFIP until they see their floodplains mapped. Once the floodplains | General Funds |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | are mapped, the town will review the maps, consider adopting a floodplain ordinance and join the NFIP. | |
| | | | | | |
| **Non Mitigation Actions** | | | | | |
| Prevention – Winter Storms, Severe Storms, Hurricane & Tropical Storms | Identify trees near power lines that need trimming. Determine whether the Town and/or utility company will trim the trees. | Removing the trees and branches around utility lines will reduce the risk of power failure during storms. | Public Works/Utility Company | 2-4 years/ Medium | Utility Company |
| Prevention - Flooding | Identify debris in flood prone areas and remove the debris as needed. | Removing debris from streams would reduce damming and flooding | Public Works | 5+ years/ Low | Public Works/FEMA /Chapter 90 |
| Prevention – Natural Resource Protection - Wildfire | Remove excess dry timber in the Mt. Everett area. | Cleaning debris from forest will reducing chance of wildfire. | Public Works/DCR | 3-5 years / Low | DCR |
| Prevention Flooding | Monitor flooding in flood prone intersections/culverts. | Determine potential for redesign. | Public Works | 2-4 years/Medium | Public Works/FEMA /Chapter 90 |

**Table 19. New Ashford Mitigation Action Plan**

| Category of Action | Description of Action | Benefit | Implementation Responsibility | Timeframe / Priority | Resources / Funding |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Structural Project - Flooding | Perform engineering study of Beach Hill Road bridge. | Improving this bridge will reduce the risk of flooding. | Town of New Ashford – DPW | 1-3 years/ High | Public Works/FEMA /Chapter 90 |
| Structural Project – Flooding | Perform engineering study of the two Ingram Hill culverts to determine solutions to alleviate flooding. | Improving the culvert capacity for water flow will help reduce flooding. | Town of New Ashford - DPW | 1-3 years/ High | Public Works/FEMA /Chapter 90 |
| Planning – Flooding | New Floodplain Maps | New Floodplain maps would improve the identification of flood prone areas and allow the town to more effectively prevent development within the floodplain | FEMA, Planning Board | 1-3 years / High | FEMA – Map Modernization Program |
| Planning – All Hazards | Incorporate hazard mitigation planning into future community plans (i.e. Comprehensive Plans, Open Space & Recreation Plans) | Incorporating hazard mitigation into other planning documents will help ensure that the community reviews hazard mitigation for all municipal | Town – Planning Board | 1-3 years / High | General Funds / State Funds |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | projects | | | |
| Natural Systems Protection – All Hazards | Establish an education program for land owners on the benefits of having a forest management plan for hazard reduction through a working group of municipal, state and large private land owners. | Properly managed forest will help mitigate hazards by reducing runoff, reducing wildfire risk. | Town – Selectboard, DCR, Private Land Owners | 3-5 year / Low | General Funds/ DCR / Private Funding |
| Education and Awareness – All Hazards | Distribute educational material to residents on hazards of highest concern in town and how to mitigate them for existing and new construction | Educating locals about the location and risk associated with hazards can help in dealing with disasters, but can also help obtain buy in for expensive structural mitigation activities and ensure new development is not susceptible to hazards. | Town – Emergency Management | 3-5 years / Low | General Funds / Free material |
| Planning – Flooding | Convene a meeting with state floodplain management office to discuss the benefits of joining the CRS | Joining the CRS will allow homeowners to reduce their insurance while better preparing the town for hazards and | Town – Emergency Management | 3-5 years / Low | General Funds |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | reducing risks | | | |
| | | | | | |
| **Non Mitigation Actions** | | | | | |
| Prevention – Winter Storms, Severe Storms, Hurricane & Tropical Storms | Identify trees near power lines that need trimming. Determine whether the Town and/or utility company will trim the trees. Trim the trees as needed. | Removing trees and branches around utility lines will reduce the risk of power failure during storms. | Public Works, Public Utilities | 2-4 years/ Medium | Public Utilities |
| Prevention - Flooding | Identify debris in flood prone areas and remove the debris as needed. | Removing debris from streams would reduce damming and flooding | Public Works | 5+ years/ Low | Public Works |
| Prevention – Natural Resource Protection - Wildfire | Identify excess dry timber in the Mt. Greylock Reservation area and remove it when needed. | Cleaning debris from the forest will help in reducing the chance of wildfire. | Emergency Management and DCR | 3-5 Years/ Low | DCR |

***Plan Adoption***

Once the addendum to the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved pending adoption by FEMA the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission contacted the Towns of Clarksburg, Hinsdale, Mount Washington, and New Ashford to ask for their respective selectboards to formally adopt the BCHMP. Once the plan was formally adopted, the certificates and final plan were sent to FEMA for formal approval (see Appendix 4).

**Table 20. Plan Adoption Dates by Town**

| Town | Clarksburg | Hinsdale | Mount Washington | New Ashford |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date of Adoption | | | | |

***Plan Maintenance***

In order for this addendum to the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan to be successful, it is required that the plan is monitored, evaluated, and updated on a regular basis. It is therefore necessary to include procedures for maintaining and updating this plan. In addition to the maintenance detailed in the regional plan on page 259-261, BRPC and the towns commit to regular monitoring of the plan addendum. Because the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission was given the task of preparing this plan, the Commission will take the lead in monitoring the Regional Plan and Addendum implementation and coordinating the required updates; however the communities will review and monitor their own sections annually, as directed by their community champion. When the communities review and monitor the plan annually or as needed based on hazardous events, they will solicit public input via public meetings and announcements on their websites for inclusion in future plans. Copies of the final addendum will also be available at town halls and both the local community and BRPC's website.

The communities within this addendum will incorporate the hazard mitigation plan into all relevant planning documents, such as master plans, open space plans, capital improvement plans as they are developed in the future. All data and actions from the regional plan and addendum that is relevant to any future planning endeavors in the communities will be incorporated as appropriate. . All towns will also keep track of future hazard events to better inform the community for future plan updates.

**Appendix 1. Meeting Notes**

## Cheshire Community Meeting #1 Summary

**Date and Time:** June 12, 2012 7:00 PM

**Location:** Cheshire Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Explanation of our natural hazard mitigation planning efforts
- What is hazard mitigation
- What natural hazards affect the Berkshires
- Contents of natural hazard mitigation plan
- Public input about natural hazards in Cheshire and locations, if known

**Meeting Participants:**
*Community Representatives*

- Paul Astorino, Selectman
- Carol A Francesconi, Selectman
- Gloria Lewis, Selectman
- Peter LeFebure, Highway Department
- Mark Webber, Interim Town Administrator

*BRPC Staff*

- Sara Lafayette

**Specific comments from meeting:**

- Mark Webber will be the new community contact
- Biggest concern is the Hoosic River
    - Previous feasibility studies and research have taken place
    - Another technical report is underway about what they should do
    - Army Corps of Engineers contact is Russo (planning dept) 978-318-8553

**Clarksburg First Meeting Notes**

## Clarksburg Community Meeting #1 Summary

**Date and Time:** April 11, 2012 7:00 PM

**Location:** Clarksburg Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Explanation of our natural hazard mitigation planning efforts
- What is hazard mitigation
- What natural hazards affect the Berkshires
- Contents of natural hazard mitigation plan
- Public input about natural hazards in Clarksburg and locations, if known

**Meeting Participants:**
*Community Representatives*

Due to an unfortunate miscommunication, BRPC's presentation was not on the agenda. Ms. Errichetto, at the request of the Selectboard, provided an overview of the planning process during the public comment portion of the meeting. The Selectboard made it clear that Ms. Errichetto would need to return to another meeting to present on an agenda item in order for the Selectboard to agree to participate in hazard mitigation planning.

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Specific comments from meeting:**

The selectboard asked a variety of grant oriented questions.

They did not provide specific areas of concern to discuss.

## Clarksburg Community Meeting #2 Summary

**Date and Time:** August 22, 2012 7:00 PM

**Location:** Clarksburg Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Explanation of our natural hazard mitigation planning efforts
- What is hazard mitigation
- What natural hazards affect the Berkshires
- Contents of natural hazard mitigation plan
- Public input about natural hazards in Clarksburg and locations, if known

**Meeting Participants:**
*Community Representatives*

- Carl McKinney, Selectboard
- Lily Kuzia, Selectboard
- Jeffrey Levanos
- Tom Webb, Town Administrator

*BRPC Staff:*

- Lindsay Errichetto

The Selectboard indicated that they had grave concerns regarding participating in the hazard mitigation planning process. Several Selectboard members referenced the East Road Bridge. They felt that FEMA penalized them for previously identifying the need for improvements however when it was offline and Tropical Storm Irene hit, the town was expected to pay for the entirety of the damages and was not eligible for disaster relief funds. Consequently they expressed grave concerns participating in the plan.

The Selectboard asked that BRPC provide answers to the following questions.

1. If a town identifies projects in the HMP and another disaster occurs that further negatively impacts that project before they are able to complete their self identified mitigation efforts, will they be able to get funding for post disaster relief (non PDM/HMGP)?

2. If a town identifies a project with the understanding that they are eligible to apply for HMGP or PDM funds and then those funds become unavailable at some point in the future, can they modify the mitigation matrix and identify a new funding source and new timeline as needed?

After conferring with MEMA representatives the following answers were provided to the Town of Clarksburg respectively.

1. There are two distinct major post disaster federal funding programs under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5172. Section 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and 406 Public Assistance Program. Section 406 is applied on the parts

of the public facility/infrastructure that were actually damaged by the disaster event, bringing the damaged facility/infrastructure back to pre-event conditions. If combined with Section 406 funds, Section 404 funding can be used to provide an increased level of protection from hazards to the undamaged parts of the facility. In other words Section 404 is not intended to fund repair, reconstruction, or rehabilitation but instead use funds to provide protection bringing the facility/infrastructure up to or above code standards. Section 404 (HMGP) can also be used on its own to fund a mitigation activity. Among other eligibility criteria, the mitigation work must be cost effective and be reasonably performed as part of the work or measure which will reduce the potential for damage to a facility from a future disaster event.

2. Prior to implementation project concepts typically change, the identification of project funding sources and timeline is just a guide it is not intended to be a hard line with no option to change. According to FEMA Region I all plans can be updated/changed but are then subject to the State/FEMA review and approval process.

**Outcomes:**

BRPC asked the Town of Clarksburg to indicate if the town is interested in participating in the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

## Clarksburg Community Meeting #3 Summary

**Date and Time:** January 23, 2013 2:30 PM

**Location:** Clarksburg Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Review Listing of Identified Hazards and Determine Risk
- Review List of Critical Facilities
- Review Town Map to Identify Natural Hazard Problem Areas
- Discussion of Existing Mitigation Measures
- Discussion of Possible Mitigation Steps

**Meeting Participants:**

- Tom Webb, Town Administrator
- Michael Williams, Chief of Police
- Kyle Hurlbut, DPW Director
- Carlyle Chesbro, Fire Chief

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Specific comments from meeting regarding the Mitigation Action Plan:**

- Multiple areas along Carson Ave.
- Demers Ave.
- Several locations along Rivers Rd.
- Bridge on Daniels Rd.
- East Rd.
- Several locations along northern Middle Rd. prior to connecting with River Rd.
- The area between Middle Rd., Cross Rd., and Lincoln Dr.
- Several areas along Houghton St. intersecting with:
  - Gates Ave.
  - Inga Ave.
  - Gleason St.
  - School St.

**Specific comments from the meeting regarding Existing Protection Matrix:**

- Clarksburg enforces the state building code
- The town maintains their stormwater management control
- Clarksburg continues to work closely with WMECO on efficiently tree trimming

The group suggested changes to the critical facilities list. Edits have been made.

The majority of time spent at the meeting was centered upon the Town Map. The group identified areas of concern with respect to natural hazards, mostly related to flooding and inability of many of the road systems to deal with heavy rain.

## Clarksburg Community Meeting #4 Summary

**Date and Time:** March 13, 2013, @ 7:00 PM

**Location:** Clarksburg Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Summary of Plan Development
- Review Plan
- Risk Assessment
- Existing Protections
- Action Steps
- Comments

**Meeting Participants:**

- Jeff Levanos, Selectboard
- Lily Kuzia, Selectboard
- Carl McKinney, Selectboard
- Tom Webb, Town Administrator

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Comments**

The Board of Selectmen had additional revisions and questions:

Community Profile:

- The Briggsville Dam was not identified in the Hazard Potential of Dam section and it was removed
- The Office of Dam Safety's 2004 report is considered outdated
- The threat of wildfires due to camper and hikers in the Clarksburg State Forrest are considered high risk
- The Mitigation Action Plan

Mitigation Action Plan:

- Spring Street bridge is named the School Street bridge
- River Road Drive is an area of flooding concern
- Removed the Prevention – Flooding section regarding the Town and DEP to work together
- The Town expects DCR to remove debris from the Clarksburg State Forrest

Pending these revisions the Town of Clarksburg will adopt the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan without BRPC staff representation.

**Hinsdale First Meeting Notes**

## Hinsdale Community Meeting #1 Summary

**Date and Time:** March 21, 2012 7:00 PM

**Location:** Hinsdale Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Explanation of our natural hazard mitigation planning efforts
- What is hazard mitigation
- What natural hazards affect the Berkshires
- Contents of natural hazard mitigation plan
- Public input about natural hazards in Hinsdale and locations, if known

**Meeting Participants:**
*Community Representatives*

- Cathy Maloney, Selectboard
- David Kokindo, Selectboard
- Bruce Marshall, Selectboard
- Ray Bolduc, Emergency Management Director

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Specific comments from meeting:**

Hinsdale has a significant beaver population and dam problem in multiple locations.

One bridge that was recently damaged and covered under FEMA disaster relief was discussed.

The Town has general concerns about some flooding.

The selectboard had various inquiries about the funding opportunity criteria.

BRPC will provide additional information to the community contact regarding the funding opportunities.

## Hinsdale Second Meeting Notes

### Hinsdale Community Meeting #2 Summary

**Date and Time:** April 24, 2012 9:00 AM

**Location:** Hinsdale Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**
- Review Listing of Identified Hazards and Determine Risk
- Review List of Critical Facilities
- Review Town Map to Identify Natural Hazard Problem Areas
- Discussion of Existing Mitigation Measures
- Discussion of Possible Mitigation Steps

**Meeting Participants:**
- Ray Bolduc, Emergency Management Director
- Chief Christian Pedoty, Police Chief
- Ray Huntoon, Highway Department

*BRPC Staff*
- Lindsay Errichetto

**Specific comments from meeting:**

Hinsdale has an existing Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan from 2005 – this is a plan update

The group suggested several updates to the previous action table including:
- Discourage or prohibit development in floodplain to "on-going"
- Omit developing a floodplain by-law
- Emphasize issues with beaver activity
- Add a longer timeline to "Encouraging the use of low-impact development techniques, especially in flood prone areas
- Omit "Send letters to all dam owners alerting them to their responsibilities" due to limited awareness of who owns private dams
- Discussion regarding outreach to landowners and educating the public ensued

The group discussed a series of additional areas of potential concern and room for improvement:
- Maintaining a positive working relationship with the train company CRX
- Discuss potentially aggressive measures to deal with the beaver population
- Hinsdale has some densely populated residential areas in flood plain
- One of the camps is continuing to expand in population
- The new cell tower has been very helpful for communications
- WMECO is a strong partner deal with restoring power during outages and keeping communication flow active

- Increase communication with the Lake Preservation Commission
- Continually deal with stormwater management issues
- Positive relationship with the City of Pittsfield as they utilize the Cleveland Reservoir
- Plunkett Lake dam remains an ongoing area of concern
- Significant population influx in the summer (roughly from 2,00 to 6,000)

The group suggested changes to the critical facilities list. Edits have been made.

The majority of time spent at the meeting was centered upon the Town Map. The group identified areas of concern with respect to natural hazards, mostly related to flooding and inability of many of the road systems to deal with heavy rain.

**Hinsdale Third Meeting Notes**

## Hinsdale Community Meeting #3 Summary

**Date and Time:** February 20th2013, @ 7:00 PM

**Location:** Hinsdale Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Summary of Plan Development
- Review Plan
  - Risk Assement
  - Existing Protections
  - Action Steps
- Comments

**Meeting Participants:**

**Meeting Participants:**

- Cathy Maloney, Selectboard
- Bruce Marshall, Selectboard

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Comments**

The Board of Selectmen were pleased with all the excerpts.

Several community members had questions that Lindsay Errichetto answered.

## Mount Washington First Meeting Notes

### Mount Washington Community Meeting #1 Summary

**Date and Time:** April 2, 2012 7:00 PM

**Location:** New Ashford Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Explanation of our natural hazard mitigation planning efforts
- What is hazard mitigation
- What natural hazards affect the Berkshires
- Contents of natural hazard mitigation plan
- Public input about natural hazards in Mt. Washington and locations, if known

**Meeting Participants:**
*Community Representatives*

- Bob Bott, Selectboard
- Brian Tobin, Selectboard
- Jim Lovejoy, Selectboard
- Patricia Verotes, Treasurer
- Sean VanDeusen, Highway Dept.
- Thomas Funcht, Finance Committee
- James Becklent, Highway Department

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Specific comments from meeting:**

Significant issues with the majority of culverts in town.

Side of the road on East Street is collapsing and currently this is the only year round road in and out of the town. It needs a significant amount of work.

Bash Bish Falls Road was destroyed in Tropical Storm Irene.

Tree removal and brush fires are also an area of concern.

The selectboard had various inquiries about the funding opportunity criteria.

BRPC will provide additional information to the community contact regarding the funding opportunities.

**Mount Washington Second Meeting Notes**

## Mt. Washington Community Meeting #2 Summary

**Date and Time:** June 12, 2012 7:00 PM

**Location:** Mt. Washington Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Review Listing of Identified Hazards and Determine Risk
- Review List of Critical Facilities
- Review Town Map to Identify Natural Hazard Problem Areas
- Discussion of Existing Mitigation Measures
- Discussion of Possible Mitigation Steps

**Meeting Participants:**

- James Beckwith, Highway Foreman
- Bob Bott, Planning Board
- Brian Tobin, Selectboard member

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Specific comments regarding key areas of concern:**

- The group quickly identified two major problem areas, Bash Bish Falls Road which had sections completely wash away during Tropical Storm Irene and is currently impassable and Mt. Washington Road coming into the town. Both roads were the only two year round entry and exit point of the town. Currently Mt. Washington Road represents the sole access to the Town and has significant issues with erosion and embankment destabilization.
- Additionally, the group was concerned with inadequate stormwater management throughout the town and seeks to identify additional sources of revenue for these improvements.
- The group discussed a variety of culverts that they have concerns about located throughout the Town.

**Other discussion topics:**

- Participants expressed concerns about brushfires and smoldering fires. The great Fire of 1030 was discussed and while there hasn't been a massive forest fire since, there have been a number of incidents that could have evolved into conflagrations.
- They work well with both the Nature Conservancy and Massachusetts Department of Conservation, as both outfits own a significant percentage of land.
- They have a wonderful relationship with the Nature Conservancy (NC) as the NC provides free of charge 500-1,00cu.ft. of gravel for fill annually.

The majority of time spent at the meeting was centered upon the Town Map. The group identified areas of concern with respect to natural hazards, mostly related to flooding and inability of many of the road systems to deal with heavy rain.

**Mount Washington Third Meeting Notes**

## Mount Washington Community Meeting #3 Summary

**Date and Time:** December 10th2012, @ 7:00 PM

**Location:** Mount Washington Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

Summary of Plan Development
Review Plan
- Risk Assessment
- Existing Protections
- Action Steps

Comments

**Meeting Participants:**

- Jim Lovejoy, Select Board
- Brian Tobin, Select Board
- Gail Garrett, Select Board
- Mary King, Town Secretary

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Comments**

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) did not receive the excerpts as their email access was down, unbeknownst to BRPC staff. BOS received hard copies of the excerpts and an oral overview of the planning to date. BOS voted to accept the excerpts in draft form. BRPC staff will forward the excerpts electronically for additional input.

**New Ashford First Meeting Notes**

## New Ashford Community Meeting #1 Summary

**Date and Time:** March 22, 2012 7:00 PM

**Location:** New Ashford Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Explanation of our natural hazard mitigation planning efforts
- What is hazard mitigation
- What natural hazards affect the Berkshires
- Contents of natural hazard mitigation plan
- Public input about natural hazards in New Ashford and locations, if known

**Meeting Participants:**
*Community Representatives*

- Kevin Flicker, Selectboard
- Chuck Marrone, Selectboard
- L. Burbank, Selectboard
- Lori Trottier, Town Clerk
- Kevin Lacasse, Road Commissioner
- Jason Jayke, Resident

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Specific comments from meeting:**

Selectboard identified flooding damage from 2002 and need a new, larger, culvert.

Selectboard stated a fair amount of dead trees that could cause power outages and block roads during a storm.

The selectboard had various inquiries about the funding opportunity criteria.

BRPC will provide additional information to the community contact regarding the funding opportunities.

The community contact, Chuck Marrone, will coordinate the working group.

**New Ashford Second Meeting Notes**

## New Ashford Community Meeting #2 Summary

**Date and Time:** May 23, 2012 6:00 PM

**Location:** New Ashford Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Review Listing of Identified Hazards and Determine Risk
- Review List of Critical Facilities
- Review Town Map to Identify Natural Hazard Problem Areas
- Discussion of Existing Mitigation Measures
- Discussion of Possible Mitigation Steps

**Meeting Participants:**

- Chuck Marrone, Selectboard member
- Keith LaCasse Road Commissioner

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Specific comments from meeting regarding the Mitigation Action Plan:**

- Need an engineering study of Beach Hill Road
- Review the two Ingram Hill culverts
- Continue to work well with WMECO regarding tree trimming
- Work with the Conservation Commission & DEP to improve debris removal from streams
- Continue to work with the Department of Conservation Commission to ensure reduction of excess dry timber in the Mt. Greylock Reservation area

**Specific comments from the meeting regarding Existing Protection Matrix:**

- New Ashford enforces the state building code
- The Town maintains strong communication with Department of Conservation and Recreation regarding the Mt. Greylock Reservation
- The town is expanding their attention to their stormwater management control
- New Ashford continues to work closely with WMECO on efficiently tree trimming

The group suggested changes to the critical facilities list. Edits have been made.

The majority of time spent at the meeting was centered upon the Town Map. The group identified areas of concern with respect to natural hazards, mostly related to flooding and inability of many of the road systems to deal with heavy rain.

**New Ashford Third Meeting Notes**

## New Ashford Community Meeting #3 Summary

**Date and Time:** July 2nd, 2012 @ 7:00 PM

**Location:** New Ashford Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Summary of Plan Development
- Review Plan
  - Risk Assement
  - Existing Protections
  - Action Steps
- Comments

**Meeting Participants:**

- Kevin Flicker, Selectboard
- Chuck Marrone, Selectboard
- L. Burbank, Selectboard
- Lori Trottier, Town Clerk
- Kevin Lacasse, Road Commissioner
- Jason Jayke, Resident

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Comments**

The Board of Selectmen were pleased with all the excerpts.

There were slight revisions to the critical facility list that were corrected.

One community member was especially interested in discussing a dam abutting his property. Lindsay Errichetto agreed to look for additional information regarding the dam as it was not specifically indentified in the working group session.

**West Stockbridge First Meeting Notes**

## West Stockbridge Community Meeting #1 Summary

**Date and Time:** April 23, 2012 7:00 PM

**Location:** New Ashford Town Hall

**Discussion Topics:**

- Explanation of our natural hazard mitigation planning efforts
- What is hazard mitigation
- What natural hazards affect the Berkshires
- Contents of natural hazard mitigation plan
- Public input about natural hazards in W. Stockbridge and locations, if known

**Meeting Participants:**
*Community Representatives*

- Karen Zink, Selectboard
- Edward Denham, Selectboard
- Earl Moffatt, Selectboard
- Mark Webber, Town Administrator

*BRPC Staff*

- Lindsay Errichetto

**Specific comments from meeting:**

Great Barrington Road & Williams River owned by MassDOT may need attention.

A significant number of residences are located in flood plain (47).

Several miles of paved road and a larger number of dirt roads are in flood plain.

Flooding is a general concern for the Town.

Tree removal and brush fires are also an area of concern.

The selectboard had various inquiries about the funding opportunity criteria.

BRPC will provide additional information to the community contact regarding the funding opportunities.

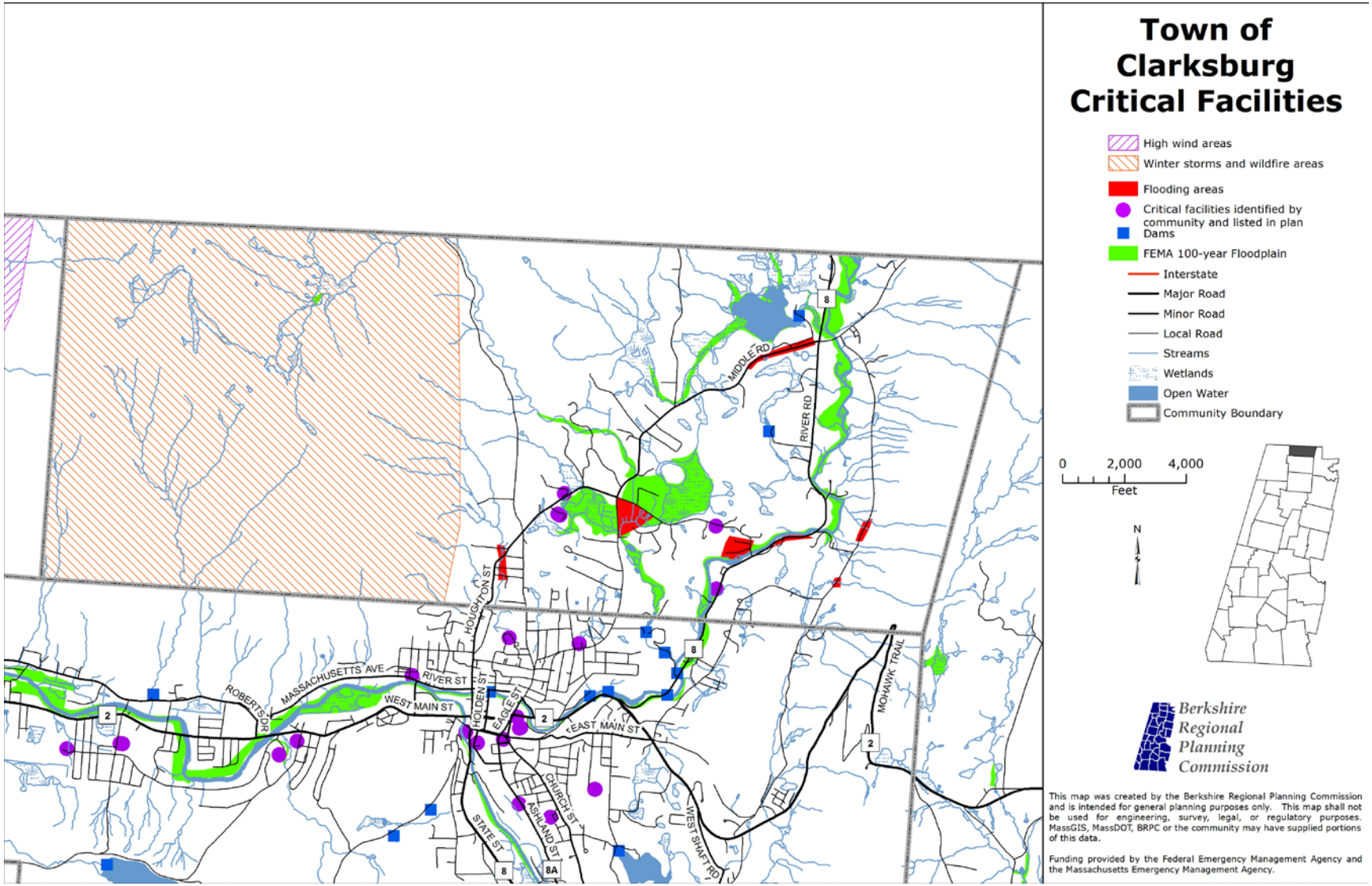
**Appendix 2. Organizations Input Sought From**

Berkshire Chamber of Commerce
Berkshire Community College
Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Berkshire Medical Center
Berkshire Natural Resource Council
Berkshire Regional Transit Authority
Berkshire United Way
Berkshire Visitors Bureau
Central Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee
Hoosic River Watershed Association
Housatonic Valley Association
Fairview Hospital
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Region 1
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
Massachusetts Hazard Mitigation Planning Team
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Western Region and Office of Dam Safety
Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Service – Western Region
Northeast Utilities
National Weather Service
North Adams Regional Hospital
Northern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee
Northern Berkshire United Way
Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee
The Trustees of Reservations
Western Massachusetts Electric Company
Williams College

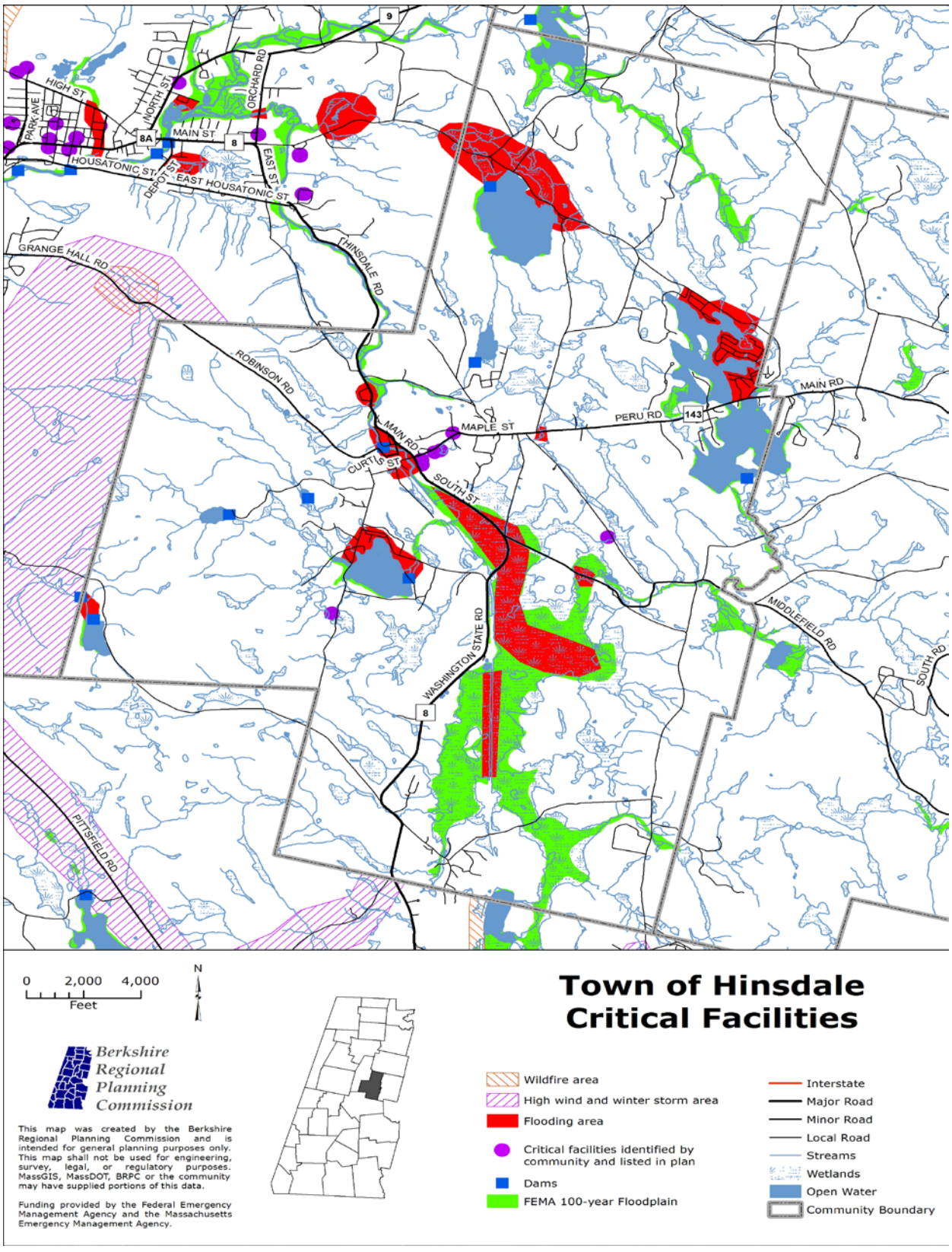
**Second Round of Review**
Towns of Adams, Dalton, Cheshire, Egremont, Florida, Hancock, Lanesborough, Peru, North Adams, Sheffield, Washington, Williamstown, Windsor, MA
Towns of Pownal, Stamford, VT
Towns of Ancram, Copake, Northeast, NY
Town of Salisbury, CT

**Appendix 3. Community Maps**

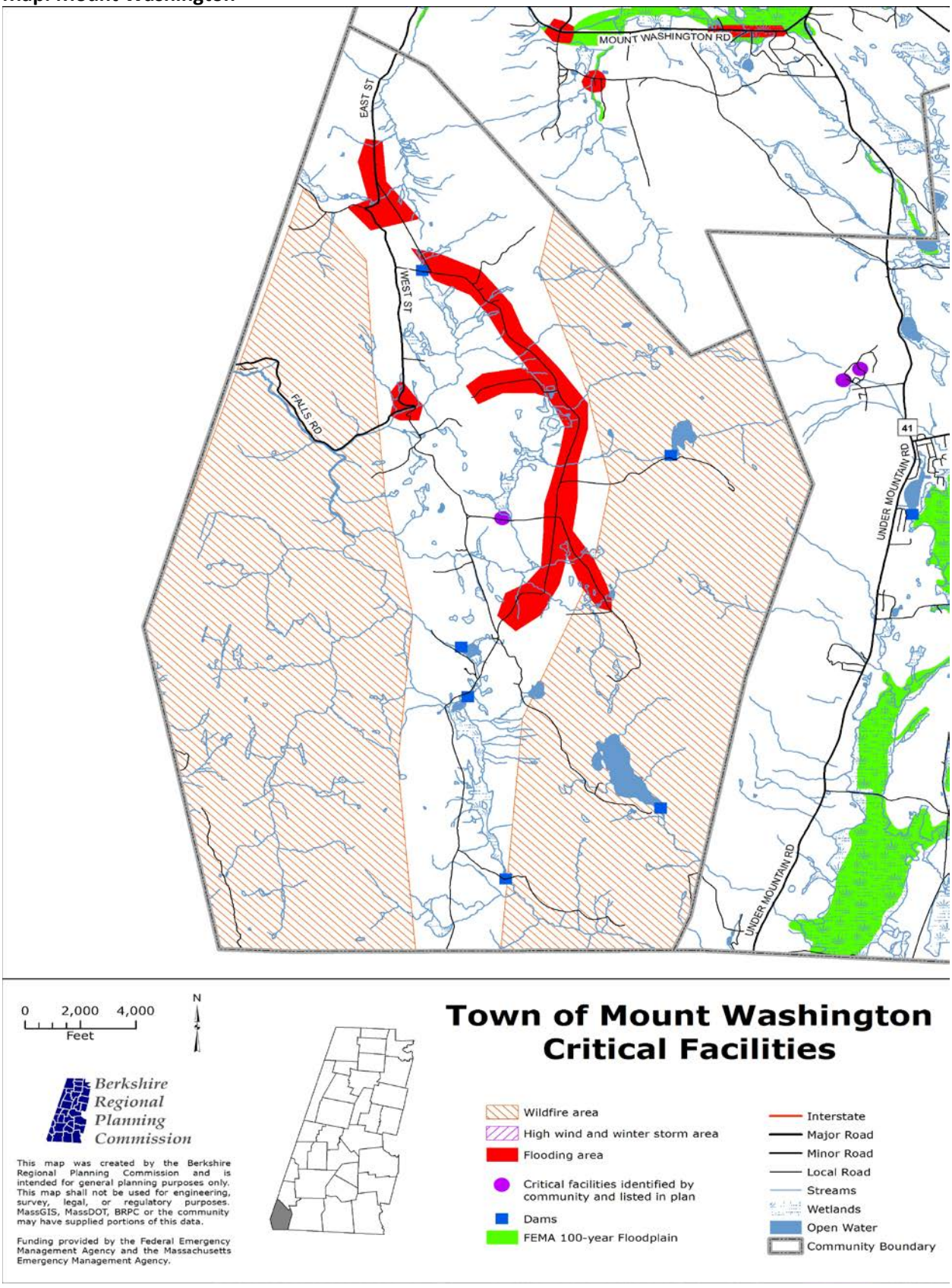
**Map. Clarksburg**



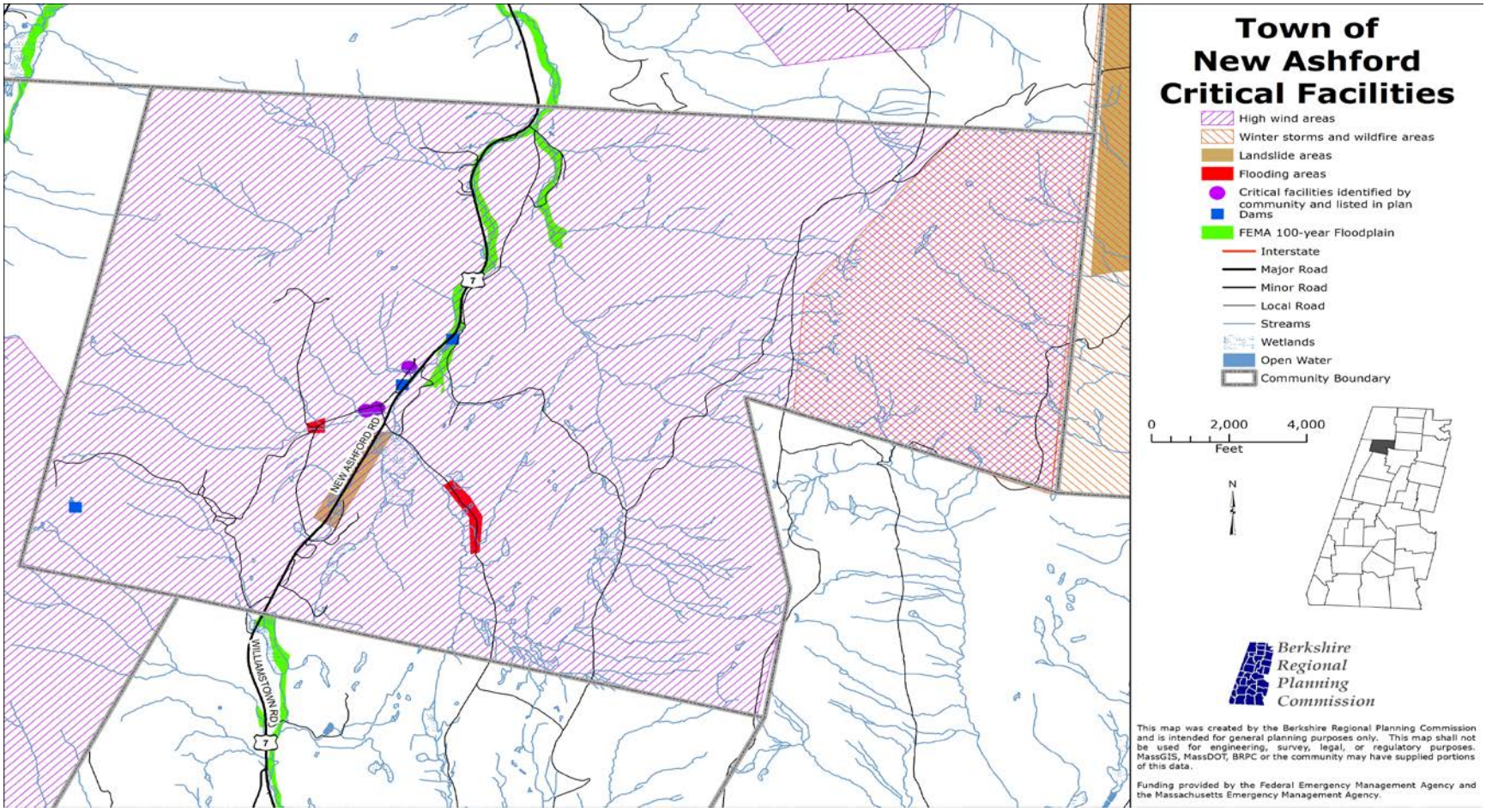
**Map. Hinsdale**



**Map. Mount Washington**



**Map. New Ashford**



**Appendix 4. Adoption Certificates**

Town of
# CLARKSBURG

111 RIVER ROAD CLARKSBURG, MA 01247

TOWN OFFICES (413) 663-7940

## CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

**Town of Clarksburg, Massachusetts**

**Select Board**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWN OF CLARKSBURG'S HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

**WHEREAS, the Town of Clarksburg established a Committee to prepare the Hazard Mitigation plan; and**
**WHEREAS, the Town of Clarksburg's Hazard Mitigation Plan contains several potential future projects to mitigate potential impacts from natural hazards in the Town of Clarksburg, and**
**WHEREAS, a duly-noticed public meeting was held by the Select Board on August 12, 2015, and**
**WHEREAS, the Town of Clarksburg authorizes responsible departments and/or agencies to execute their responsibilities demonstrated in the plan, and**
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Clarksburg Board of Selectmen, adopts the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan Addendum: Town if Clarksburg, in accordance with M.G.L. c 40.**

**ADOPTED AND SIGNED THIS August 12, 2015**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Jeff Levanos,** | **William Schrade,** | **Linda Reardon,** |
| **Chairman** | **1st Vice Chair** | **2nd Vice Chair** |

**ATTEST:**

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

Town of Hinsdale, Massachusetts

Board of Selectman

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWN OF HINSDALE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Whereas, the Town of Hinsdale established a Committee to prepare the Hazard Mitigation plan: and

Whereas, the Town of Hinsdale Hazard Mitigation Plan contains several potential future projects to mitigate potential impacts from natural hazards the Town of Hinsdale, and

Whereas, a duly-noticed public hearing was held by the Board of Selectman on August, 12, 2015, and

Whereas the Town of Hinsdale authorizes responsible departments and/or agencies to execute their responsibilities demonstrated in the plan, and

Now, Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Hinsdale Board of Selectmen, adopts the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan Addendum: Town of Hinsdale in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40.

ADOPTED AND SIGNED THIS August 12, 2015

ATTEST

John Genzabella, Chair John Genzabella

Bruce Marshall _____

Laurel Scialabba Laurel Scialabba

TOWN OF MOUNT WASHINGTON
118 East Street
Mount Washington, Massachusetts 01258
(413) 528-2839

# CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

## TOWN OF MOUNT WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWN OF MOUNT WASHINGTON HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Mount Washington established a Committee to prepare the Hazard Mitigation plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mount Washington Hazard Mitigation Plan contains several potential future projects to mitigate potential impacts from natural hazards in the Town of Mount Washington, and

WHEREAS, a duly-noticed public meeting was held by the Board of Selectmen on August 31_, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mount Washington authorizes responsible departments and/or agencies to executes their responsibilities demonstrated in the plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Mount Washington Board of Selectmen, adopts the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan Addendum: Town of Mount Washington, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40.

ADOPTED AND SIGNED August 31, 2015

Brian Tobin_____

Gail Garrett_____

Jim Lovejoy_____

ATTEST

**TOWN OF NEW ASHFORD**

TOWN HALL- 188 MALLERY ROAD
NEW ASHFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01237

## CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

**TOWN OF NEW ASHFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWN OF NEW ASHFORD HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of New Ashford established a Committee to prepare the Hazard Mitigation plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Ashford Hazard Mitigation Plan contains several potential future projects to mitigate potential impacts from natural hazards in the Town of New Ashford, and

WHEREAS, a duly-noticed public meeting was held by the Board of Selectmen on August 17, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Ashford authorizes responsible departments and/or agencies to executes their responsibilities demonstrated in the plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of New Ashford Board of Selectmen, adopts the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Berkshire County Hazard Mitigation Plan Addendum: Town of New Ashford, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40.

ADOPTED AND SIGNED this August 17 2015

August 17, 2015

ATTEST