



Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

Department of Community Development

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2021 REPORT ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IN NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Meeting held on January 12, 2021 at 11:000 a.m. via videoconference ZOOM, per COVID 19 protocols, with the Bristol Local Hazard Mitigation Committee.

Present were:

Director of Community Development Diane M. Williamson
Director of the Water Pollution Control Facility Jose DaSilva
Director of the Department of Public Works Chris Parella
Harbor Master Gregg Marsili
Principal Planner Edward Tanner

The Committee reviewed the status of the Actions from the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted September 28, 2016 and also the 2020 progress report and reported the following. The Town had been accepted into the Resilient Rhody program and became a Resilient Rhody designated community in 2020. The Plan that resulted from that planning program is posted on the Town's website. Melinda Hopkins from RIEMA participated in the Resilient Rhody program workshop with the Town and other local and State stakeholders. Stormwater Mitigation at the Bristol Golf Course, a project identified in the plan, was also selected for a grant opportunity with the RI Infrastructure Bank. The grant was recently submitted and the Town is expected to hear shortly if that funding will be approved. The Town also recently applied to RIEMA for funding to update the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan which will be required in 2021. We are still awaiting word on that grant as well as a grant application that was made to the RI State Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission under the CLG Grant program. The CLG Grant application would fund an inventory of the buildings in the downtown historic district that are in flood zones and would be impacted by sea level rise and storm surge. Having this inventory will be beneficial for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update to identify mitigation strategies specifically targeted to this area of Town.

Action #1 – Make Residents Aware of Emergency Response Plan

This action has been implemented through the Code Red program and the ongoing outreach to residents to enroll in this system. The Fire Department publishes and distributes emergency response information annually in May/June before the hurricane season. This information is also posted on the Town of Bristol website and Social media outlets. Additionally, the Fire Department conducts workshops with residents of vulnerable populations and in vulnerable areas. They have had workshops at the Senior Housing locations (Benjamin Church and

Franklin Court) and at North Farm Condominiums which is a large residential area. This emergency response planning is ongoing

Action #2 – Designate Alternative Evacuation Route for the Poppasquash Area through Colt State Park

This action is completed. The Town has an agreement with RIDEM for access through “Coggeshall Farm Road” including accessibility through the gate and maintenance during winter storms. This road can also be opened for residents, if needed. Director Parella confirmed that the DPW is familiar with this agreement and plows the road when needed.

Action #3 – Implement Mitigation Incentive Program

This action is ongoing. The Town continues to provide information to contractors and homeowners on the risks of building in hazard – prone areas and the benefits of building and renovating structures to current standards. The Town continues to seek out grant sources that could provide incentives to implement mitigation measures and this program is ongoing.

Action #4 – Prepare an “After the Storm Recovery” Plan for the Community

The action is in process and has not yet been completed. It was noted that the State Department of Business Regulations has brochures for businesses which the Town can link to their website.

Action #5 – Acquire Properties in the Special Flood Hazard and Repetitive Flood Loss Area

This continues to be a priority for the Town and the Town continues to seek protection and acquisition of these areas for preservation when opportunities arise.

Action #6 – Preserve vacant Open Space within the coastal flood zones

This continues to be a priority for the Town and the Town continues to seek protection and acquisition of these areas for preservation when opportunities arise.

Action #7 – Develop a Stand – Alone Environmental and Historic Preservation Plan

A grant application was recently submitted the RI State Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission under the CLG Grant program. The CLG Grant application would fund an inventory of the buildings in the downtown historic district that are in flood zones and would be impacted by sea level rise and storm surge. Having this inventory would be the first step in the hazard mitigation planning. It will be beneficial for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update to identify mitigation strategies specifically targeted to this area of Town.

Action #8 – Bury Electrical Wires and other suspended cables

This action has not been completed since it is presently not financially feasible. The Town continues to explore grant opportunities.

Action #9 – Reinforce Wire to Pole Connections

This action has not yet been completed. The Town will continue to work toward this action with National Grid and the Public Utilities Commission as necessary.

Action #10 – Retrofit of paved parking areas within the Tanyard Brook and Silver Creek Watershed

This action is on-going. The Bristol Planning Board amended the Subdivision and Development Review Regulations to require Low impact Development Techniques in all applications for subdivision or developments. The Town has received a grant to implement a drainage plan to retrofit the paved parking area at the Bristol Police Department which is in the Tanyard Brook Watershed. The Town recently completed a grant funded planning project to prepare a drainage plan for future implementation at the Mt. Hope High School which is in the Silver Creek Watershed. The Town is currently implementing a grant funded plan for stormwater management improvements at the Bristol Golf Course. A project to retrofit the parking lot at the Guiteras School adjacent to Silver Creek was also completed with grant funding.

Action #11 – Develop a Shoreline Management Plan

This action is in process. The Town partnered with the RI Coastal Resources Management Council for a grant to retrofit dead end streets that taper into the water. The grant will allow the Town to have engineered plans for the retrofit program that will be eligible for future grant funding to implement. Sunrise Drive is the street that was nominated for this program. Additionally the Town has completed an end of road retrofit of San Miguel and Butterworth roads.

Action #12 - Public Informational Outreach – Signage

This action is completed. The Town installed signage along major access routes that flood indicating that the area is a flood area. The Town has also been designated a Storm Ready Community and the Fire Chief has posted this at headquarters. The Town is also working on a plan to update and reposition the signs for evacuation routes in Town.

Action #13 - Upgrade sewer lines where necessary

This action is ongoing as opportunities present. The line on Ferry Road has been upgraded recently to include the installation of laterals brought to the property lines of the shoreline residents on the west side. This will allow the residents the opportunity to connect to the Ferry Road line in the future if the existing sewer lines along the shore become impacted due to climate change. The Fairview sewer line upgrade has been completed. In addition, the Town has recently installed generators at 3 sewer pump stations (Brooks Farm Drive, Peter Road, and Broadcommon Road) with the assistance of a FEMA grant. A generator with a transfer switch is also needed at the Water Pollution Control Facility. The Water Pollution Control Facility Director reported he recently completed the Capital Improvement Plan for the Wastewater Collection System. Priority projects include restoring and lining the existing aging pipes. The first phase of this will be focused on sections of the piping system that contain asbestos cement pipe.

Action #14 - Conduct drainage improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Facility

This action has been completed with construction of the drainage line in Fairview Drive.

Action #15 - Inspect and secure the seawall along downtown coastal commercial facilities as necessary

This action is in process. The Town has repaired a portion of the seawall along Rockwell Park. The Town has repaired the seawall at Independence Park and has designs and permitting for Walley Beach seawall repair and will soon be scheduled for construction. In addition, the Town the Prudence Ferry Dock has been repaired. The plans and permitting for the Ferry Dock repairs have been completed and repairs are expected to be completed in the early Spring of 2020. The Town will be assessing the repairs needed at walls along the north and south sides of the State Street Boat Ramp and along the north side of the Maritime Center driveway.

Action #16 - Establish Fire Lanes in the Mount Hope area

This action has been completed. The National Grid has opened lanes for access to their equipment which can also serve as access for the Fire Department if needed.

Action #17 - Upgrade the Quinta Gamelin Community Center to be shelter compliant

This action is completed. The Center has a kitchen. A generator was also recently installed with a FEMA grant.

Action #18 - Promote installation of a check valve/backflow preventer

This action is ongoing as required by the Sewer permitting. All buildings with basement plumbing are required to have Backflow Preventers/Check Valves. This is ongoing.

Action #19 - Expand the implementation the Backflow Retrofit Program

All of the residents that were on the list have been completed and no residents are on a wait list. However, we will keep this action item for potential future issues and grant opportunities that may present.

NEW ACTIONS TO ADD:

- Installation of Back up Generators at the trash collection facility at Minturn Farm Road and at the Compost Facility for debris management. The DPW Director noted that this is a priority and is needed for radios as well.
- Explore the feasibility of a 2nd way to access the Water Pollution Control Facility.
- Enlarge the Ferry Road pump station and install a generator on the roof. This action was a potential new action to add but has recently been completed.
- Upgrade to the HVAC system at the Quinta Gamelin so that this building can serve as a cooling center and warming center. Include phone chargers as well as ADA Compliant Showers
- The Director of the Water Pollution Control Facility is also exploring a study with URI and RIEMA relative to the Facility. And they are exploring a back up battery program as well.

cc: RI Emergency Management Agency
Steven Contente, Town Administrator
Nathan Calouro, Town Council Chairman
Jerome Squatrito, Planning Board Chairman
Bristol RI Website
Bristol Phoenix

Comment [DMW1]:

Comment [DMW2]: