

TOWN OF LUNENBURG

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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Kerry A. Speidel, Chief Administrative & Financial Officer *KAS*
Subject: Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan
Date: June 15, 2009

After the workshop with representatives from MRPC, you asked that we include Strategies for achieving the Goals and Objectives included in the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM). Last week, I met with Marion Benson, Planning Director, Scott Glenny, Fire Chief, and Jack Rodriquez, DPW Director, to identify those Strategies. They are as follows.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies for Pre-Disaster Mitigation in the Town of Lunenburg

Overall Goal Statement: To reduce the loss of life, property, infrastructure and cultural resources through the town of Lunenburg from natural disasters through a multiple hazard mitigation program that involves increased coordination, planning, education, and capital improvements.

- Objective:** To provide adequate shelter, water, food, and basic first aid to displaced residents in the event of a natural disaster, and to provide adequate notification and information regarding evacuation procedures, etc., to residents in the event of a natural disaster.
- Objective:** To increase coordination between inter-departments in pre-disaster planning, post-disaster recovery and continuous hazard mitigation implementation.
- Objective:** Increase awareness of hazard mitigation among town officials, private organizations, businesses, and the general public.
- Objective:** To ensure that critical infrastructure sites are protected from natural hazards, and to maintain existing mitigation infrastructure in good condition.
- Objective:** To educate the public about the threat of natural hazards and the possible mitigation measures that can be taken to protect public health and safety, as well as infrastructure and property; and to educate the public as well about zoning and building regulations, particularly regulations that relate to new construction.

6. **Objective:** To encourage future development in areas that are not prone to natural disasters.
7. **Objective:** To identify existing shelters that are earthquake resistant as well as outside of floodplain and inundation areas. Disseminate this information to appropriate Town Departments.
8. **Objective:** Inventory supplies at existing shelters and develop a needs list and storage requirements; and to establish arrangements with local or neighboring vendors for supplying shelters with food and first aid supplies in the event of a natural disaster.
9. **Objective:** To examine current notification system including progress Central Mass Homeland Security Committee's development of a county-wide Reverse 911.
10. **Objective:** To collect, periodically update, and disseminate information on which local radio stations provide emergency information, what to include in a "home survival kit," how to prepare homes and other structures to withstand flooding and high winds, and the proper evacuation procedures to follow during a natural disaster.

Specific Natural Hazard Goals for Lunenburg

Goal Statement for Flooding: To minimize the loss of life, damage to property, and the disruption of governmental services and general business activities due to flooding. And to pursue prevention activities which include planning, zoning, open space preservation, floodplain and wetland development regulations, storm water management, waterway dumping regulations, watershed protection measures, and best management practices, as well as soil erosion, building ordinances, and subdivision regulations.

1. **Objective:** To implement standards in the Subdivision Rules and Regulations to require temporary and permanent erosion control measures for streams and surface water bodies.

Strategy: This objective has been completed through the passage of the Storm Water Bylaw, Section 6.7, Subsections 6.7.5 and 6.7.5.2. The Rules and Regulations Governing the Subdivision of Land note compliance 6.7 in all subdivision and development plan reviews. Individual Homes can be regulated by Conservation jurisdiction. DEP allows Conservation Commission to regulate 200 feet to the 100 foot buffer. No permit is needed from the 100 foot buffer to the 200 foot. However no damage can be done within the 100 foot to 200 foot line without consequences.

2. **Objective:** To add more specific requirements to address flood related issues in the Special Permit and Site Plan Approval provisions in the Lunenburg Zoning Bylaw including topographic change, removal of cover vegetation, risk of erosion or siltation and increased stormwater runoff.

Strategy: This objective has been addressed in the Design Criteria, Section 6.7 of the Zoning Bylaw, and Sections 4.7 and 4.10.4 of the Rules and Regulations, entitled "Lot Drainage" and "Storm Drainage" 4.7. Lot drainage criteria prevents undue changes in the flow pattern on abutters lot. Storm drainage calculations and design standards are par of the peer review for protection of adjacent area. Conservation under their jurisdiction is also a partner in this area of concern. The addition of more specific requirements deems unnecessary as long as the specific such as cover vegetation is addressed in the review for restoration in the Special permit review.

3. **Objective:** To identify all structures throughout the Town that need to be elevated above the base flood elevation.

Strategy: After 1970, no building was permitted within the flood plain. A survey of all pre-1970 construction would need to occur in order to determine what structures would be affected and to what extent.

4. **Objective:** To develop a priority list and seek funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the replacement of undersized culverts throughout Town.

Strategy: Survey all drainage appertunances within the Town, calculate flows and determine which culverts are currently undersized. Any proposed survey could begin with the outfalls that have been identified in the Town's Stormwater Program. Once that list has been generated and prioritized, funding either through the Town's Capital Plan or through grant programs should be sought.

Goal Statement for Protection from Beavers: To minimize the threat to health, the damage to roads and property, and the disruption of governmental services and general business activities due to flooding caused by beavers.

1. **Objective:** Support local town departments to continue present methods to prevent beaver caused flooding.

Strategy: We will continue to support local town departments.

2. **Objective:** Seek assistance from beaver management professionals, including trappers.

Strategy: Beginning in Spring 2000, the Town began working with the MSPCA toward identifying a non-lethal method of controlling beavers due to the mounting damage around, along and under roadways.

3. **Objective:** Install beaver management devices.

Strategy: Beaver Deceivers were installed on John Street, Mulpus Road, West Street and Northfield Road, at no cost to the Town. Some failed over time, however, the one on Mulpus is still functioning. Another survey should occur to determine if these failed devices are still needed and if any others are needed in other areas. In 2002, Beaver Solutions, South Hadley, MA, installed additional devices at Marshall Pond, the North Cemetery, Reservoir Road and Arbor Street. A local, licensed trapper was also used in this effort.

Goal Statement for Hurricanes and Tornadoes: To minimize the loss of life, damage to property, and the disruption of governmental services and general business activities due to high winds associated with hurricanes and tornadoes. (The objectives listed above, under flooding, address the flooding that can result from a hurricane.)

1. **Objective:** To educate residents and volunteers regarding the safe methods and actions necessary to deal with hurricanes and tornadoes.

Strategy: This is covered in the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Part 4/

Goal Statement for Winter Related Hazards: To minimize the loss of life, damage to property, and the disruption of governmental services and general business activities due to severe snow and ice storms.

1. **Objective:** To develop a plan for providing access to water, information, shelter, and food stores to people in remote locations in Lunenburg in the event of a severe winter storm.

Strategy: This is covered in the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Part 4.

Goal Statement for Dam Failure: To minimize the loss of life, damage to property, and the disruption of governmental services and general business activities due to earthquakes.

1. **Objective:** To identify sources of funding for dam safety inspections.

Strategy: Each year, the Town budgets funds sufficient for bi-annual inspections and/ or needed repairs. The Town will continue to do so in the future. The Town has an Evacuation Plan on file and awaiting approval from the State Department of Dam Safety. This is also covered in Part 4 of the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Goal Statement for Earthquakes: To minimize the loss of life, damage to property, and the disruption of governmental services and general business activities due to earthquakes.

1. **Objective:** To evaluate all Shelters and Reception Centers to determine if they are earthquake resistant.

Strategy: Turkey Hill Middle School is the Town's identified shelter. Although it met all building safety requirements when it was built, it does not meet current requirements for earthquake loads. To our knowledge, no building within the Town meets current requirements. It is most likely not cost effective to make these improvements. Instead, the Town will work with area communities to determine if such a facility exists and if so, to make that information available to the public.

2. **Objective:** To insure that all identified shelters have sufficient back-up utility service in the event of primary power failure.

Strategy: Turkey Hill Middle School is the Town's identified shelter. It does have a generator, however, we are in the process of identifying funding for an upgrade to handle the additional demand.

Goal Statement for Drought: To minimize the loss of life, damage to property, and the disruption of governmental services and general business activities due to drought.

1. **Objective:** Prepare a Water Conservation Plan for Lunenburg.

Strategy: The Lunenburg Water District has a Water Conservation Plan for Lunenburg on file in their offices. A copy is attached for reference.

Goal Statement for Wildfires/ Brushfires: To minimize the loss of life, damage to property, and the disruption of governmental services and general business activities due to wildfires/ brushfires.

1. **Objective:** Develop and distribute an educational pamphlet on fire safety and prevention.

Strategy: Presently, the Fire Department provides a Fire Prevention Safety Week for the Schools and the Senior Center. Additionally, workshops are held for business owners. The Department is also in the process of planning an event with the Teen Center. All of these educational efforts will continue in the coming years.

2. **Objective:** Consider amending the Subdivision Rules and Regulations and Required Improvements section to include fire suppression provisions for new residential developments.

Strategy: The Seventh Edition of the State's Building Code does not require the installation of fire suppression devices in new residential developments. The Fire Chief and Building Commissioner will investigate the feasibility of making this requirement.

Goal Statement for Weather Extremes: To minimize the loss of life and the threats to public health and safety.

1. **Objective:** To develop and distribute educational information regarding threats from extreme heat and cold.

Strategy: Last year, the Council on Aging received a grant to prepare a brochure to distribute to elderly residents advising them of their rights with respect to utility companies. The brochure also identified sources of grant funds for people in need of fuel assistance. This brochure will be updated on a yearly basis and distributed. Additionally, the Town will investigate the feasibility of establishing a day shelter at the Eagle House in the event of a prolonged heat wave. At a minimum, the Town would need to purchase a generator for this facility.

2. **Objective:** To educate the residents as to the causes and effects of global warming; and how it affects the residents of Lunenburg, and what they could be doing to help improve the situation.

Strategy: This objective will be referred to the Green Communities Task Force to investigate further.