

**Lunenburg Hazard Mitigation Planning Team Meeting
September 24, 2012
Lunenburg Public Safety Building**

Lunenburg Officials in Attendance: Fire Chief Patrick Sullivan, Lunenburg Fire; Jack Rodriquenz, DPW and Kerry Speidel, Town Administrator; MRPC Staff present: Renee Marion, GIS Analyst; and Eric R. Smith, Principal Planner.

Updated Hazard Identification and Assessment

Jack Rodriquenz of Lunenburg DPW began the meeting with discussion of issue of repair/replacements related to culverts. One being flooded out by the 2010 floods. The Town stopped short to (do a total) rebuild.

Question on Management Plan – Jack noted his use of pavement management tool. The tool helps with development of pavement management by providing assessment that is as objective as possible. Generates a list of all roadways and the priority for paving. Could MEMA fund a Drainage / Stormwater Runoff Plan? (Eric learned from MEMA Representative that unfortunately only such planning that is eligible under the hazard mitigation planning dollars is the actual Hazard Mitigation Plan. Funding is still eligible for improvement to problematic culverts.

As the Lunenburg Team began review of the existing Local Hazards Map, they noted that for the Town of Shirley the culvert has been replaced by Leatherboard Pond in Shirley (part of Catacoonamug Brook) off of Leominster-Shirley Road.

Chief Sullivan requested a copy of the existing Lunenburg Hazard Mitigation Plan. Eric noted he would provide him with a PDF version.

The review of the existing hazards map began with a review of *Review of Existing Beaver-related Hazards:*

BH #1: Mulpus Brook between Cross Street and Hunting Hill Road: Beaver Buster was installed 10 years ago. This was the most serious beaver-related hazard last time. The Beaver Dam had been holding a body of water 8' deep by 300' wide. It was noted location is by Brockman's residence. Now this beaver hazard is not the most significant. Very limited maintenance is required.

BH #2: Brook South of Hickory Hills Lake – located in the downside of the dam. Levels are controlled by the dam, which is maintained by the Hickory Hills Lake Association. Noted that there are substantial wetlands south of the dam. Did some trapping 1000 feet down gradient of the dam. Beavers have not been such an issue here recently.

BH #3: Water Body east of North Cemetery: Beaver Buster had been installed. Then the beavers found another pipe upstream. Beaver unit had been found dismantled. It was noted that the beaver problem is cyclical. With good maintenance, the wetlands have dried to a trickle. Not an issue at this time. Over time a good place to put another beaver buster in

BH #4: Catacoonamug Brook, north of West Street. By *Larry Putton* property/house and the S curves of West Street. The Culvert was reinstalled. Noted that this was part of Phase III overall stormwater management plan. A "Double-Barrel" culvert is already in place – one like Mulpus Brook.

BH #5: Brook south of Mass Ave (Rt. 2A) – behind Bootleggers in Lunenburg. Some thought of reconfiguring Pleasant Street bridge. Has been flooding every 2-3 years. Jack did not recall any beaver activity in this area, however.

BH #6: Brook south of West St. and extending to Electric Ave. 100-foot long beaver activity on our (Town) property. Noted a change of home ownership, with new owner eliminating beavers on that property via installation of cages. A 36" culvert had been filled to the top.

BH #7: Swampland west of Reservoir Road, south of Autumn Road. Location by the Houlton Mill was noted. There are 60" culverts – two of them – with grates (stone?) installed. DPW goes out 2-3 times a year- time for maintenance and coordinates with the Water District and the Lake Shirley Association.

BH #8: Jack Rabbit Swamp – “Dormant” at this time...Page | Arbor Streets are the roadways that would be impacted by flooding. Indicated to keep “Still as is” for hazard potential. Noted that a beaver buster was installed there.

BH #9: Marshall Pond. Muskrats (also a problem related to beavers) have been located there.

BH #10: Catacoonamug Brook, north of Kilburn Street. A beaver lodge is located in a private area (*Delacoppets? property*) with the property now under new ownership. The new owner is more vigilant; There are remnants of an old dam. Noted have less beavers now than five years ago. Also identified this area as a heavy rain hazard area.

BH #11: Brook west and northwest of Massapoag Pond: Noted that under control – it will flood; Pipe at Lancaster Avenue – increase (the problem up to) Goodrich St (double barrel culvert). BH #11 is located by Stillman’s Farm.

BH #12: Swampland west of Reservoir Road, south of Autumn Road. With a water line installation project, they were able to increase the culvert size – Beaver hazards have been reduced with the increased culvert size.

BH #13a: Sunset Lane culvert, east of Lake Shirley & south of Flat Hill Road. The Lake Shirley Association got a grant (Section 319) and reconfigured outfall with plantings (*and different flowers*) flows???. It was noted this work has done great things. Even with heavy rain conditions are now improved. The Association maintains and that helps with good housekeeping.

BH #13b: Stump Cove in Lake Shirley – status – Same as is.

BH #14: Swampland southeast of the Fort Pond/Leominster Shirley Road intersection. A local business now maintains the banks by the culvert. Noted location is by the gravel pits of Keating and Powell Sand and Gravel.

It was noted that now the West Street Area is Highest Priority for Beaver-related Hazard (BH #4).

Review of Existing Dam-related Hazards:

DMH #1: James Pond Dam – Nothing has changed – remains as is. Scott Foster is the private dam owner @ 131 White Road.

DMH #2: Farm Pond Dam. Nothing has changed, still potential for heavy flooding.

Newly Identified Dam-related Hazards Areas:

DMH #3: Highalnds / Hickory Hills Lake; privately owned and maintained by the Hickory Hills Lake Association.

DMH #4 Lake Shirley – owned by the Association. Strict review and maintenance process. It was noted at last inspection did under cover some seepage. Not necessary a sign of significant problems indicated Jack. They reviewed the outfall spillway and toe-drain, which were inspected and cleaned. Some seepage migration under the embankment. They do have \$ for testing and monitoring.

DMH #5 Lake Whalom: (The dam for Lake Whalom is actually located in Leominster).

Review of Existing Fire Hazard Areas:

FH #1A & 1B – Rail LineTracks. Noted that some debris has been removed by the railway company after lawsuit by Town of Westminster.

Debris discussed from the 2008 Ice Storm and the October 2011 Nor'easter. Concern for wildfire potential has increased town-wide. Noted by Chief Sullivan that for some 30 years the Town of Lunenburg has gone without a significant wildfire within the town boundary limits.

FH #2: Northeast Lunenburg – Remains as is

FH #3: North Central Lunenburg – Remains as is

Noted concern that in general the Significant/Continuous Forested Areas are a wildfire potential hazard area.

Newly Identified Fire Hazards Areas:

FH #4: Howard Street/Northwest Lunenburg. Townsend had a significant fire this year on their side of the town boundary north of this area.

Review of Heavy Rain-related Hazard Areas:

HR #1: Holman Street – the bridge is closed at this time.

HR #2: Problematic Culverts previously identified under Beaver-related Hazards. *Be more specific after review of notes with Renee*

There were no specific areas of Snow Melt Hazard Areas

Review of High Wind Hazard Areas

Issue with cleaning up debris from trees. Really get a good view of this issue from up in the air on a bucket truck to fix/address the hazard trees.

Trees will fall during high wind events, as they were damaged from 2008 ice storm and 2011 nor'easter. Issues related of maintenance discussed from Unutil within roadway right-of-way to significant forested areas.

The following hazards were identified to be town-wide:

- Nor'easters
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Heavy Snow
- Ice Storm (noted impacts of December 2008 were town-wide)
- Blizzard

Review of FEMA Flood-Hazard Areas

Renee presented the GIS map showing the 100-year and 500-year flood zone areas for the Town of Lunenburg.

Critical Facilities/Infrastructure

Renee then discussed the Worcester County Evacuation Plan and plan to update the Critical Facilities/Infrastructure data layers. Renee will work with Chief Sullivan to obtain ECEMP data – for review of previously identified Critical Facilities. Also will share draft identified evacuation routes with the Town. Renee noted that we then intersect the identified hazard locations with the critical facilities.