

Montgomery Mitigation Planning Meeting
May 5, 2025, 5:30 PM | Montgomery Public Safety Building and Zoom

Attendance: Doug Kopacz, Greg Lucas, Mark Brouillette, Charlie Hancock

The meeting began with a discussion on some updated information regarding local plans, policies, responsibilities and capacity for the municipality.

Shaun explained this meeting is to review mitigation actions and strategies the town would like to accomplish in the next five years. Also, the group will need to review the actions from the last plan and provide what the status of each action is during this meeting.

Mitigation Actions must fall into 4 categories: Infrastructure, Natural Systems Protection, Local Plans and Regulations, Education and Awareness Programs.

Infrastructure: Culvert upgrades, stormwater infrastructure (catch basins, ditches, culverts) maintenance, bridge replacement, flood proofing buildings, buyouts.

Natural Systems Protection: Streambank restoration / stabilization, debris removal to restore floodplain capacity.

Local Plans and Regulations: Adopt River Corridor bylaws, Stormwater Master Plan, Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Plan, Debris Management Plan.

Education and Awareness Programs: Providing flood mitigation information to homeowners through mailings, public postings, social media. (i.e. providing information to public on Emerald Ash Borer).

River Corridor Bylaws and Zoning Regulations

The draft flood data was recently released, and local officials should have access to them. The planning commission and development review board might have been on the recipient list. NRPC staff have been assisting towns with reviewing the data and providing feedback to FEMA. He provided a quick overview of the NFIP program.

Greg would be interested in viewing the data because he hasn't been able to view the data. It is difficult to read due to the resolution. NRPC has created an ARCGIS online map for local officials so they can more easily view and explore the data. The towns are supposed to conduct a review and look for anything that is glaringly wrong. Some towns are looking at Lidar data and comparing it to flood hazard boundaries.

Charlie noted that Montgomery has good lidar data that can be used to compare flood elevations to the draft FIRM data. Mark noted the Trout River has rerouted itself in several locations just one year later. The riverbeds have changed.

The group discussed Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) and how they are determined. The BFE marks the expected water surface elevation during a base flood even Engineers analyze how high floodwaters are likely to rise during a base flood, which is a flood with a 1% chance of occurring in any given year (often called the "100-year flood"). Engineers and hydrologists use detailed hydrologic and hydraulic studies to calculate BFEs. BFEs are not the same throughout a town.

Mitigation Actions and Scoring

Shaun outlined the scoring criteria and the cost benefit framework for scoring projects.

The group reviewed the mitigation actions list from the last plan and provided a status update on each action.

The group then discussed, listed and ranked new mitigation actions the town would like to accomplish in the next 5 years. The group also provided information on timeline of each project, costs and oversight responsibility.

Project	Status	Notes
Hazens Notch Road Culvert Replacement	Completed	2022
Deep Gibou Road Culvert Replacement	Completed in summer 2024	2024 Live power lines through the culvert
Bridge and Culvert update	Completed	2022
Culvert Replacement on Hannah Clark Brook Road	To be done	
<i>Culvert Replacement on Amidon Road:-</i>	To be done	Box culvert with headwall
Longley Bridge Road Retrofit	Remove Work in 2024.	Need to close out grant Needs a box culvert
West Hill Road Culvert Replacement	To be done	High priority
Replace damaged culvert on Brady Road	To be done	Low Priority
Replace Bridge on Cote Drive	To be done	Temp bridge in place but needs to be replaced
Culvert Upgrade Hill West Road	Completed.	2023
Flood Buyout for Residences Along Black Falls Brook	To be done	Part of Town/FCNRCD Mitigation Study with SLR
Enhance Public Awareness of the Dangers of Severe Winter Weather	Continuing	Social media, every store, all the public places. Fire department and town prints off what the needs from VSFA
Enhance Public Awareness of home fire risks (smoke alarms, carbon monoxide, fire extinguishers)	New	Fire Department does this every year with support from VDFS.
Support Power Utility Efforts to Protect Utility Corridors from Ice	Continuing	SB and PW supports identifying problem areas where trees/branches are encroaching. Does not commit town to doing anything.
Protect Critical Facilities and Infrastructure from Lightning Damages (mandated)	On-going	Put UPS on new telecom site for emergency services.
Black Falls Road (Bethany Looking for funding)	New	Top of Road. Bethany looking for funding.
Stand alone Generator for Public Safety Building (15kw) (\$40K)	New	High priority. Have a portable generator.

Floodplain and Wetland Restoration at 251 Fuller Bridge Road (Alternative 1):	New	Part of Town/FCNRCD Mitigation Study with SLR
Sediment Management at West Hill Brook Bridge on VT118 (Alternative 2):	New	Part of Town/FCNRCD Mitigation Study with SLR
Fuller Covered Bridge at Black Falls Brook, Overflow Capacity / Regain Channel Capacity (Alternative 7)	New	Part of Town/FCNRCD Mitigation Study with SLR
Upper Black Falls Floodplain Restoration (Alternative 9):	New	Part of Town/FCNRCD Mitigation Study with SLR
Trout River below Montgomery Center, Remove gravel deposits around / boulder valley constriction	New	Part of Town/FCNRCD Mitigation Study with SLR
Trout River in Montgomery Center, Floodplain Reconnection on Trout River (Alternative 12):	New	Part of Town/FCNRCD Mitigation Study with SLR
Trout River in Montgomery Center Bridge, Bridge Replacement and Restore Floodplain (Alternative 15)	New	Part of Town/FCNRCD Mitigation Study with SLR

Shaun discussed the requirement for plan maintenance, annual monitoring, roles and responsibilities, and the 5 year cycle for updating. The group agreed that the SB Chair would be lead with support from Selectboard. The committee members, if interested, could regroup and help with the plan maintenance updates which would correspond with the adoption of the LEMP each spring.

Shaun reviewing funding sources for the future plan update but it is unknown whether any of the traditional funding sources would be available. The state has been working hard at securing funding for plan updates and actual project work.

Final Steps

Once the draft plan is written, it will be distributed to the committee members and partner organizations for review and any edits. Following the local review, the plan will be released for a two week public comment period. Following the public comment period, the plan will be submitted to the state/FEMA for approval.

Meeting ended at approximately 7 p.m.