

MEETING AGENDA

TOWN OF ERVING

MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE PROJECT

Project Facilitator: Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Erving Town Hall

12 East Main Street
Erving, MA 01344

Tuesday, April 23rd

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

1. Introductions
2. Review Existing Mitigation Strategies (see attached)
3. Review Draft Action Plan (see attached)
4. Schedule Next Meeting

communities. The Town of Erving's reliance on Route 2 as a means of connectivity between its three villages and neighboring towns was highlighted at the MVP Community Resilience Building workshop as a primary vulnerability for the Town.

A regional disaster debris management plan was created for Franklin County in 2015. The Franklin County REPC is currently working to verify the sites identified in the plan and complete agreements between towns for use of the regional sites. Towns may need to identify a site in their own town if regional agreements cannot be made.

Existing Mitigation Capabilities

The Town of Erving had numerous policies, plans, practices, programs and regulations in place, prior to the creation of this plan, that were serving to mitigate the impact of natural hazards in the Town of Erving. These various initiatives are summarized, described and assessed on the following pages and have been evaluated in the "Effectiveness" column.

Table 4-1: Existing Mitigation Capabilities				
Strategy	Capability Type	Description	Hazards Mitigated	Effectiveness / Improvements
Floodplain District	Regulation - Zoning Bylaw	Overlay district to control development in the 100-year floodplain	Flooding	Effective. A Floodplain District bylaw was adopted since the last plan.
Environmental Controls	Regulation - Zoning Bylaw	May require that the site design, building design, or construction process be modified so as to protect soil from erosion or excessive uncontrolled surface water runoff for projects requiring a Special Permit	Flooding Landslides Drought	Partially Effective. Consider applying Environmental Controls to all development.
Conservation Development	Regulation - Zoning Bylaw	Requires at least 35% of the total parcel to be set aside as common land for recreation, conservation or agricultural uses	Flooding Landslides Drought	Partially Effective. Consider allowing by-right, increase open space requirement, and update using MA Smart Growth Toolkit model bylaw ⁵⁸
Groundwater Protection District	Regulation – Zoning Bylaw	Overlay district that regulates development within the Zone II aquifer recharge area for the public water supply well	Flooding Drought	Effective
Subdivision Design Standards	Regulation – Subdivision	Dictates street, utility, and drainage design and construction	All Hazards	Partially Effective. Consider strengthening

⁵⁸ https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/11/03/Open%20Space%20Design%20%28OSD%29-Natural%20Resource%20Protection%20Zoning%20%28NRPZ%29_0.pdf

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Strategy	Capability Type	Description	Hazards Mitigated	Effectiveness / Improvements
& Required Improvements	Rules & Regulations			protection of natural features; update drainage requirements to address stormwater runoff; encourage Low Impact Development (LID) & native drought-tolerant landscaping; ⁵⁹ require utility lines be placed underground.
Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program	Program	As of 2018 there were two (2) flood insurance policies in effect in Erving	Flooding	Effective
Erving Open Space and Recreation Plan	Plan	Inventories natural resources and identifies land protection priorities in the Town	Flooding Landslides Wildfire Drought Invasive Species	Effective / The plan was updated in 2018
State Building Code	Regulation	The Town of Erving has adopted the Massachusetts State Building Code	All Hazards	Effective for new construction & significant rehabilitation
Culvert Assessment / Replacement	Practice	In 2019 Erving requested assistance from FRCOG to assess culverts in town and identify priorities for replacement	Flooding	Partially Effective / Funding will need to be pursued to follow through with culvert replacements
Tree Maintenance	Practice	The Highway Department and electric company trim tree branches near overhead power lines	Severe Snowstorms / Ice Storms Hurricanes / Tropical Storms Thunderstorms / Wind Events Invasive Species	Effective
Burn Permits	Regulation	The Fire Chief oversees the issuance of burn permits on a case by case basis	Wildfire	Effective
Fire Safety Education	Practice	The Fire Department has an ongoing fire safety educational program in the schools and a junior firefighter program	Wildfire	Effective

⁵⁹ See MassAudubon's regulation review checklist for subdivision regulation best practices for stormwater management: <https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/shaping-the-future-of-your-community/publications-community-resources/bylaw-review>

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State Forest Fire Roads Maintenance	Practice	Adequate and well-maintained fire roads provide access to the State Forest for firefighting purposes	Wildfire	Effective if implemented / Coordination is needed with DCR to ensure roads are maintained
Dam Inspections	Regulation	DCR inspection schedule is based on the hazard rating of the dam; owners are responsible for inspections. FERC high & significant hazard dams are inspected annually	Dam Failure	Partially Effective / DCR needs more resources to enforce inspection schedules
High / Significant Hazard Dam Emergency Action Plans	Regulation	Owners of high hazard and certain significant hazard dams are responsible for preparing Emergency Action Plans	Dam Failure	Partially Effective / FERC-licensed dams have up-to-date EAPs; EAPs should be developed for other high hazard dams that may impact Erving
Back-Up Drinking Water Supply	Policy	Erving's public water supply is interconnected with the Turners Falls Fire District supply, which can be used as a back-up water source during an emergency	All Hazards	Effective for residents on the public water supply
Back-Up Power	Practice	Most of Erving's municipal buildings have back-up power generators. The pump house for the public well does not have a generator.	All Hazards	Partially Effective / Install an emergency back-up generator at the pump house
Sheltering Plan	Plan	A regional sheltering plan has been completed; Shelter Management Teams need to be created and cost sharing agreements between towns established	All Hazards	Partially Effective / Participate in the REPC's planning process to operationalize the regional shelter plan
Evacuation Plan	Plan	Primary and secondary evacuation routes are identified	All Hazards	Effective
Debris Management	Plan	The REPC is updating the regional debris management plan and verifying sites. Towns may need to identify a site in their own town if regional agreements cannot be made.	All Hazards	Not Effective / Erving does not currently have a plan in place. Participate in the REPC's planning process to update the regional plan

Table 4-3: 2019 Erving Hazard Mitigation Prioritized Action Plan									
Action Type	Action Description	Hazards Addressed	Responsible Department / Board	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source	Estimated Timeframe	Benefits: Society (S) Infrastructure (I) Environment (E)	Priority	Status
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Improve communication with the railroad company by organizing with other communities on the freight line and talking to state representatives.	Flooding Dam Failure				Year 1 and Ongoing	S, I, E	High	
Local Plans & Regulations	Develop a town-wide communication and evacuation plan in the event that Route 2 is closed due to a disaster/accident.	All Hazards				Year 1	S	High	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Protect wastewater facility from flooding by exploring and implementing flood-proofing options.	Flooding Dam Failure	Wastewater Department			Year 5	I	High	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Create redundancy/digital backup of important documents, public records, and GIS data in the Town Hall.	All Hazards				Year 2	S, I	High	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Create an alternative site for DPW fuel storage outside of the floodplain.							High	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Secure a public drinking water supply in Erving Center, in the event that private wells dry up or groundwater supplies are compromised.	Drought Flooding	Water Department			Year 2		High	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Identify areas in Town with gaps in broadband and cell phone coverage.	All Hazards				Year 2		Medium	
Education & Awareness	Improve communication with residents in the dam inundation zones.	Dam Failure	Emergency Management Director, FirstLight			Year 1 and Ongoing	S	Medium	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Determine if fuel storage at the Erving Paper Mill warrants more protection in the event of a fire, flood or accident.	All Hazards	Fire Department			Year 1	S, I, E	Medium	
Local Plans & Regulations	Work with the REPC to implement the regional sheltering plan so that residents know where to go in the event of a disaster, and adequate staff is on hand.	All Hazards	Emergency Management Director			Year 1 and Ongoing	S	High	
Education & Awareness	Improve outreach out to the homeless and transient population to ensure that they are notified in the event of an emergency.	All Hazards				Year 1 and Ongoing	S	High	
Education & Awareness	Continue outreach out to seniors and other vulnerable populations to help them sign up for the Reverse 911 program.	All Hazards				Year 1 and Ongoing	S	Medium	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Ensure that town is not liable in the event that COA van is used to transport residents during an emergency.	All Hazards	Town Administrator			Year 1	S	Low	

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Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Obtain a generator for the pump house so that public water supply is not interrupted in the event of a power outage.	All Hazards	Water Department			Year 2	S, I	High	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure / Nature-Based Solutions	Repair the Keyup Brook retaining wall riprap and hire a consultant to study options to protect the stream banks from future erosion.	Flooding	Highway Department Conservation Commission			Year 2	I, E	Medium	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Investigate resources, funding, and information for addressing beaver dam issues on Town and private property.	Flooding Dam Failure	Highway Department Conservation Commission			Year 5	S, I, E	Medium	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Investigate resources, funding, and information for the Town and landowners to prevent future bank, road and tree damage from ice jams.	Flooding				Year 1 and Ongoing	S, I, E	Medium	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Digitize and map the Highway Department culvert data. Conduct culvert assessments to prioritize repairs and replacement.	Flooding	Highway Department		DLTA MassDOT	Year 2	S, I, E	Medium	
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Develop a needs list and storage requirements. Establish arrangements for shelters with potable water, food and first aid supplies.	All Hazards	Emergency Management Director, Planning Board, Fire Department, Police Department		Town, Volunteers				
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Identify a shelter location in a separate part of town from the existing two shelters to ensure the town has viable shelter options should the existing shelters not be accessible due to a hazard event.	All Hazards	Building Inspector, Emergency Management Director		Town				
Education & Awareness	Implement Reverse 911 project proposal.	All Hazards	Emergency Management Director, Fire Department, Police Department		Town				
Education & Awareness	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 or dam failure.	All Hazards	Emergency Management Director, Fire Department, Police Department		Town				
Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Evaluate the need for dam inspections by reviewing dam records and safety inspection reports kept by the DCR including inundation areas, to determine if any dams should be inspected or re-inspected.	Dam Failure	Emergency Management Director, Planning Board		FEMA				

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Critical Facilities & Infrastructure	Map Dams and Inundation Areas with GIS showing the location of all dams in the Town and immediately upstream of the Town's borders and the areas that are likely to be flooded in the event of a dam failure.	Dam Failure	Emergency Management Director, Planning Board		FEMA				
Local Plans & Regulations	Incorporate Dam Safety into Subdivision Regulations. Applicants should consult the Dam and Inundation Areas map during their preparation of major development proposals, especially subdivisions. The applicant should assess the risk to the proposed development from the dam and supply that information along with mitigation measures to the Town as part of the review process.	Dam Failure	Emergency Management Director, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals		Town, Volunteers				
	Identify locations of existing beaver activity and dams. Evaluate areas for potential flooding.	Flooding Dam Failure	Emergency Management Director		Town				
Education & Awareness	Publicize locations for emergency shelters and evacuation routes for people who live in an inundation area.	Dam Failure Flooding	Fire Department, Police Department, Planning Board		Town, Volunteers				
Education & Awareness	The Town and Northfield Mountain Facility should coordinate efforts to ensure that appropriate municipal officials and departments are properly informed of potential impacts to the Town of a dam failure.	Dam Failure	Fire Department, Police Department, Planning Board, Northfield Mountain Facility		Town, Volunteers, Northfield Mountain				
Local Plans & Regulations	Consider implementing a Floodplain District Overlay Zoning Bylaw, restricting or limiting new development within the 100-year floodplain and areas prone to localized flooding. Review the FRCOG model floodplain overlay district.	Flooding	Planning Board		Town, Volunteers			Complete	
Local Plans & Regulations	As appropriate, consider adding flood prevention and mitigation to the Purpose Section of the Land Use regulations reviewed in Section 4 and noted in Table 4-1 of this report.	Flooding	Planning Board		Town, Volunteers				
Local Plans & Regulations	Review evacuation procedures for the flood prone areas in Town and update. These procedures should take into account ongoing MassDOT safety improvement projects on Route 2.	Flooding	Police Department, Fire Department		Town, Volunteers				
Education & Awareness	Review evacuation procedures for the Farley section of Town including alert radio testing and public outreach and awareness.	Flooding Dam Failure	Police Department, Fire Department, Northfield Mountain Facility		Town, Volunteers				