


Amherst Hazard Mitigation Plan Update  
Meeting 3 Minutes  
4/11/22 2pm-4pm  
Amherst Fire Rescue Station 1  
177 Amherst Street  
Amherst, NH 03031

1. Review of Risk Assessment Results and Ranking

NRI Comparison Report:

[https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4116/f/uploads/comparison\\_report\\_-\\_census\\_tract\\_national\\_risk\\_index.pdf](https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4116/f/uploads/comparison_report_-_census_tract_national_risk_index.pdf)

 Amherst Risk Assessment

2. Determine changes in development and land use planning since last plan that impact hazard mitigation

- a. What land use changes have occurred since the last plan update in 2015?
  - i. No land use changes since 2015
- b. Any major development changes since 2015?
  - i. No major development changes since 2015, none in hazardous areas
  - ii. Founders development has taken place
  - iii. Mack Hill Road bridge is completed
  - iv. The water related ordinances were updated and it should be reviewed if PFOA impacts were included
- c. What future land use changes or development should we expect?
  - i. There are currently no major development plans planned for the next five years
- d. [https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4116/f/uploads/amherst\\_hazmit\\_update2015\\_1.pdf](https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4116/f/uploads/amherst_hazmit_update2015_1.pdf) (Page 13)

3. Complete Status of Previous Actions

[https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4116/f/uploads/amherst\\_hazmit\\_update2015\\_1.pdf](https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4116/f/uploads/amherst_hazmit_update2015_1.pdf) (Pages 13-21)

[https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4116/f/uploads/amherst\\_hazmit\\_update2015\\_1.pdf](https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4116/f/uploads/amherst_hazmit_update2015_1.pdf) (Pages 87-90)

 Amherst Mitigation Actions

Generally the rule of thumb for mitigation actions are to meet a three point test:

1. Where is the mitigation action? (try and limit to one specific location rather than broad general locations (i.e. "all green space"))
2. What is the policy instrument that's being implemented? (try and limit to one (i.e. elevate the structure or convert the property into conservation land))

3. Does it reduce vulnerability?

All of the existing mitigation actions were reviewed to determine if they were completed, deferred, adjusted, or should be removed. Updated status can be found in the Mitigation Actions spreadsheet.

4. Set goals to reduce vulnerability to each hazard

- a. Goal 1—~~Prevent~~ **Mitigate** the impacts of natural hazards on the Town's population, critical facilities, infrastructure, emergency services, natural resources, and private property whenever possible.
  - i. Objective 1.1—Manage development of known hazard areas to avoid the risks associated with natural hazards.
  - ii. Objective 1.2—Plan to incorporate hazard mitigation into capital improvements and other future initiatives.
  - iii. Objective 1.3—Ensure building codes and other standards include requirements that make new construction more disaster resistant.
  - iv. Objective 1.4—Support the maintenance of this hazard mitigation plan.
- b. Goal 2—Protect the Town's existing critical facilities, infrastructure, and private property from the impacts of natural hazards through cost effective mitigation activities.
  - i. Objective 2.1—Modify existing structures to reduce damage from future natural hazard events.
  - ii. Objective 2.2—Perform cost effective flood hazard mitigation measures to protect private property.
  - iii. **Objective 2.3—Plan and implement mitigation measures to reduce repetitive impacts and costly responses**
- c. Goal 3—Educate and inform the Town's residents to help them become more resilient to natural hazards impacting the community **and aware of the impacts of degrading environment's natural hazard protection**
  - i. Objective 3.1—Utilize educational methods to change the perception from "disaster losses are acceptable" to "many disaster losses are preventable if mitigation practices are followed."
  - ii. Objective 3.2—provide educational opportunities across all age ranges.
  - iii. Objective 3.3—Develop and distribute public awareness materials regarding the relative risk of natural hazards and practical mitigation measures to reduce damages and injuries.
  - iv. **Objective 3.4—Provide additional mitigation educational opportunities for property owners as part of pre-construction review, code enforcement, and approval process**
- d. Goal 4—Address the challenges of natural resource degradation and the associated increased risk from hazards.
  - i. Objective 4.1—Ensure development in hazard areas does not destroy natural barriers to damage, such as floodplains and vegetation.

- ii. Objective 4.2—Protect or recreate environmental assets to help safeguard the built environment.
- iii. **Objective 4.3—Identify opportunities to promote recreation and conservation initiatives due to co-benefits with hazard mitigation**
- e. Goal 5—Protect emergency services, critical facilities, and other critical capabilities from hazard damage in order for them to remain operational.
  - i. Objective 5.1—Identify critical facilities, infrastructure, and emergency services and their vulnerabilities to natural hazards.
  - ii. Objective 5.2— Develop and implement programs to promote hazard mitigation actions that protect the provision of emergency services in Town.
  - iii. Objective 5.3—Identify, maintain, and protect evacuation routes from hazard damage so they are usable when needed
  - iv. **Objective 5.4—Promote a resilience mindset in all town departments through additional staff education and collaboration with private sector**

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The goals were reviewed for potential changes. Strike out items were deleted, bold are new objectives and language

- 5. Homework and next meeting date
  - a. Focus of next meeting will be on selecting new mitigation actions and prioritizing them and conducting a simple benefit cost analysis
  - b. Please brainstorm mitigation projects that you would like to see included in the plan
  - c. Next meeting is scheduled for May 11th from 2-4pm at Amherst Fire