Williamstown, Massachusetts

Community Resilience Building Workshop
Summary of Findings

JUNE 30, 2018

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Town of Williamstown

Community Resilience Building Workshop

Summary of Findings

June 30, 2018

1. Community Resilience-Building Process Overview

The need for municipalities to increase resilience and adapt to extreme weather events and natural hazards is becoming more evident among the 32 municipalities in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. In the recent past Williamstown, a town with the some of the highest elevations in the Berkshires and ample water resources, has experienced flooding due to heavy rains and ice jams along steep, fast running streams, endured prolonged power outages during severe winter snow and ice storms, experienced drought that has negatively impacted local farmers and increased the risk of forest fire, as well as incurred damages due to high winds blowing across the region's mountainous terrain. It is generally acknowledged here that climate change is a reality and will continue to make its presence felt in the future. Regional climate data for western Massachusetts further reinforces this anecdotal evidence.

Williamstown, located in the northwesternmost corner of Berkshire County, has a population of approximately 7,835 (U.S. Census, 2017 estimate) residents, an estimated 2,000 of whom are students at Williams College. The Town encompasses 46.86 square miles and sits in the fertile valleys of the Hoosic River and its major tributary, the Green River, plus two minor tributaries and multiple streams, ponds and wetlands. The community is surrounded by mountains – the Green Mountains of Vermont to the north, the Taconics to the west forming the border with

New York State and to the southeast, the Mount Greylock complex and its state-owned Reservation lands. The views from all points in town are dominated by forested mountains, fast moving streams, and open farmland, still actively used for dairy farming, hay and food crop production. The central business district includes Town Hall, Milne Library, the Elementary School, many retail shops, hotels and inns, plus the Williams College campus and the Clark Art Institute – together, forming the heart of the community.

The topography of Williamstown is one of the steepest in the Commonwealth (USGS data.) The overall vertical slope drops from 3,174 feet near the summit of Mt. Greylock (the actual summit at 3,491 feet is in Adams) to 594 feet in the Hoosic River Valley. These slopes are largely undevelopable because of their steepness and lack of stable soils. Residential and commercial development and transportation networks have historically been sandwiched into the valleys, which are relatively narrow. Other locations in the river valleys are wet, containing very heavy clay soils. These mixed conditions present major problems for flooding and sewage disposal for the community. A sewer system serves the central business district and has been extended to serve certain outlying areas, along Route 7 South to the high school. Some properties not served by municipal sewer must be fitted with oversize leach fields or artificial dry wells for septic treatment. The Hoosic River, running in a northwesterly direction through the northern section of town, provides a natural in-town greenway. Williamstown, along with the neighboring City of North Adams and Town of Clarksburg, have formed the Hoosic River Water Quality District (HWQD) and share a sewage treatment plant situated on the river in the northern part of Williamstown.

Flood plain areas exist along the Hoosic and Green Rivers and along the lower reaches of Broad, Hopper, Hemlock, and Buxton Brooks. The 100-year flood plain covers an area of 1,091 acres, or 3.6% of the town. Of this, 138 acres of floodplain are developed, which is 12.7% of the floodplain.

The population of Williamstown, apart from the college population, is showing a steadily-aging trend. The 2010 U.S. Census data shows decreasing percentages of people in the under 18 cohort, with a concomitant increase in the older adult age categories. By 2030, only 12 years from now, 60% of the population of Williamstown is expected to be age 50 or older. This trend is occurring across Berkshire County, and indeed the Commonwealth as a whole. The aging population brings with it added vulnerability for the Town, in terms of preparedness and response to weather and other natural hazard emergencies.

Changing weather patterns, repeated flooding and its aftermaths and the shift in Williamstown's population toward older, vulnerable residents - including a mix of seasonal visitors - has prompted the Town's leadership to take a proactive approach to assessing their vulnerability to severe weather and other natural hazards that have impacted the Town in the past and could impact the Town again in the future, if measures as not taken to address them.

During the winter of 2017, the Town of Williamstown began a joint planning process to update its expired Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (with funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency) and to develop a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan, (funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs). The Town formed a Hazard Mitigation / Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Committee to steer the process. Members of the Committee include municipal department heads and representatives from various town boards and committees from several disciplines, along with representatives of key community stakeholders such as Williams College, the Greylock Regional School District, Clark Art Institute and businesses. The Town retained the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, a M'VP Provider, to aid them in developing the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan and the MVP Plan. The goal of the Committee's work was to develop a set of Actions for addressing Priority Hazards, using the Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop process and methodology as a key stakeholder tool. Approval of the plan by EOEEA will enable the Town to become eligible to apply for funding to implement the various preparedness measures identified through the CRB process.

Figs. 1-3. Workshop Participants Hard at Work

The Committee held a series of meetings to assemble data on the Town's infrastructure, identify known hazards to residents, including seasonal visitors, and review existing plans, procedures, bylaws and protections already in place. In addition, one-on-one interviews were conducted with key Town personnel and some of the main stakeholders identified by the committee, such as the Dept. of Public Works, Greylock Regional School District and the Council on Aging. The responses and collective wisdom received were used to guide Committee meeting discussions and mapping activities.

On May 21, 2018 an all-day Community Resilience-Building Workshop, attended by twenty-seven town officials, residents and other stakeholders, was held at the Milne Public Library. The central objective of the workshop was to first review regional weather events from the past and

climate change data and projections, then collect local data from attendees, and create a climate-related Natural Hazard Risk Matrix for the Town, including a written Summary Report that:

1. Defined the top natural and climate-related hazards in Williamstown
2. Identified existing or future strengths and vulnerabilities
3. Developed Prioritized Actions for Town departments to take, working with the broader stakeholder network and
4. Identified opportunities to collaboratively advance actions to increase resilience and reduce risk to persons, property and the natural environment, both now and in the future

On Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. the Town of Williamstown invited the public to an Information & Listening session at Town Hall, to display the results from the May 21st workshop and togain additional knowledge and insight. Residents had the opportunity to make comments and ask questions about the findings. The attendees were asked to confirm by sticker-vote, which of the prioritized actions on the completed Risk Matrices and mapped areas of concern, were the most important to them. Their votes are shown on the Master Matrix with asterisks (***), with each asterisk representing one vote. These additional votes and comments from residents will help to inform the strategies that the Committee and the Town of Williamstown adopt over the coming year.

2. Top Hazards and Vulnerable Areas of Concern

(a) Top Hazards

During the Community Resilience Building Workshop held on May 21, 2018, participants were asked to name the top natural hazards to the Town as identified by the MVP Advisory Committee in previous meetings and interviews. A summary of the discussion around identified hazards was as follows:

Top Four Hazards:

- Flooding from Rivers and streams (listed at each of the 3 tables)
- Snow/Ice (listed at 3 tables)
- Drought (listed at 2 tables)
- Fire (listed at 1 table)
- Wind (listed at 1 table)
- Severe Weather (listed at 1 table)
- Power Outage (listed at 1 table)

(b) Vulnerable Areas

Infrastructure: Bridges, Culverts, Water/Sewer Piping, Roads and Railroad all around Town, but especially in the central and northeast quadrants on the Hoosic and Green River watersheds (*See Critical Facilities and Floodplain Comparison Maps,* Appendix A.)

Shelter: No long-term shelter facility (Elementary or High School)

Neighborhoods: Residential homes in the floodplain including Colonial Village White Oak, N. Hoosic and Sand Springs Road (*See Floodplain Comparison Map*, Appendix A.)

Vulnerable Populations: Throughout Town - Elders/Medically Vulnerable, Seasonal and Transient Populations

Environmental Integrity: Throughout town – Forest Management and tree replanting plan; river and stream bank erosion; surface water quality impairment

3. Current Concerns & Challenges Presented by Hazards

Flooding of Infrastructure especially the Bridges, culverts, roads, water/sewer piping, Pan Am Rail line and residential homes in the central and northeastern parts of Town, was at the top of the list in all three Workshop groups. In recent memory, those areas have experienced repeated storm impacts during severe rain storms or after prolonged freezing and thawing temperatures caused ice jams and overflows.

After the memorable 2011 flooding caused by Tropical Storm Irene wiped out an entire 250-person mobile home park called The Spruces, flooding from severe storms has been "top of mind" for Williamstown residents. Repeated flooding of homes due to ice jams and heavy rain in the White Oaks, North Hoosic and Colonial Village neighborhoods continues to be a problem. Those neighborhoods are in the delineated FEMA 100-year flood plain, but other areas directly adjacent experience constant damp conditions or seepage/flooding in their basements, as well. In the downtown area, along Water Street as well as at Meacham and Latham Streets, repeated flooding of commercial properties has also occurred along Christmas Brook and other tributaries.

Culverts and bridge abutments have been clogged and damaged by ice and cobbles moving downstream with the floodwaters. The structural support of the 48" subterranean sewer interceptor pipe along the Green and Hoosic Rivers has been seriously undermined by river scouring during recent storm flows. The steep slopes along Sloan Road and at Scott Hill and Stone Hill Roads are newer areas of flood hazard concern.

Severe bank erosion has occurred along many of Williamstown's rivers and streams, causing acreage, crop and vegetative losses. Water quality in multiple water bodies has been negatively impacted by increased turbidity, sedimentation and increased water temperatures – all threats to aquatic life (*See Environmental Concerns map, Appendix A.)*

Another noteworthy concern is the constant action of beavers throughout Williamstown's many pond and wetlands, that has caused the railroad tracks along Bridges Pond and nearby roads to washout or become undermined, with little warning.

The economic impacts of flooding have not been fully assessed during this process. However, debris that washes downstream after a flood has required intensive cleanup efforts, by both the DPW, hired contractors and the utility companies, often taking days or weeks to complete and adding to the overall flood burden.

Power Outage often accompanies storm events throughout the year. The higher elevations in the Town exposes it to the impact of frequent High Winds, often part of heavy rain, snow and ice storm events. Electrical infrastructure in Williamstown is largely exposed to the elements, making it vulnerable to falling trees, branches or coatings with ice. The threat of prolonged power outage, particularly during more frequent winter freezes, is a growing concern. While some residents are prepared with backup heat sources and generators, most others have to make other arrangements on their own. Town Hall as well as a few other locations, have backup generators for short-term warming or cooling, but currently, Williamstown lacks a location with longer-term Sheltering capability.

Drought is seen as a threat, even in this Town of ample surface and ground water resources. Weather pattern changes bringing extreme temperatures and variable precipitation are likely to increase, according to MA Climate Change Projections. While Williamstown's aquifer is judged to be ample and many deep wells supply public water in much of the Town, there are neighborhoods that are still served by private wells. Workshop participants say some wells are dug rather than drilled, and therefore, quite shallow. Shallow wells in flood-prone areas may be more easily contaminated by storm water, hazardous spill or septic system failure, while those in upland areas are more prone drying up, during periods of drought. In the recent summer droughts of 2016 and 2017, farmers experienced some drying up of wells and crop loss to the extent that they had to import hay to feed their livestock. There is presently no procedure in place to provide a backup water supply to farmers nor homeowners on well water, in the event of drought, flood or other contamination.

Williamstown is a historic community surrounded by a heavily forested terrain, with an aging tree cover, including the central business district. Some of the forested properties adjacent to downtown or in nearby neighborhoods are owned/managed by the Commonwealth, or by institutions and private owners, presenting a challenge for effective monitoring and management. The threat of Forest Fire, particularly in periods of drought that could quickly spread to nearby properties, is another area of concern. The need for a Forest Management Program - important for the overall health of the ecosystem – was identified as an important need. Removal of downed trees, controlled burning, control of increasingly-serious infestations by a variety of insects and an ongoing limb- management program to keep roads free of downed branches, were mentioned as areas requiring attention by MVP Workshop attendees. Regular replacement/replanting of aging trees should be integrated into the forest management program, as well.

(a) Specific Categories of Concerns & Challenges

Vulnerable Infrastructure and Utilities

Bridges and Culverts: The high number of stream-crossing bridges and culverts town-wide present a constant set of challenges to Williamstown's DPW. The steep slopes in town make for high velocity stream flows, under normal circumstances. But added volume from heavy downpours, sudden snow melt or severe ice jamming caused by prolonged freezing temperatures, has caused repeated damage to this infrastructure. Broad Brook has a steep, fast moving flow, that carries a lot of cobbles and sediment down from upland areas. The bridge crossing on Rte. 7 is nicknamed "The Boulder Field," because one can hear the boulders moving downstream during heavy flows, often hitting the piers of the bridge as they move. Even though the bridge was completely rebuilt in the early 2000's, today there is very little clearance underneath it. Bulldozers used for dredging and boulder removal can no longer fit underneath it. During Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, floodwaters reached the underside of the bridge.

Smaller culverts too, present similar challenges throughout town. Often multiple culverts along the same stream will become clogged and flood nearby roads, wiping out riverbanks along their paths. The Town regularly cleans out culverts and repairs the banks, only to have the cycle repeat itself later. Such was the case with a memorable rainstorm in May, 2013 at Petersburg & Northwest Hill Rds., pictured here:

Fig. 4. Flooding from Rain Storm 2013

Capacity of Town Water & Sewer: The Town-supplied water system is limited to areas in and around downtown. All other residents and community buildings (including Mount Greylock High School), are reliant on on-site wells. Some of the private wells are shallow wells located both in flood hazard areas, north of downtown and in the farming areas on town edges.

The wastewater treatment plant has difficulty processing sewage during certain high flow periods. Such periods also cause difficulty for stormwater infrastructure although that is currently being addressed in the downtown area by Williams College. Portable back-up generators for various sewer pumps and the three main water pumps that provide potable water service to town are available, but permanent backup generation would be preferable. Other sewer infrastructure issues include the two sewer interceptors that run along the banks of the Green and Hoosic River. These have been periodically undermined by erosion in the past and

require careful monitoring and repairs. The 48" main on the Hoosic is of particular concern as the line carries all wastewater from the City of North Adams to the Hoosic Water Quality District Plant.

Vulnerability of Railroad Tracks: The Pan Am Railroad line that runs in a northwesterly direction along the Hoosic is being undermined by flooding, some due to beaver activity on Bridges Pond. Historically, there has been little if any, regular engagement with the owner/operators of railroad, which carries, among other things, known hazardous materials to area industries. Lack of regular track maintenance was a noted concern, as was the rail owner's reluctance to share their hazard response procedures or plans with the first-responder community.

Vulnerability of Electric and Telephone infrastructure: The mountainous terrain in Berkshire County and the relatively low population (and demand) have left residents with a "spotty" mix of cell and landline phone service and an incomplete broadband network in some areas. In severe weather, cell service is often incapacitated. Electrical infrastructure, particularly power lines, are exposed to the elements. This has direct implications for emergency management and town-wide communications. The need to establish redundancy, or alternate means to "get the word out" is a clear vulnerability for Williamstown.

Lack of Shelter: While many critical Town-owned facilities have backup power generators, and some have been used as short-term heating/cooling shelters in the recent past, currently there is no long-term emergency shelter in Williamstown. Both the Elementary and High Schools have been considered for such a facility. After the need to evacuate 250 people arose suddenly during Tropical Storm Irene, this issue is of critical importance to Williamstown residents and stakeholders.

Limitations of Gravel Roads: Many parts of Williamstown are traversed by gravel roads, that run along and crisscross upland streams, especially on the outskirts of town. These roads present a hazard to residents, as they tend to washout with some frequency, as culverts become inundated with stones, debris and silt. The situation is further exacerbated during winter cycles of freezing and thawing, which often leave the road surface muddy and rutted and inaccessible to emergency vehicles.

Floodplain Neighborhood Flooding: At present, there are 156 buildings in Williamstown that are located within the 100-yr floodplain (utilizing MassGIS floodplain data), including some historic structures. Of those, 139 are residential homes, many in the northern part of town along the Green River, Hemlock, Buxton and Broad Brooks (Source: BRPC.) According to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) data, there have been only 24 flood insurance claims in town between 1978-2017, totaling $153,000, and no repetitive loss claims during that same period. This same data indicates that only 67 properties have active flood insurance policies, with total coverage equal to $12,000,000. According to the HAZUS flood model, which estimates the potential damages to residential properties (including contents) located in the FIRM 100-year flood area, up to $48 million dollars in damages could occur during

a 100-year flood event. In addition, the need to evacuate those affected residents would require Williamstown to shelter an estimated 600 people.

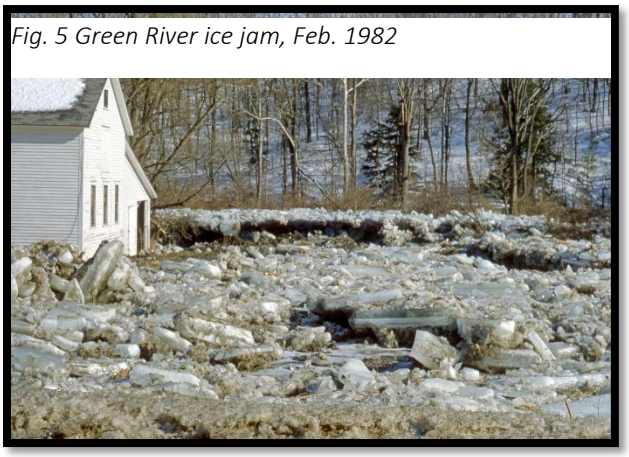

Fig. 5 Green River ice jam, Feb. 1982

The northeastern part of Williamstown, particularly in the White Oaks neighborhood on Sands Springs Road, presents the most immediate flood risk, due to the high velocity and close proximity of Broad Brook during flood events.

In January, 2018 ice jams on Broad Brook stranded 40 workers at Steinerfilm, Inc., who had to be evacuated using a surplus Army truck, when over five feet of water blocked the road to their building. Not only were yards and basements inundated in this jam, but automobiles were set afloat in the waters. The Fire Department was called upon to pump out basements afterwards – a service not normally part of their emergency response regime. Also, this winter, ice jams occurred on Water Street at a meander upstream of Cable Mills. A contractor with a bulldozer had to be hired to free the jam, allowing the floodwaters to return to their normal channel.

When severe weather effectively shuts down the entire town, the negative economic impacts to businesses is measurable. According to the latest HAZUS data and modeling for Williamstown, potential damages to commercial and industrial properties located in FIRM areas from a 100-year flood, including contents, is estimated at over $72 million. The value for business interruption would amount to over $300,000 and up, depending on duration.

Since most residents and businesses do not own flood insurance and many have been affected by flood events, both in the past and more recently, building resilience and mitigating natural hazards to the extent possible, is of paramount importance.

Vulnerable Societal Issues

Vulnerable Populations: Apart from the Williams College student body, Williamstown's resident population is 'aging', creating a potentially more difficult challenge to emergency management. Prolonged power outage or flooding often brings health impacts, especially for the medically vulnerable, of any age. Some of the more populous and popular sections of town happen to be in the floodplain. Aside from older adults, young school children, persons living in private nursing or rehab facilities, and those living in group housing in town, also require special consideration when crafting a Municipal Vulnerability Plan.

Community-Wide Communications: Williamstown is a cultural destination, home to the Berkshire Theater Festival and the Clark Art Institute and other attractions. And as the home of

Williams College, it is an academic hub, as well as an attractive retirement community, especially for faculty. As such, there is a large seasonal population, including students, parents, second homeowners, theater and arts-loving tourists, hikers and campers. While Williams College is largely self-contained, having their own emergency plans for the academic community, other visitors would, naturally, be largely unaware of how to seek shelter, or whom to call, in case of a sudden natural hazard emergency. Coordination between and among the Town, its residents, second homeowners, the College and other private institutions, students, parents, seasonal campers, the tourist hotel and property rental community, presents another important challenge for Williamstown's natural hazard response and sheltering strategy.

Inadequate Volunteer & First Responder Staff: A related effect of the aging of the population is a growing shortage of volunteers for both the Fire Department and Ambulance services in Williamstown and the rest of Berkshire County. Because the total population of the county numbers only about 126,300, (US Census 2017 projected population) it has been difficult to retain medical doctors and specialists in the region. With the closing of the hospital in neighboring North Adams some years ago, there is currently no full-service critical-care facility located in or near Williamstown. All these factors will be considered when crafting the Williamstown Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Vulnerable Environmental Issues

Williamstown's historic nickname of "the Village Beautiful" is still applicable today. The beauty of this lush, mountainous region with abundant water resources and wildlife, makes it ideal for any type of outdoor recreation and enjoyment, all year 'round. But changing weather patterns have created challenges for the Town's natural assets, which many believe are directly attributable to climate change.

Degraded Water Quality: The town's abundant streams, ponds and wetlands are showing signs of degradation in water quality. Heavy precipitation, increased temperature and bank erosion translate into increasing turbidity and sediment deposition that together, decreases overall hydrologic and biologic functioning. The long-term effects of these changes on the flora and fauna of the region, remains to be seen.

Negative impacts to Farm Production: Raising livestock and growing crops has become less economically viable and productive, due to changes in precipitation patterns, higher temperatures and drought. Some irrigation wells that also water livestock, have dried up, necessitating a change away from livestock production, to less water-intensive uses. Hay, normally grown for feed, often has to be trucked in from out of the region. Bank erosion has meant a loss of overall acreage, trees and other vegetative losses.

Need for Forest Management: Williamstown is surrounded by forest, which could provide ample fuel for forest fire, especially during drought periods. Forest tree species including ash, maple and oak trees, have a long lifespan. But, aging tree cover is prone to a variety of ills, including insect infestation, such as the emerald ash borer and the wooly adelgid– both of which have

been a growing threat in the region. In recent years, Williamstown's urban tree cover is showing signs of aging out – with both limbs and whole trees coming down during storm events. The need for a forest management plan, including greater species diversity and a reforestation scheme, were raised as important concerns to the overall health of the forest and town center ecosystems.

4. Current Strengths & Assets in Williamstown

Because of Williamstown's historic and recent experiences with extreme weather, the Town and CRB Workshop participants are aware of the existing strengths within the community. Reinforcing and expanding these assets, policies and supportive practices, will generate greater benefits to the entire community through increased resiliency to future storms of greater frequency and intensity, or when faced with long-term changes in precipitation and temperature levels.

Infrastructure Strengths

- Water supply pumps and wellheads are protected
- Public water aquifer is extensive, and system has additional capacity to extend to new users
- Williams College is installing extensive new storm water system in downtown (Christmas Brook)

Societal Strengths

- Community is proactive, cohesive and generally supportive of protection and enhancement efforts for benefit of all
- Mutual Aid during emergencies between Towns in region is excellent
- Williams College has its own evacuation plan
- Nursing & rehab facilities are self-contained and have backup power
- COA maintains list of "vulnerable" seniors and has an outreach program to reach them; Senior Center is cooling/warming place
- Town has storm water bylaw, requiring on-site storage already
- Town has a functional Code Red system that can be enhanced/broadened
- Local Emergency Preparedness Committees are active in ongoing training of first responders

Environmental Strengths

- The Spruces Site Reuse Committee is actively working on a plan appropriate to floodplain location
- Extensive forest cover has cooling effect and provides rich habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species
- Aquifer is extensive, and water is of good quality

5. Top Recommendations to Improve Resilience to Hazards in Williamstown

By focusing on multiple storm events and their impacts on infrastructure, business facilities and operations, neighborhoods and residents, CRB Workshop attendees gained greater clarity on what lessons were learned from those experiences. More importantly, they gained insight into

Fig. 6 Top Priorities from the Workshop

what procedures need to be improved, to make emergency preparedness and response, part of the fabric of the community. It was generally agreed that no single Town department had the resources to do all the strategic planning and implementation that is required. Attendees felt strongly that all community members needed to "take ownership" of emergency preparedness and response to hazards and that it was "doable" in this forward-thinking, tight-knit community.

Infrastructure

- Create a prioritized list of Bridges, Culverts, Pipes and Roads
- Seek grant funding for repair/replacement of infrastructure (as above) is a first order recommendation for this area of concern.
- Ongoing beaver monitoring and track maintenance to prevent flooding of tracks
- Study the expansion of the public water and sewer systems to serve those areas currently using private wells and septic systems in flood hazard zones identified.

Education & Public Outreach

- Educate the public about emergency procedures and emergency services, access to critical resources - like food and potable water supply, medical services, fuel, and identifying the locations with backup generators for short-term shelter and shared use, should be made widely available.

- Research and educate homeowners and businesses on flood water storage best management practices, low-impact development tactics, integrated with the Public Education & Outreach about storm and natural hazards generally, is a recommendation.
- Town wide communication through a variety of means and creating a backup communication system for when cell phones or power is out
- Conduct outreach on how to sign up for Code Red and encourage enrollment in this and other emergency notification systems
- Outreach to residents for how to "Shelter in place" including creating a home emergency kit, and where to go to find a cooling or warming shelter for the day, was deemed important. Evacuation routes and the locations of regional shelters should also be made more generally known. Holding multiple public forums and creating targeted educational campaign(s) to 'multiple publics' in Williamstown - including to tourist sites, hotels and inns, second homeowners, campsites and to rental property owners, etc., also needed to be developed an integrated into the overall Shelter Strategy.

Sheltering

- Develop an overall Shelter Strategy both for short and long-term needs was identified as one of the top recommendations to increase resilience in Williamstown. While some of the critical facilities in Town have a backup generators and can provide short-term, small-scale shelter for a few, there is currently no "full" shelter for larger populations and for a longer stay, in Williamstown.
- Make required upgrades to the Elementary School to serve as an adequate long-term shelter facility.

Workshop Top Priority Recommendations for Williamstown From Matrices

Highest Priorities

- Develop an overall Shelter Strategy; consider school buildings for sites
- Develop a prioritized list of critical infrastructure, including bridges, culverts, pipelines, that need evaluation/improvement/replacement including specific sites identified at Workshop
- Seek grant funding to replace or expand infrastructure
- Establish a system to monitor beaver activity to prevent flooding at Railroad/other locations
- Establish public information/outreach/education program on issues and procedures, including voluntary sign up for Code Red, sheltering, preparedness, evacuation procedures, etc.
- Adopt, educate, assist and enforce use of flood mitigations methods/strategies for property owners in flood prone areas
- Study extension of public water system to areas on well water
- Update Town-wide All Hazards Plan

Moderate Priorities

- Expand Council on Aging resources for growing elder population
- Advocate for protecting vulnerable electrical grid

- Assign Select Board members as community liaisons to transient community
- Create short-term warming and cooling sites w/backup generators at Elementary school and Senior Ctr.
- Agricultural Committee to research/educate farmers on resources
- Encourage volunteerism and create incentives, especially for Fire District
- Investigate enlarging storm sewer system in Colonial village/other locations
- Engage and coordinate with Railroad owner/operator for hazardous spills response procedures
- Broad Brook cobbles – maintain as needed work with Fed./state agencies on permitting
- Gravel roads – maintain and enlarge drainage as needed
- Urban tree cover – proactively seek financial resources for new trees

Lower Priorities

- Assess condition of bridges at stream crossings impacted by ice/cobbles (Rte. 7 and Cole, etc.)
- Flooding at Colonial Village
- Promote Forest Management plan for invasive insects, downed timber and replanting pro
- Land subsidence on Scott Road – assess conditions/control water uphill of site
- Hoosic Water Quality District monitoring - assess sewer treatment plant capacity and low flow
- Work with utilities to assess vulnerable power lines for relocation underground
- Investigate feasibility of extending water system to northeast section of town
- Educate residents to prep for drought – conservation measures; use of drought tolerant lawn and plants; identify resources
- Make residents aware of presence of geologic fault line; include in emergency preparedness literature and public education program

6. CRB Workshop Invitees / Attendees* with Affiliations

Below is a list of Williamstown stakeholders that were invited to participate in the CRB Workshop. This with an asterisk, (*) are those who attended the Workshop.

Name	Affiliation	Attendee*
Brian O'Grady	Director, Council on Aging	*
Mike Ziemba	Williamstown Police Dept.	
Steve McMahon	Housatonic Valley Assn	*
Mike Evans	Zilkha Center for the Environment, Williams College	*
Bill Power	The Clark Art Institute	*
Dave Fitzgerald	Williams College	
Carrie Gagne	Williams College	
Jane Allen	Former School Principal & Select Board Mbr.	

Fred Puddester	Williams College	
Mike St.Pierre	The Buxton School	
Matt Noyes	The Clark Art Institute	*
Tammy Andrews	Director, Williamstown Housing Authority	
S Leblanc	Sweetbrook Berkshires Rehab & Nursing	
Pam Weatherby	Williamstown Rural Lands Fdtn. & Author, *Flora of the Berkshires*	
Allen Hall	Business Owner/Youth sports	
Tom Sheldon	Select Board	
Sue Wells	Pine Cobble School	
Amy Jeschawitz	Planning Board	*
Jeff Kennedy	Board of Health	*
Sue Briggs	Chamber of Commerce	*
Sue Hamblin	Williamstown Community Pre-school	
Jason Hoch	Town Administrator	*
Joelle Brookner	Elementary School	*
Kim Grady	Superintendent of School Distr	*
Tim Kaiser	DPW	*
Brad Furlon	Hoosic Water Quality District	
Carin DeMayo-Wall	BonnyLea Farm	*
Jim Kolesar	President's Office, Williams College	*
Todd Cairns	Williamstown Common Nursing & Rehabilitation (Berkshire Health Systems)	*
Frank Pekarski	Mgr. Safety & Enviro Compliance Williams College Facilities Dept.	*
Andrew Groff	Director, Planning & Community Develop't	*
Stephanie Boyd	Director, Zilkha Center for the Environment at Williams College & Planning Board	*
Sarah Gardner	Williamstown Agricultural Commission	*
Craig Pedercini	Chief, Fire Dept.	*
Kyle Johnson	Williamstown Police Dept.	*
Laurence Stevens	Hoosic River Watershed Assn.	*
David Dethier	Williams College	*
Alexander Carlisle	Planning Board	*
Susan Abrams	COOL (Lowering Co2) Committee/Williams College	*
Mark Longhurst	Pastor, First Church of Williamstown	

Ryan Contenta	Building Commissioner	*
Rob Wnuk	Facilities, Mt. Greylock Reg'l School District	*
Lauren Gaherty	Senior Planner, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (MVP Provider/Workshop Facilitator)	*
Margaret McDonough	Planner, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (MVP Provider/Team Leader)	*
Mark Maloy	GIS, Data & IT Specialist, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (Team Leader)	*
Will Sikula	Planner, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (Team Leader)	*

Williamstown Hazard Mitigation / MVP Committee

Name/Title	Williamstown Title or Other Affiliation
Andrew Groff	Director, Planning & Community Development Department; Project Team Leader
Craig Pedercini	Chief, Fire Department
Jason Hoch	Town Administrator; Workshop Project Team
Henry Art	Williams College
Amy Jaschawitz	Planning Board
Timothy Kaiser	DPW
Kyle Johnson	Police Dept.
Jeff Kennedy	Board of Health Inspector
Matthew Noyes	Clark Art Institute
Tony King	Clark Art Institute
Brian O'Grady	Director, Council on Aging
Joelle Brookner	Principal, Williamstown Elementary
Sue Briggs	Chamber of Commerce
Bill Powers	Clark Art Institute
Jim Kolesar	President's Office, Williams College
Kim Grady	Supt., Mt. Greylock School District

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8. Citation

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Appendix A – Workshop Materials

Appendix B – Public Listening Session Materials