

Town of Belmont

HMP Meeting

November 18, 2019

This meeting started at 1:00pm at the Corner Meeting House, and ended at 3:30pm. In attendance was Fire Chief and EMD Michael Newhall, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Fire Administrative Assistant Sarah Weeks, Police Sergeant Evan Boulanger, Public Works Director Craig Clairmont, Town Planner Dari Sassan, Assistant Town Administrator Alicia Jipson, Selectman Ruth Mooney, HSEM Representative Kayla Henderson, HSEM Representative Erin Driscoll, HSEM Representative Alexandre Monastiero, HSEM Representative Julia Chase, and LRPC Susan Slack.

This meeting was held to review critical facilities and the natural hazards map, to address human-caused and technological hazards, and to review the 2014 mitigation actions

Susan Slack presented the Potential Hazards Map for the panel to review. Once the review of the map was completed, the Status of Mitigation Actions from the 2014 Belmont Hazard Mitigation Plan was reviewed and updated.

The following is the Status of Mitigation Actions from the 2014 Belmont Hazard Mitigation Plan including the updates made from this meeting:

	Mitigation Action	Status 2019	Effective- ness	Comment
1	Carry out a culvert maintenance program, ensuring that debris is cleared. This reduces the number of washouts along roads.	Deferred	Good	This program is ever ongoing. Most culverts are privately owned, but there are some driveway culverts that the town needs to clear out due to their situation. Notice is put in the town newsletter almost every month to remind residents to clear them out. Craig will be getting a fulltime admin to assist with data for this.
2	Encourage residents and businesses to install and maintain lightning rods, reducing the likelihood of damage to property and loss of life due to fire.	Deferred	Untested	Not high on the priority list. Not sure if it will actually get done due to being on the lower end of the priority list. Possibly combine with #6
3	Establish Job Summary/Policy of Public Information Officer to develop public education and outreach efforts and to handle contact with the media.	Completed	Good	Rich Mann of the PD, Mike Newhall of the FD, Jeanne Beaudin of Town Hall
4	Include a recommendation in the Master Plan to maintain a Hazard Mitigation Plan.	Deferred	Untested	2002 master plan has not been updated yet.

5	Include in the plan submission sections of both site plan and subdivision regulations a reference to the HazMit Plan, and require the applicant to articulate how the proposal complies with the standards of the plan and achieves a “no adverse impact” status as it relates to emergency situations. This is intended to ensure that the town emergency services can continue to maintain protection for existing development, in addition to any new development.	Deferred	Poor	Brown Water Protection Plan – Check wording to see if this is included in this plan. We could bring up to the Planning Board new updated regulations. Site plan regulations recently updated within the last few years (2018?). Needs work and rewording.
6	Develop a series of Fact Sheets for distribution to residents and town officials indicating the appropriate steps for homeowners and business owners to take to reduce their risk of exposure to hazards, including Ice Storms, High Winds, Drought, Lightning, Earthquake, Radon, and Epidemic, as well as providing sources of information and contacts in the community.	Completed	good	We use what the State of New Hampshire provides us to distribute to the residents. We also get handouts from Primex that we put out for public distribution. Maybe change wording for distributing, not building.
ID	Recommended Actions			
7	Compile additional mapping data in GIS format (Gas Lines, Critical Facilities, PSNH/NHEC Lines, etc.)	Deferred	Untested	We do not have the capability. Rick Ball does use GIS, but it has not been developed on our end. Compile new layers as they appear on granite.
8	Develop good fire ordinance to reduce the spread of fire and loss of life and property.	Deferred	Good	Fireworks, Sprinkler and Fire alarm ordinances have been put in place. This is ever changing due to new codes coming forward
9	Develop a Salt Application Plan for municipal roads within the Aquifer District. A prevention plan may reduce the need for a cleanup of the aquifer system.	Deferred	Untested	No salt application plan.
10	Work with appropriate state agencies to ensure that dam inspections occur regularly. Without regular NH DES inspections, required maintenance may not occur, potentially leading to compromised structural integrity.	Deleted	Good	Completed - Sargent Lake is the only one remaining. This is a high hazard dam. The town does not own this. It is privately owned. The private party has a vested interest in keeping this plan going.

11	Adopt stormwater management regulations that are separate from both subdivision and site plan regulations that will allow regulation of land disturbance that does not trigger either.			Dari will get back to us on this. – We are not an MS4 community.
12	Cut back trees on a regular basis so that roads will be less likely to be blocked and power lines taken down by falling limbs.	Completed	Good	Ongoing, but going very well.
13	Updates to the Master Plan Land Use chapter should incorporate a review of emergency situation probability/service availability.	Deferred	Untested	Incomplete
14	Upgrade the culvert under Hoadley Road (Tioga R.) to bridge to better accommodate flows (per NH DES requirement).	Completed	Good	
ID	Recommended Actions			
15	Improve drainage along Union Road near Juniper Drive to reduce the likelihood that water will overtop the road.	Deferred	Untested	Incomplete. Craig is unaware of what the plan is for this.
16	Work with State Floodplain Manager and other partners to encourage FEMA to update and digitize the 1976 Flood Hazard Boundary maps.	Deferred	good	Winnipeasukee Watershed Update process that has been begun. We can get info on that from OSI. Rick coordinates that effort on behalf of the Town. We will leave this on.
17	Work with NH DES Dam Bureau, NH Floodplain Manager, and other stakeholders to ensure that better communication and coordination occurs regarding water levels in Silver Lake.	completed	good	Very active resident that coordinates with the Dam Bureau when there are issues regarding the silver lake dam. This is ongoing
18	Maintain and expand early warning system, allowing people in town to seek appropriate shelter.	Deferred	good	PD does NIXL and FD is getting ready to use Code Red through 9-1-1. Currently in the process
19	Work with Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, ensure that shelters are in place and stocked in advance so that all who seek shelter there may be served.	completed	good	Remove stoked in advanced from wording. We work with Jon Beland.
20	Develop and maintain Mutual Aid networks, allowing for support from nearby communities for particular events	Completed	good	Ongoing. Mutual Aid with FD, PD and Public Works seems to be working with the departments. Public Works is not part of the mutual aid buy in. They do work with Laconia for vehicles. This is not

	without needing to maintain an excessively large staff.			currently a written agreement but there is talk about completing this.
21	Have sufficient equipment available to respond to a downburst event.	Completed	good	DPW equipment has been added to their fleet. This is ongoing. FD added a trailer.
22	Incorporate Hazard Mitigation Plan into Emergency Operations Plan	delete		Both should reference each other but they can't be incorporated in each.
23	Ensure that emergency vehicles are capable of handling the weather so that all residents might be reached in an emergency.	Completed	good	FD Onspots, FD winter tires, police vehicles upgraded.
24	Ensure that the proper equipment and training to handle a wildfire is available.	Completed	good	Forestry equipment upgraded. Just approved for grant moneys. Ongoing.
ID	Recommended Actions			
25	Develop evacuation plans, especially for high density areas and for those with limited mobility.	Delete		Never took place. This should be part of your emergency operations plans.
26	Ensure that the proper equipment and training is available to handle a mass casualty accident.	Deferred	good	Mutual Aid would be relied on for Fire and Police for mass casualty accidents. This is ongoing. We have received grants for EMS in the Warm Zone training for act of violence training. Currently working on another grant for the same. This is ongoing. The language needs to be changed to incorporate this. Maybe best practices for mass casualty situations? Developing training?
27	Ensure sufficient personnel, equipment and materials are available to meet future demands placed on municipal services resulting from increased growth. It is essential to maintain protection for existing development while planning for new development.	Deferred	Good	This is ongoing. We add personnel and equipment to increase with the growth of population. 3% growth of population every year for Belmont. We have kept up with the growth. The age adds more of a stress because of the aging.

Once the Status of Mitigation Actions from the 2014 Belmont Hazard Mitigation Plan was reviewed and updated, the 2014 Recommended Actions List was reviewed and updated.

The following is the 2014 Recommended Actions list with suggested updates for the current plan:

ID	Recommended Actions	Hazard Addressed	Goal	New/ Existing	Mitigation/ Preparedness	Type	Cost	Average STAPLEE Rank
1	Carry out a culvert maintenance program, ensuring that debris is cleared. This reduces the number of washouts along roads.	Flooding	II	Existing	Mitigation	Structure/ Infrastruct.	\$40,000/year	21
2	Encourage residents and businesses to install and maintain lightning rods, reducing the likelihood of damage to property and loss of life due to fire. (combine 2 with 6)	Lightning	IV	Existing	Mitigation	Structure/ Infrastruct.	5 hours staff time/year	21
3	Deleted							
4	Include a recommendation in the Master Plan to maintain a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Combine 4 and 5	All	V	Existing	Mitigation	Local Planning & Regulations	1 hour staff time	21
5	Include in the plan submission sections of both site plan and subdivision regulations a reference to the HazMit Plan, and require the applicant to articulate how the proposal complies with the standards of the plan and achieves a “no adverse impact” status as it relates to emergency situations. This is intended to ensure that the town emergency services can continue to maintain protection for existing development, in addition to any new development. Incorporate the goals of the hazard mitigation plan into the goals of the master plan and development plan.	All	IV	New	Mitigation	Local Planning & Regulations	8-16 hours staff time	21
6	Develop a series of Fact Sheets for distribution to residents and town officials indicating the appropriate steps for homeowners and business owners to take to reduce their risk of exposure to hazards, including Ice Storms, High Winds, Drought, Lightning, Earthquake, Radon, and Epidemic, as well as providing sources	All	I, IV	Existing	Mitigation	Education & Awareness	25 hours staff time	20

	of information and contacts in the community. Develop distribution of public information for the public regarding hazards. Removing lightning rods.							
ID	Recommended Actions	Hazard Addressed	Goal	New/ Existing	Mitigation/ Preparedness	Type	Cost	Average STAPLEE Rank
7	Establish additional mapping data in GIS format (Gas Lines, Critical Facilities, PSNH/NHEC Lines, water lines, sewer lines, etc.)	All	III	Existing	Mitigation	Local Planning & Regulations	40 – 80 hours staff time	20
8	Develop good fire ordinance to reduce the spread of fire and loss of life and property.	Fire	I, IV	Existing	Mitigation	Local Planning & Regulations	16 - 24 hours staff time	18
9	Deleted							
10	Deleted							
11	Adopt stormwater management regulations that are separate from both subdivision and site plan regulations that will allow regulation of land disturbance that does not trigger either.	Flooding	IV, VII	New	Mitigation	Local Planning & Regulations	32 – 40 hours staff time	17
12	Cut back trees on a regular basis so that roads will be less likely to be blocked and power lines taken down by falling limbs.	High Wind & Severe Winter (Ice Storm)	II, III	Existing	Mitigation	Structure/ Infrastruct.	80 – 120 hours staff time + subcontracting costs (\$0	16

							- \$10,000)	
13	Delete							
14	Upgrade the culvert on Church Street due to deterioration due to the water flow of the river. (amount and speed of the water has changed)	Flooding		Existing	Mitigation			
ID	Recommended Actions	Hazard Addressed	Goal	New/ Existing	Mitigation/ Preparedness	Type	Cost	Average STAPLEE Rank
15	Delete							
16	Work with State Floodplain Manager and other partners to encourage FEMA to update and digitize the 1976 Flood Hazard Boundary maps.	Flooding	II, IV	New	Mitigation	Local Planning & Regulations	20 hours staff time	*
17	Delete							
18	Maintain and expand early warning system	All	I	Existing	Preparedness	n/a	25 hours staff time + incidental costs	21
19	Work with Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, ensure that adequate shelters are in place and maintained stocked in advance so that all who seek shelter there may be served.	All	III	Existing	Preparedness	n/a	\$50,000 - \$100,000 initial costs, \$5,000 - annual maintenance	21
20	Delete							
21	Delete							

22	Deleted							
23	Deleted							
24	Ensure that the proper equipment and training to handle a wildfire is available.	Fire	III	Existing	Preparedness	n/a	\$100,000 - \$250,000 + 100 - 150 hours staff time	20
ID	Recommended Actions	Hazard Addressed	Goal	New/ Existing	Mitigation/ Preparedness	Type	Cost	Average STAPLEE Rank
25	Delete							
26	Ensure that the proper equipment and training is available for best management practices for a mass casualty accident.	Transportation (Mass Casualty)	III	Existing	Preparedness	n/a	\$100,000 - \$500,000	19
27	Ensure sufficient personnel, equipment and materials are available to meet future demands placed on municipal services resulting from increased growth. It is essential to maintain protection for existing development while planning for new development.	All	II, III, IV, V	New	Preparedness	n/a	\$100,000 - \$250,000 /year	17

Once the 2014 Recommended Actions List was reviewed and updated, the panel reviewed the 2019 Natural Hazard Ranking. High wind events, severe winter weather, tropical and post tropical cyclones, and lightning were ranked as high risk. It was discussed that with all of these natural disasters, the major vulnerability for the town was the communication and infrastructure. Suggested actions were:

- 1) to upgrade the access to the internet and to have a sufficient backup system and to harden the infrastructure / communication system.
- 2) to investigate grant opportunities to harden the infrastructure/communication system as well as investigate service provider options.
- 3) to encourage/lobby public utilities to maintain and upgrade communications.
- 4) to maintain our priority status with the service provider to allow immediate access to communication.
- 5) to ensure/encourage publicly subsidized elderly community to have access to emergency utilities (critical services i.e. generator/air conditioning) for Belmont Elderly Housing.
- 6) to engage CAP to a discussion about obtaining a generator and high heat services.
- 7) to upgrade the generators for the Fire Department and Police Department.

The natural disasters that ranked medium risk were next discussed. The following were actions suggested:

Wildfire:

- 1) to continue to develop a public outreach and encourage residents to sign up for NH Alerts.
- 2) to enforce fire ordinances (#8)
- 3) to develop additional plans for water supply sites.
- 4) to identify locations for additional water sites/sources.

Drought: No additional actions suggested.

Dam Failure: No additional actions suggested.

Extreme Temperatures:

- 1) to develop a warming and cooling shelter plan.
- 2) to provide community outreach to populations at risk.

Once the 2019 Hazard High Risk Ranking was addressed, the 2019 Human-Caused and Technological Hazard Ranking was reviewed. The following were actions suggested to high ranking risks:

Transport Accident:

- 1) Upgrade rescue equipment.

Long Term Utility Outage:

- 1) Relocation of Town Hall based on feasibility study.
- 2) Explore funding to move Town Hall functions to another location.

Terrorism/Violence

- 1) Continue Warm Zone training
- 2) Apply for additional grants.

Cyber Event

- 1) Explore cyber security software
- 2) Explore cyber security insurance
- 3) Work with the State of New Hampshire to develop cyber security resources.

The following are tasks that need to be completed for the next meeting:

- 1) Susan Slack will send out an electronic version of the potential hazards map to Chief Michael Newhall to review.
- 2) Craig Clairmont, PW Director, will get Sarah Weeks a list of the culverts that have been replaced or are being replaced.
- 3) Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Fire Chief Michael Newhall will put a cost and time estimate together.

A reminder that an upcoming meeting is scheduled for the Hazard Mitigation Plan on:

Monday, December 2 2019 at 10:00am