



Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

Department of Community Development

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2019 REPORT ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IN NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Meeting held on January 15, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. with the Bristol Local Hazard Mitigation Committee in the Second Floor Conference Room of 9 Court Street, Bristol, Rhode Island.

Present were:

Town Administrator Steven Contente
Director of Community Development Diane M. Williamson
Police Chief Josue Canario
Fire Chief Michael DeMello
Director of the Water Pollution Control Facility Jose DaSilva
Harbor Master Gregg Marsili
Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Tim Shaw
Principal Planner Edward Tanner

The Committee reviewed the status of the Actions from the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted September 28, 2016 and reported the following:

Action #1 – Make Residents Aware of Emergency Response Plan

This action has been implemented through the Code Red program and the ongoing outreach to residents to enroll in this system. The Fire Department publishes and distributes emergency response information annually in May/June before the hurricane season. This information is also posted on the Town of Bristol website and Social media outlets. Additionally, the Fire Department conducts workshops with residents of vulnerable populations and in vulnerable areas. They have had workshops at the Senior Housing locations (Benjamin Church and Franklin Court) and have one planned at North Farm which is a large residential area.

Action #2 – Designate Alternative Evacuation Route for the Poppasquash Area through Colt State Park

This action is in process. The Town is working toward an agreement with RIDEM for access through “Farm Road” including accessibility through the gate and maintenance during winter storms.

Action #3 – Implement Mitigation Incentive Program

This action is ongoing. The Town continues to provide information to contractors and homeowners on the risks of building in hazard – prone areas and the benefits of building and

renovating structures to current standards. The Town continues to seek out grant sources that could provide incentives to implement mitigation measures.

Action #4 – Prepare an “After the Storm Recovery” Plan for the Community

The action is in process and has not yet been completed.

Action #5 – Acquire Properties in the Special Flood Hazard and Repetitive Flood Loss Area

This continues to be a priority for the Town. In 2018, the Town of Bristol received a RIDEM Open Space grant to acquire a parcel in the Special Flood Hazard area of Silver Creek and we are currently in negotiations with the property owner to complete this purchase.

Action #6 – Preserve vacant Open Space within the coastal flood zones

This continues to be a priority for the Town. There were no opportunities within the last year to acquire any such properties; however, the Town continues to monitor opportunities.

Action #7 – Develop a Stand – Alone Environmental and Historic Preservation Plan

The Town is working with the URI Coastal Resource Center who just completed a Coastal Environmental Risk Index looking at structure risk and water depths for the 100-year storm with sea level rise for three areas within the historic district and surrounding properties. With this information, the Town will be seeking funding opportunities to take this information and prepare a plan.

Action #8 – Bury Electrical Wires and other suspended cables

This action has not been completed since it is presently not financially feasible. The Town continues to explore grant opportunities.

Action #9 – Reinforce Wire to Pole Connections

This action has not yet been completed. This was referred to the Bristol Conservation Commission for follow up since the Action also provides protection to the Town’s street trees.

Action #10 – Retrofit of paved parking areas within the Tanyard Brook and Silver Creek Watershed

This action is on-going. The Bristol Planning Board recently amended the Subdivision and Development Review Regulations to require Low impact Development Techniques in all applications for subdivision or developments. The Town recently completed the retrofit of the Guitaras School parking lot which is in the Silver Creek Watershed. The Town is also working on implementation of a drainage plan to retrofit the paved parking area at the Bristol Police Department which is in the Tanyard Brook Watershed and is looking to also prepare a drainage plan for future implementation at the Mt. Hope High School which is in the Silver Creek Watershed.

Action #11 – Develop a Shoreline Management Plan

This action is in process. The Town recently partnered with Coastal Resources Management Council for a grant which was successful to retrofit dead end streets that taper into the water. The grant will allow the Town to have engineered plans for the retrofit program that will be eligible for future grant funding to implement.

Action #12 - Public Informational Outreach – Signage

This action is completed. The Town installed signage along major access routes that flood indicating that the area is a flood area. The Town has also been designated a Storm Ready Community and the Fire Chief will be posting signage to that affect.

Action #13 - Upgrade sewer lines where necessary

This action is ongoing as opportunities present. The line on Ferry Road has been upgraded recently to include the installation of laterals brought to the property lines of the shoreline residents on the west side. This will allow the residents the opportunity to connect to the Ferry Road line in the future if the existing sewer lines along the shore become impacted due to climate change. The Fairview sewer line upgrade is currently in construction. In addition, the Town has recently installed generators at 3 sewer pump stations (Tupelo, Peter Road, and Broadcommon Road) with the assistance of a FEMA grant.

Action #14 - Conduct drainage improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Facility

This action has been completed with construction of the drainage line in Fairview Drive.

Action #15 - Inspect and secure the seawall along downtown coastal commercial facilities as necessary

This action is in process. The Town has repaired a portion of the seawall along Rockwell Park. The Town has already acquired the materials and is in the process of obtaining designs and permitting for restoration of the seawalls at Independence Park and Walley Beach. In addition, the Town secured a \$1.1 million grant from the Federal Transportation Administration for the repairs to the Prudence Ferry Dock. The plans and permitting for the Ferry Dock repairs have been completed and repairs are expected to be completed in the Fall of 2019.

Action #16 – Establish Fire Lanes in the Mount Hope area

This action has been completed. The National Grid has open lanes for access to their equipment which can also serve as access for the Fire Department if needed.

Action #17 – Upgrade the Quinta Gamelin Community Center to be shelter compliant

This action is completed. The Center has a kitchen. A generator was also recently installed with a FEMA grant.

Action #18 – Promote installation of a check valve/backflow preventer

This action is ongoing as required by the Sewer permitting. All buildings with basement plumbing are required to have Backflow Preventers/Check Valves.

Action #19 – Expand the implementation the Backflow Retrofit Program

All of the residents that were on the list have been completed and no residents are on a wait list. However, we will keep this action item for potential future issues and grant opportunities that may present.

cc: RI Emergency Management Agency
Steven Contente, Town Administrator
Nathan Calouro, Town Council Chairman
Bristol RI Website
Bristol Phoenix