

ROLE OF THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING COMMITTEE (HMPC)

Abington, East Bridgewater, Easton, and Stoughton were all participants in the 2015 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Old Colony Region. That plan expired in November 2020, and the four towns are now pursuing a stand-alone multi-jurisdictional plan to evaluate risk and propose mitigation strategies specific to the four communities. The HMP update process is expected to take place over the next 12 months.

All four participating towns experience damaging weather events including tropical storms, Nor'easters, and hurricanes, which can bring about flooding, damage to trees, and damage from snow. They also experience flood-drought cycles and extreme temperatures, and community members participating in other planning processes in recent years commonly reported feeling concerned about infrastructure related to stormwater, wastewater, and access to utilities during storm events. Completing this Multi-Jurisdictional HMP is an important step in the ongoing journey towards hazard mitigation, climate adaptation, and building resilience in the participating municipalities.

The East Bridgewater Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) will serve as the working advisory body supporting the HMP update. Each participating municipality's HMPC should include a cross-section of the community, including public officials, employees, and other stakeholders. Committees will play a major role in the planning process by providing access to data, facilitating community input, reviewing draft products, and assisting with community outreach. Over the course of the planning process, the consultant will provide the committees with a number of HMP worksheets to be completed and returned to the consultant. The worksheets are a critical aspect of the multi-jurisdictional HMP workflow to facilitate an efficient data collection process from each community about past hazard events and damages, critical facilities, local mitigation capabilities, past mitigation strategy implementation status, and feasibility and prioritization of mitigation measures.

Specific responsibilities of the HMPC are as follows:

1. Participate in up to 5 virtual HMPC working meetings
2. Support public outreach efforts through your networks
3. Share knowledge, records, and information on natural hazard events and their impacts in your community
4. Work with other members of the committee to complete the Hazard Mitigation Planning worksheets
 - a. Natural Hazard Events and Losses
 - b. Municipal Capabilities Assessment
 - c. Recent and Planned Development
 - d. NFIP Floodplain Administrator worksheet
 - e. Previous (2015) Mitigation Action Review
5. Participate in and help to facilitate one virtual multi-jurisdictional public meeting collect feedback on the draft risk assessment and discuss goals and mitigation strategies.
6. Review draft plan sections and provide comments