



TOWN OF OXFORD

S.B. Church Memorial Town Hall
486 Oxford Road, Oxford, Connecticut 06478-1298
www.Oxford-CT.gov

Board of Selectmen

INFORMATIONAL HEARING

Wednesday, September 25, 2013
Town Hall, 7:00 PM

Call To Order:

The Informational Hearing was held on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the S.B. Church Memorial Town Hall, 486 Oxford Road, Oxford, CT for the purpose of discussing a proposed update to the *Town of Oxford's Hazardous Mitigation Plan* and to receive verbal and written public comment related to the plan.

Present:

Scott Pelletier, Fire Marshal and Anna Rycenga, ZEO.

The Information Hearing opened at 7:00 PM. It was noted that the Legal Notice appeared in the Voices on September 18, 2013.

In addition, Press Releases were on the Oxford Patch, Voices and the Waterbury Republican Newspapers.

Public Comment/Questions:

There was no public participation, comment, or questions received.

Power Point Presentation:

The following Power Point was presented:

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Oxford, Connecticut



Presented by:

Scott Pelletier, Fire Marshal
& Anna Rycenga, ZEO

September 25, 2013

David Murphy, P.E., CFM
Milone & MacBroom, Inc.



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Purpose and Need for Hazard Mitigation Plan

- **Authority**
 - Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (amendments to Stafford Act of 1988)
- **Goal of Disaster Mitigation Act**
 - Encourage disaster preparedness
 - Encourage hazard mitigation measures to reduce losses of life and property
- **Status of Oxford's Plan**
 - Developed 2005-2006
 - Adopted and Approved December 2006
 - Expired 2011



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Update on Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs

- Local communities must have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in place to receive Federal Grant Funds for Hazard Mitigation Projects
 - PDM (Pre-Disaster Mitigation)
 - HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)
 - FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance)
- Connecticut has >\$20M to distribute under HMGP



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Update on Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs

- Grants can be used for:
 - Building acquisitions or elevations
 - Culvert replacements
 - Drainage projects
 - Riverbank stabilization
 - Landslide stabilization
 - Wind retrofits
 - Seismic retrofits
 - Snow load retrofits
 - Standby power supplies for critical facilities



This home in Trumbull was acquired and demolished using a FEMA grant



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What is a Natural Hazard?

- An extreme natural event that poses a risk to people, infrastructure, and resources



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Long-Term Goals of Hazard Mitigation

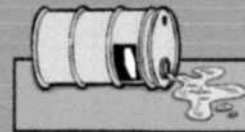
- Reduce loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure
- Reduce the costs to residents and businesses (taxes, insurance, repair costs, etc.)
- Educate residents and policy-makers about natural hazard risk and vulnerability
- Connect hazard mitigation planning to other community planning efforts
- Enhance and preserve natural resource systems in the community



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What a Hazard Mitigation Plan Does Not Address

- Terrorism and Sabotage
- Disaster Response and Recovery
- Human Induced Emergencies (some fires, hazardous spills and contamination, disease, etc.)



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Components of Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Process

- Review natural hazards that could occur in the Town
- Review the vulnerability of structures and populations and identify critical facilities and areas of concern
- Incorporate effects of federally declared disasters that occurred after the last plan was developed:
 - ✓ March 2010 floods
 - ✓ Winter snow loads/collapsing roofs in January 2011
 - ✓ Hurricane Irene in August 2011
 - ✓ Winter Storm Alfred in October 2011
 - ✓ Hurricane Irene in October 2012
 - ✓ Winter Storm Nemo in February 2013



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Components of Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Process

- Assess adequacy of mitigation measures currently in place such as regulations and emergency services
- Evaluate the prior mitigation measures that were conceived to reduce risks and vulnerabilities
- Develop recommendations for new mitigation actions
- Develop goals that connect to the strategies and actions
- Improve outreach to neighboring towns
- Show how the plan will be incorporated into other city plans



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Hazards Included in the Previous Plan

- Flooding
- Hurricanes and tropical storms
- Summer storms and tornadoes
- Winter storms and nor'easters
- Earthquakes
- Wildfires
- Dam failure
- Landslides



Flood Damage at Riggs Street After June 2006 Storms



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Flooding

- Housatonic River
- Little River
- 4 Mile Brook
- 5 Mile Brook
- 7 Mile Brook
- 8 Mile Brook
- Swan Lake
- Riggs Street Brook
- Little Brook



Little River & Housatonic River



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Drainage-Related Flooding

- Various parts of the town are vulnerable
- Storm drainage systems may be undersized or absent



Housatonic River



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Hurricanes and Tropical Storms

- Winds
- Heavy rain / flooding



Typical Irene Damage in Connecticut



1955 Flooding in Waterbury



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Summer Storms and Tornadoes

- Tornadoes
 - Wethersfield in 2009
 - Bridgeport in 2010
 - Springfield in 2011
- Downbursts
- Lightning
- Heavy rain
- Hail



Springfield Tornado photos courtesy of the Hartford Courant



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Winter Storms and Nor'easters

- Blizzards and nor'easters
- Heavy snow and drifts
- Freezing rain / ice
- Downed trees



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Winter Storms and Nor'easters

- Collapsed Buildings in 2011



Photos courtesy of the Hartford Courant



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Earthquakes

- Chester, CT experienced a magnitude 2.0 earthquake on March 11, 2008
- Virginia earthquake in 2011
- Can cause dam failure, shaking, liquefaction, slides/slumps



Photos courtesy of FEMA



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Wildfires

- Fire
- Heat
- Smoke
- April is the month of maximum risk in Connecticut



Photos courtesy of FEMA and the Town of Sherman, CT



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Dam Failure

- Severe rains or earthquakes can cause failure
- Possibility of loss of life or millions of dollars in property damage
- Many registered dams in the city
- New dam safety legislation passed in 2013



Recent dam failure in Sherman, CT



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Landslides

- Several areas of the town have been susceptible such as Riggs Street

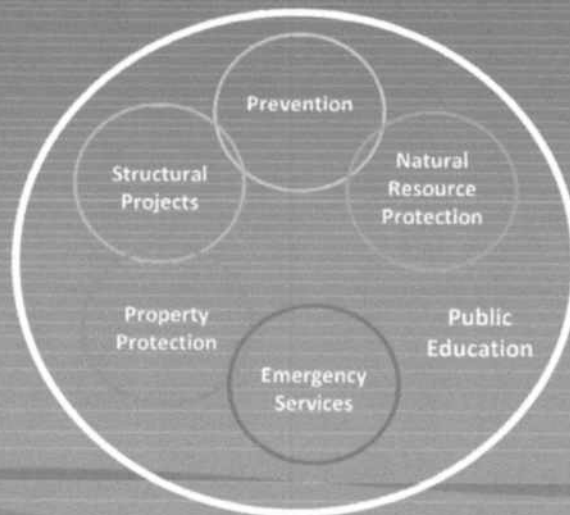


Riggs Street After June 2006 Storms



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Review of Hazard Mitigation Strategies



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Hazard Mitigation Strategies in the Previous Plan

- Develop a checklist that cross-references regulations and codes related to flood damage prevention that may be applicable to a proposed project
- Coordinate with neighboring towns regarding new subdivisions that could impact properties within Oxford
- Require watershed-based engineering studies for new subdivisions or sizeable developments showing both the upstream and downstream drainage impacts
- Clear brush and growth that could possibly inhibit flood flows in the floodplain Housatonic River
- Purchase private land in the 100-year floodplain and convert to greenways and parks
- Perform watershed studies where necessary



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Hazard Mitigation Strategies in the Previous Plan

- Install a drainage system where necessary
- Increase tree limb maintenance and inspections
- Continue to require that utilities be placed underground in new developments and
- pursue funding to place them underground in existing developed areas
- Acquire additional funding for the sand/salt storage facility
- Consider property acquisitions to reduce the number of people potentially affected by the limited plowing services available in this neighborhood
- Continue to encourage two modes of egress into every neighborhood by the creation of through streets



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Hazard Mitigation Strategies in the Previous Plan

- Consider adding earthquakes to the list of hazards covered by the Emergency Operations Plan
- Consider preventing residential development in areas of, on, above, or below steep slopes
- Consider preserving areas of steep slopes as protected open space through acquisition or modified zoning
- Secure mitigation funding
- Ensure that local utility providers are aware of landslide potential and have responder teams ready to repair damage to their utilities caused by landslides
- Consider expanding and over-sizing drainage systems in the vicinity of steep slopes



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Hazard Mitigation Strategies in the Previous Plan

- Continue to require or conduct regular inspections of all Class C dams, with upkeep and maintenance as required
- Consider implementing inspections of municipally-owned Class A, AA, B, and BB dams
- Work with the DEEP to ensure that Class C dams have up to date emergency operations plans and dam failure analyses
- Perform or update dam failure analysis for dams
- Perform any necessary repairs to dams
- Water Pollution Control Authority to identify and upgrade those portions of the water supply systems that are substandard from the standpoint of adequate pressure and volume for fire-fighting
- Innovative solutions to fire protection should be explored where it is not feasible to extend a conventional water system



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Next Steps

- Incorporate input from the public
- Refine hazard vulnerabilities and risks as needed
- Delete, carry forward, or modify prior mitigation strategies
- Develop new mitigation strategies
- Prepare the draft update for review by the town and the public
- Adopt and implement the plan



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Questions & Input



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Adjournment:

The Informational Hearing was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Rycenga, ZEO

13 OCT - 1 AM 9:40
TOWN OF WINDFORD, CT
Margaret H. Clark
TOWN CLERK