

## Haddam Resilient Connecticut 2.0 Meeting

4/19/2022

1pm, Old Town Hall

*Present: David Murphy (CIRCA), Mary Buchanan (CIRCA), Margot Burns (RiverCOG), Bob McGarry (Haddam First Selectman), Bill Warner (Haddam Town Planner), Chris Corsa (Haddam Public Works)*

**Overview:** CIRCA met with the Town of Haddam and RiverCOG to describe the expansion of Resilient Connecticut into the RiverCOG planning region and provide a forum to the local hazard mitigation plan team to comment on the status of actions in the Haddam annex of the Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted in 2021. These meeting notes will be provided to the Town and RiverCOG for appropriate filing related to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

David commenced the meeting by providing an overview of the Resilient CT project and Resilient CT 2.0 future plans. During the discussion, the local planning team reviewed the Town's hazard mitigation actions, and attendees had an open discussion about the Town's needs related to climate change and natural hazards.

### Review of Hazard Mitigation Plan Actions:

Activity	Goal/Obj	Activity Description	Status Reported by Local Planning Team
1	2-1	Relocate the DPW which is partially located in the SFHA	Facility has not yet been relocated but is still an active topic of concern. Fits very well with RCT because it's a critical facility. See notes from later discussion on potential projects for more details.
2	2-1	Evaluate the capacity of all stream crossing infrastructure along Beaver Meadow Road to identify components that need upgrades or repairs.	In process. Visual inspections and recommendations have been made for all crossings on BMR, with assistance from the Town's engineering contractor. Double culvert is in the process of being replaced.
3	3-1	Collaborate with other communities within the region to identify capable tree removal contractors.	This is happening. Town currently has two contractors that they employ, plus Eversource is clearing hazardous trees in town.
4	2-1	Develop an inventory of areas tree assets that raise concerns, and coordinate with Eversource Vegetation Management on addressing these assets.	This is happening as noted above. Coordination with Eversource has increased, and Eversource is conducting a major tree maintenance program in Haddam.
5	2-1	Upgrade 2 undersized culverts and aging, undersized bridge on Wiese Albert Road	This has been inspected but has not happened yet.

Activity	Goal/Obj	Activity Description	Status Reported by Local Planning Team
6	2-1	On Brainerd Hill Road: replace undersized culvert with single span bridge and drainage system, replace culvert (at Joseph Cir. Intersection) with a precast box culvert, and conduct a drainage study and upgrade culvert over inlet to Black Shop Pond.	No progress.
7	2-1	On Jackson Road: Conduct a drainage study and replace undersized culverts over an unnamed stream and Ponset Brook.	No progress.
8	2-1	Conduct drainage study and replace culverts over Ponset Brook at Valley Ridge Drive and Little City Road.	Has not yet been addressed, plus additional issues have been identified here – beavers are exacerbating the problem.
9	2-1	Conduct drainage study for improvements along Bible Rock Brook at Thayer Road and Thayer Road Extension.	No progress.
10	2-1	Conduct drainage study along the brook at Dish Mill Road (North).	No progress.
11	2-1	On Walkley Hill Road, conduct a drainage study and install precast box culvert over Krieger Brook.	Double RCP pipe and headwall was installed after a road cave-in, which should address the concern.
12	2-1	On Turkey Hill Road: Conduct a drainage study and install a precast box culvert over Turkey Hill Brook.	Some progress has happened here; further details may be needed.
13	2-1	Intersection of Jail Hill, Beaver Meadow, Hayden Hill and Turkey Hill Roads. Conduct drainage study and construct detention system.	This should be revisited; considerable engineering is still needed here but there has been no discussion of any detention systems so this may not be the most feasible and effective path forward. Vortechs® stormwater units are a possible option.
14	2-1	On Camp Bethel Road: Conduct drainage study and upgrade undersized culvert over Ruddy Creek.	No progress.
15	3-1	Educate the property owners of mitigation actions they can take in areas of increased risk including Andrews Marina/Harpers Landing, and little Meadow Road (elevate or floodproof homes).	Carried out as needed, such as when a house is up for sale.
16	2-1	Work with the owner of Sawmill Pond Dam (#6109) to pursue an engineering study.	No progress. The town does not own the dam.

Activity	Goal/Obj	Activity Description	Status Reported by Local Planning Team
17	1-1	Identify strategies to minimize remaining flood risk at the Higganum Center, including debris maintenance.	Debris maintenance is still a concern here, as the bridges associated with the three converging streams can get clogged during floods. Invasive species contribute to the debris/clogging challenge. Both time and resources are additional challenges. The infrastructure is believed of adequate size.
18	2-1	Upgrade culverts on Candlewood Hill Road.	No progress.
19	2-1	On Foot Hills Road: Conduct drainage study to remedy roadway flooding and winter icing problems.	No progress, although icing hasn't been a major recent concern.

**Potential Project Ideas:** CIRCA facilitated a discussion about potential projects for Resilience Connecticut 2.0.

- Relocating Public Works building:
  - o Currently the property is about 1/3 in a FEMA flood zone.
  - o Rossi property nearby is under contract for purchase, pending town approval and addressing potential assessment/remediation issues if they are found. Ideally the town would want to coordinate actions on both properties. Both properties may need some environmental work (capping, etc.).
  - o “The big problem is there is nowhere to move the Public Works Garage.”
    - Required: at least 5 acres, relatively flat, relatively central in Haddam, able to be used for materials storage without upsetting nearby homeowners. RiverCOG previously made the town a map to look at potential areas, but none of the possibilities fit all the town’s needs. The town preference is to have one site rather than multiple smaller sites. The salt shed portion of public works requires about one acre of the five acres.
  - o A lot of space is taken up by material storage – pipes, salt, drainage structures, etc.
    - If Rossi property is purchased, this will allow materials storage to be tucked away on Rossi property to make more room out of the floodplain for other Public Works activities as a partial fix.
- Little Meadow Road residential properties are always the first to flood when the Connecticut River experiences a flood. (This road has been included in a ZSR for CIRCA mapping.)
- Creation of a Cooling Center:
  - o Current unofficial options include the library and the senior center (currently an undersized 1830s schoolhouse). The Haddam Killingworth Middle School is the official Red Cross shelter for the town and region. The HK High School is not used as a shelter.
  - o The town’s goal is to create a senior center/community center from the former elementary school building that the town owns, which currently has no air conditioning.
  - o An architect has already looked at the site and provided a \$800,000 -- \$900,000 estimate to turn it into a senior center/community center without air conditioning or

generator pieces. Full project would likely be \$1.5 million with generator and air conditioning via new HVAC systems..

- Higganum Center. The town plans to address needs related to Higganum Cove, clean up some adjacent properties, and develop the Scoville property. This project area is near the former elementary school mentioned above that could be converted to a senior center/community center. Perhaps projects could be combined into a resilience hub or corridor concept.

**Other Notes:**

- Margot noted that mapping at the census block level would be more helpful for RiverCOG towns than the tract level, because the tracts are so large in the rural towns.
- Margot asked if the project team had anything in mind that wasn't covered in this meeting or anything new that has come up since the last HMP. Nothing else came to mind.

**Follow-up:**

- Please take a look at the map viewer for the Zones of Shared Risk and offer any corrections/additions. Link here:  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9a4f68dd99f44dc58b93fd85bcfe1255/>
- (Note: the Editor tool within the viewer does not always save reliably, so please email [mary.buchanan@uconn.edu](mailto:mary.buchanan@uconn.edu) with any changes you'd like to see reflected in the Haddam ZSR layer.)