

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2022
10 Meetinghouse Road**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10 Meetinghouse Road. Participating were Dave Gilbert (Chair), Bill Carter (Vice Chair) and Councilors Sue Thomas, Denise Ricciardi, Bill Duschatko, and Lori Radke. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Gilbert opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Chairman Gilbert.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Bill Greiner, 12 Aspen Lane, spoke about Zoning Amendment 3, which will be voted on March 8th. He stated that the idea behind Zoning Amendment 3 was to limit the size of medical office buildings in the Performance Zone. That would give the power to the Planning Board if they were to see an application that was for a much larger project where they could have input and have the ability to make sure that property taxes are paid. He wanted to make sure that the voters could weigh in to see if it's something they wanted to do; to give that authority and limitation to the Planning Board. He stated that there was a campaign going on, on both sides of the issue. The idea behind it was not anti-competition. It's really about taxes. If somebody wants to come into Town and they are willing to pay taxes, he would be the first person to support that waiver. He's all for people coming to Town as long as they pay their taxes and it's a level playing field. There aren't a lot of issues in Town that the folks who run the BTA, the TQE, and the BRA agree on, but all of those organizations are 100% behind Amendment 3, because it's the only way that they can control and preserve the tax revenue in the community.

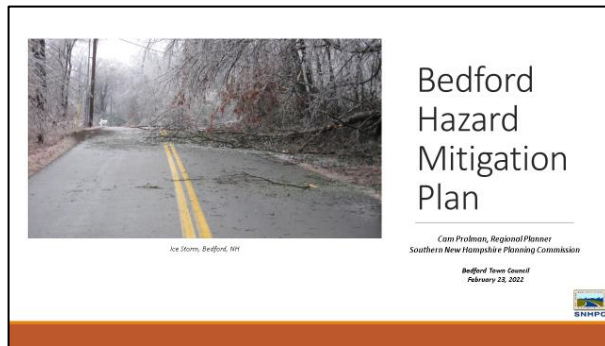
Elaine Tefft, 7 Meetinghouse Road, stated that she didn't know who it was the presented the petition or signed it, but it is really nice to go to the people to find out and have them vote on something this serious. She thanked the people who did all of that work. She was concerned now that Bedford was being sued and there is litigation involved. Because it's a citizen's proposal that makes them get the lawyers involved, she urged and recommended that any settlement which might evolve from discussions between the Town and Dartmouth Hitchcock be submitted to the voters in Bedford for their approval in order for it to be legal. She emphasized that for the first time in a long time was that Bedford was for Bedford people and what Bedford people really care about, think, and want to express is being listened to and she didn't want to see Bedford people stepped over by NY billionaires. This is our Town, not theirs. She asked that anyone who was watching to vote in favor of Article 3 on March 8th at the high school and if you can't make it to get an absentee ballot. She has been paying taxes in this Town for longer than some of you people have been alive. It's not fair to let people who've got the money to pay the taxes to not pay their fair share and take the responsibility of being a good citizen.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Consideration of the Hazard Mitigation Plan update

Jillian Harris, Assistant Planning Director, stated that from 2020 – 2021 the Hazard Mitigation Committee updated the Plan, which was the 4th update to the original Hazard Mitigation Plan that was adopted in 2004. The NH Division of Homeland Security Emergency Management provided funding to Southern NH Planning (SNHPC) to update the Plan as they previously have.

Cam Prolman, Regional Planner with the SNHPC presented a PowerPoint presentation.


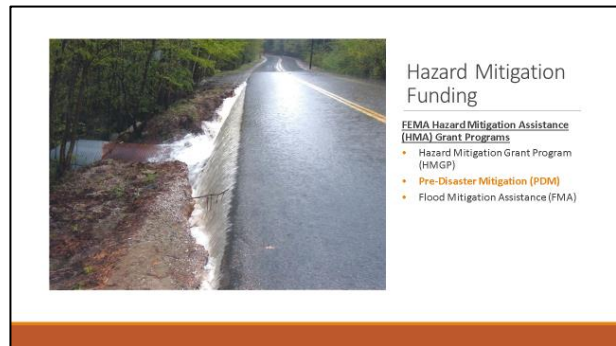


Bedford
Hazard
Mitigation
Plan

Ice Storm, Bedford, NH

Cam Prolman, Regional Planner
Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

Bedford Town Council
February 23, 2022

Hazard Mitigation Funding

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grant Programs

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

Background & Purpose of Hazard Mitigation Planning


What is Hazard Mitigation Planning?
Mitigation planning involves identifying local policies and actions that can be implemented long-term to help reduce or eliminate risks caused by natural hazards or disasters, such as flooding, earthquakes, wildfires, landslides etc.

Why do we do it?

- **Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000**
State, tribal, and local governments must develop a hazard mitigation plan as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance through the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs.

Benefits of Hazard Mitigation Planning

- Protect public safety.
- Reduce harm to existing and future development.
- Prevent damage to your community's economic, cultural, and environmental assets.
- Minimize operational downtime and accelerate recovery of government and businesses after disasters.
- Reduce the costs of disaster response and recovery and the exposure to risk for first responders.



The Hazard Mitigation Planning Process




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graph TD
    A[Build the Planning Team] --> B[Conduct a Risk Assessment]
    B --> C[Develop Mitigation Strategies]
    C --> D[Determine Plan Maintenance Process]
    
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The Mitigation Planning Process
Bedford Hazard Mitigation Update Committee


Community stakeholders from a variety of departments/fields were instrumental in ensuring a robust and locally informed Plan

- Rebecca Hebert, Planning Director
- Karin Elmes, Planner 1
- Scott Hunter, Fire Chief
- Jillian Harris, Assistant Planning Director
- Kathleen Potts, Associate Planner
- Kevin Bowen, Lieutenant – PD
- Matt Lavoie, Building Official
- Richard Sawyer, Town Manager
- Jerome Spooner, Public Works
- Emile Lacerte, DPW Highway Superintendent
- Kevin Hodgdon, DPW Asst. Highway Superintendent
- Brandon Boisvert, DPW Engineering Tech
- Todd Zollman, Bedford School District



The Mitigation Planning Process

Risk Assessment



1. Identify the hazards that could impact the community.
2. Estimate the potential frequency and magnitude of the hazards.
3. Estimate potential losses to life, property and natural/cultural resources from natural hazards.

The Mitigation Planning Process

Develop Mitigation Strategies


Types of Mitigation Strategies:

			
PREVENTION	PROPERTY PROTECTION	NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION	PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATORY TOOLS, I.E. ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, AND BUILDING CODES	MODIFICATION OF BUILDINGS / STRUCTURES TO PROTECT THEM FROM HAZARDS	INCLUDES SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL, STREAM CORRIDOR RESTORATION, WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, ETC.	EDUCATE PROPERTY OWNERS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT RISK, MITIGATION MEASURES AND HOW TO PROTECT HOMES AND BUSINESSES.

The Mitigation Planning Process

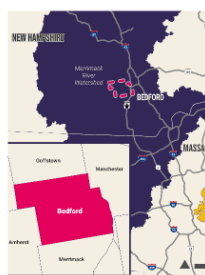
Determine Plan Maintenance Process

- Plan must be regularly reviewed, updated and maintained
- Integrate mitigation strategies into existing plans and programs
- Identify departments responsible for monitoring, evaluating and updating plan



"A local jurisdiction must review and revise its plan to reflect changes in development, progress in local mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities, and resubmit it for approval within five (5) years in order to continue to be eligible for mitigation project grant funding" (44 CFR §201.6(d)(3))

Bedford's Hazard Mitigation Plan



1. Community Goals & Objectives
2. Past Hazards and Potential Future Hazards
3. Community Facilities
4. Local, State, and Federal policies, programs and capabilities to mitigate the identified hazards
5. Methods for implementation, monitoring, evaluating, and updating the Plan

Bedford's Hazard Mitigation Plan

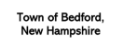

The Committee held six meetings beginning in July 2020 through September 2021 to collect information, compile, and review the Plan.

Review by town staff
Review by NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management (NH HSEM) in Fall/Winter, 2021
NH HSEM approved the Bedford Hazard Mitigation Plan, pending adoption from the Town of Bedford.





Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Bedford's Hazard Mitigation Plan: Next Steps





Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



Questions?

Contact:
Cam Prolman, Regional Planner
Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
cprolman@snhpc.org
603-669-4664



Mr. Prolman stated that adopting the Plan comes at no cost to the Town, but it does help identify certain projects that could be put in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Councilor Carter wanted to know if things happen over the next five years there are notes

that could be put so that as they get closer to 2027 they are not having to do this all over again. Ms. Harris stated yes and that the committee would meet biannually to update the disasters that have happened any updates on the mitigation strategies, so they will already be ahead of the game.

Councilor Radke wanted to know who was driving this, Bedford or the SNHPC. She wanted to know how it all came about. Ms. Harris stated that originally it funneled down from FEMA. In order to be eligible for the disaster funding they would need to have this plan in place and it would need to be updated every five years. Councilor Radke wanted to know if Mr. Prolman worked with other towns. Mr. Prolman stated that was correct. They've been doing it for a long time. Mr. Sawyer stated that they could do it on their own, but they have the expertise and the time to put towards it.

Councilor Duschatko wanted to know where the avalanche danger was in Bedford. Mr. Prolman stated that they have to note hazards that are mentioned in the State's Hazard Mitigation Program. Mr. Sawyer stated that it's listed as minimal, but they are required to evaluate certain hazards and that's one of them.

Councilor Thomas wanted to know how to get the information out to the community. Mr. Prolman stated that at the beginning of the Plan update process, they do outreach, they send invites to abutting towns, which is a requirement. The meetings are posted publically and they were all held via Zoom this year. Mr. Sawyer thought the question was more about going forward like with Nixle 360. Councilor Thomas wanted to know the percentage of Nixle users. Mr. Sawyer stated that they had several thousand when they first started. He didn't know what the current numbers were. It's something that all of the staff and departments involved would have to work on. They were lucky to have a safety radio station where they can gear that up if there is an emergency. They should be turning to BCTV and WBNH for emergency updates. They've put things in place like the Safety Complex could take over the radio station remotely and the TV station and do PSA's right from the Safety Complex. It's doing some of the strategies of having everybody who's in a flood plain situation on a list so that they can contact them directly.

MOTION by Councilor Thomas that the Bedford Town Council adopt the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update as presented. Seconded by Councilor Carter. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.

It was noted that there was no motion to open and close the public hearing.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Other New Business** – None

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Other Old Business** – None

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Session – January 26, 2022

MOTION by Councilor Carter that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the January 26, 2022 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Radke. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.

b. Non-Public Session – January 26, 2022

MOTION by Councilor Radke that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the January 26, 2022 Non-Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Duschatko. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 5-0-1 (Thomas abstained).

8. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- 1) March 8 – Local Election Day, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Bedford High School
- 2) March 9 – Budgetary Town Meeting, 7:00 PM, Bedford High School. The Budgetary Handout is available on the Town Website under Town Manager.
- 3) The Library completed a Voter's Guide for the open town and school positions. Copies are available at the Library, Town Office or on the Library website.
- 4) Candidates Forum hosted by Bedford Men's Club is available On Demand @ BCTV.
- 5) The last day to register to vote or to make name and address changes prior to the March 8th Election is Saturday, February 26, 2022. The Supervisors of the Checklist will conduct a session at the Town Office Building on Saturday, February 26, 2022, 3:00 – 3:30 PM for the purpose of voter registration and changes only. Residents may also register to vote at the polls on Election Day.
- 6) As a reminder political signs are not permitted in any traffic island or on any town owned land without approval of the Town Council.
- 7) PFAS Contamination –If you have received a request for well testing from Golder Associates it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.
- 8) PFAS Groundwater Contamination Grants are all still pending:
 - \$1,500 State of NH
 - \$6,500 Bedford
 - \$1.5M Bedford Center Road water main extension
- 9) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford thankfully has seen a drop in our number of cases with 51 current COVID-19 positive residents. Bedford has had a total of 4,973 cases. Bedford has 60% fully vaccinated residents.
- 10) Thank you to the Bedford Fire Department for conducting an additional 6 vaccination clinics for the community over the last 6 weeks.
- 11) Bedford currently has employment opportunities for full-time, part-time & seasonal positions. For more information visit www.bedfordnh.org/jobs.
- 12) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1st, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.
- 13) The Bedford Recreation Department is again sponsoring the "Spread the Love" event until February 28 where residents are encouraged to drop off jars of peanut butter,

jelly, and or jam at the Recreation Department in the Town Office Building in support of the Bedford Community Food Pantry.

- 14) February 27 – Concert & Cookies Series, 2:30 PM “Steve Blunt & Marty Kelly” at the Library. A kid’s concert with music and readings. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- 15) Library winter break programs
 - Monday, February 28th – PJ Storytime – 7 PM on Zoom – Ages 0-12
 - Tuesday, March 1st – A Look Inside the Library – 3:30 PM – Ages 5-12
 - Wednesday, March 2nd – Stuffy Vet Imaginary Play – 9 AM-12 PM – Ages 3-5
 - Thursday, March 3rd – Music for Babies – 10 AM – Ages 0-2
 - Friday, March 4th – Let’s Play in the Snow – 2-3 PM – Ages 5-12
- 16) March 6 – Concert & Cookies Series, 2:30 PM “Jeff Snow – Celtic Music & Stories” at the Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- 17) March 9 – BeBold Bedford – Duckin’ Dodgeball Tournament, 5-7 PM, NH Sportsplex, 68 Technology Drive. See www.beboldbedford.org for more information.
- 18) March 13 – Cinema Sunday, “Citizen Kane”, 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- 19) March 19 - NH Big Tree Program Introduction and Winter Tree Identification Workshop, 1:30 – 3 PM, Bedford Library Lower Parking Lot. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- 20) April 16 – CUB ROAD CLUB Spring Event, 9 AM - 1 PM.

Mr. Sawyer thanked Councilor Ricciardi for her dedication to the community. Bedford Cares was a spotlight organization that she created that did a lot for the community. The employees appreciated all the appreciation events: luncheons, cookies, desserts, etc. and for attending every event she could for every department.

9. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Radke stated that there was a Highway Safety Committee meeting and there will be a recommendation coming before the Council for lowering the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph in the Hamilton and presidential area. It was a pleasure working with Denise and wished her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Councilor Carter stated that there was a Conservation Commission workshop last night. He’s proud to be on the Conservation Commission, because they are working very hard. He thanked Jeff Foote and the DPW group. At the last blizzard he got the opportunity to do a route in one of the DPW trucks. It was great to understand what goes on in DPW; he spent time at the DPW headquarters. They were all sitting in the breakroom chatting in between their runs; they go out every 4 hours. He encouraged everyone to donate to the food pantry. He thanked BCTV and WBNH and congratulated the D1 girls’ basketball team; they were in the finals on Sunday. He got the opportunity to do radio on 105.1. It was great to be at UNH and be able to call it on radio. The radio now has been joined with the video, because due to contracts they cannot show it the same day. It was a really good game, but unfortunately Bedford lost by two. The logo for CUB is now the official

logo. He mentioned April 16th. He's ordered t-shirts in safety green. He thanked Denise Ricciardi for all of her guidance and work on the Council for the last three years.

Councilor Duschatko thanked Denise for all the work she's done over the three years. She was a resident member of the Telecommunications Subcommittee and had more of an interest than most members on the subcommittee. She became dedicated to trying to improve telecommunications capabilities within the community, but within the guidelines that seemed to make sense to her and many other people in terms of siting of towers for safety concerns. That is a very difficult thing for someone to take on by themselves when the industry is stacked against you. When COVID first struck it was Denise's idea to start Bedford Cares and was able to make a huge mark in the community. It brought together the true experience of people stepping out to help their neighbors and help their neighbors that were incapable of doing anything themselves, but also very scared of catching a disease that proved to be fatal to a number of people in the community. This became a very important function to help people. He didn't think enough credit had ever been given to her for all the work she did on this as well as all of the volunteers that worked with her. It was a pleasure to get to know somebody under that particular circumstance. That's carried on of the work she's done in the Senate. She's one of the few senators whose motto is 'let's do it for the people', not the party. Make sure the people are served. Doesn't matter where in NH you live, Denise is there for that particular constituent group. It's a very rare experience that you see that in somebody that is so dedicated. He knows her heart is still in Bedford and working there and he didn't think there was any way any of them can really appreciate the contributions that she's made. He really appreciated it.

Councilor Thomas encouraged everyone to come out and vote on March 8th and go to the Budgetary Town Meeting on March 9th. She thanked Denise. She never saw anyone who gives so much to every single thing she does. She gives 110% to everything she takes on. She has learned a lot from her. She thanked her for everything she's done for Bedford and that she's still doing.

Chairman Gilbert stated that they are going to have a Memorial Day parade on Sunday May 29th. Anyone interested in helping with that should contact Jane at Park & Rec. Thanked BCTV and Bedford Men's Club for their efforts and support for the Town Council and School Board forums. He thanked Denise for all she has done in this town. She's had a great positive impact, her hard work is evident and her caring is evident. He thought she should keep doing what she's doing, because they all benefit and they are all very thankful for what she does.

Councilor Ricciardi stated that it was with a heavy heart that she was stepping down from the Council. She thanked everyone in Bedford for the honor of serving as their Town Councilor for the last three years. As she has become more involved in serving them in the Senate, she knew it was time to step down from her role as Councilor. She deeply cares about the future of the Town and therefore she struggled with this decision. She has not only had the privilege to serve the community, but she's had the privilege to work with great co-Councilors who work really hard and care about the Town and to work with Rick Sawyer. They are very fortunate to have him as Town Manager. He has been a

beacon of light and guidance to the Council and to her. She didn't know what they would do without him. She has had the privilege to work with all of the Department Heads who she has grown to truly love, and the employees. She hopes to continue to have the honor to serve in the Senate. She will be a good resource for the Town as their Senator. She will continue to keep running Bedford Cares. Her heart will always be with this community and was thankful for the opportunity to serve the community.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilor Carter to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Ricciardi. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.

The meeting ended at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford