

# TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT

2017 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE TOWN'S HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN ENTITLED:

***“STRATEGY FOR REDUCING RISKS FROM NATURAL  
HAZARDS IN NARRAGANSETT, RHODE ISLAND: A  
MULTIHAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY”***

January 31, 2018

## **BACKGROUND**

Narragansett is exposed on three sides to water, with Narragansett Bay to the east, Rhode Island Sound to the south, and Point Judith Pond and Narrow River to the west. The coastal environment defines the character of the town, and is a major attraction for tourists and residents alike; however, it also makes Narragansett vulnerable to natural hazards. The Town's 49 miles of coastline vary from steep, rocky shores to low, sandy beaches. The town is a growing suburban community with many coastal areas, which decades ago were home to summer cottages, and now support dense residential and commercial uses. The Hurricane of 1938 was the last Category 3 hurricane to hit Rhode Island. The Blizzard of 1978 dropped over two feet of snow on the region and the rain event of March 2010 delivered the first 100 year storm in several years. Nevertheless, much of the Town's at-risk population has never experienced a major storm event. Narragansett experiences a few nor'easters each winter. The Town has never had any serious problems in dealing with wildfires, ice or earthquakes.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan) was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and to achieve eligibility for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation grant programs. The 2013 Plan is an update of the Town of Narragansett's 2005 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

In drafting the 2013 plan, the Local Hazard Mitigation Committee (LHMC) carefully considered development within the Town as well as completed mitigation actions. The LHMC conducted a risk assessment to update the hazards identified and profiled in the previously approved plan. The updated hazards profiled in the plan are the following:

- Severe Storms
- Hurricanes
- Flooding and Dam Failure
- Earthquake
- Tornadoes
- Heat Wave
- Drought

This progress report highlights actions taken from January – December, 2017.

**ACTION PLAN PROGRESS** – Text below refers to Vulnerable Areas and Actions described on pages 55- 80 of the Final Plan dated January 2013. Actions not addressed below have had no action or progress in the reporting period. Also attached for reference is a spread sheet indicating the status of each Action item listed in the Plan.

### **Vulnerable Area #1**

Action 5: Public Information Outreach and Incentive Program – The Building Official drafted and published an informational flyer for general public distribution that explains the 2013 FIRM Map, flood warnings and pre-storm preparation. This flyer was updated and distributed in 2017.

### **Vulnerable Area #2**

No updates to this Section.

### **Vulnerable Area #3**

No updates to this Section. Items 19-22 will be revised and updated in the 2018 Plan.

#### **Vulnerable Area #4**

Action 24: Property Protection, Structural Projects and Maintenance – Utility Shut off Valves –  
This action item has been completed for the areas within the Town’s purview.

#### Action #28 Emergency Services – Water Main Closures

The Town has a plan in place for shutting off water valves to isolate mains in vulnerable areas (immediately prior to a major storm). This requires coordination with Fire Department and affected property owners re: loss of water for domestic and firefighting uses (phone notification system). This project is complete.

#### **Vulnerable Area #5**

Action 30: Planning and Regulations - Beach Pavilions – The North Cabana Building was reconstructed in 2015; fully compliant with flood zone regulations.

#### **Vulnerable Area #6**

Action 36: Planning and Regulations - Water Supply - The State has finished reconstructing the Great Island Bridge. The secondary water line (supply) to Great Island (attached to the bridge) has been replaced/upgraded as part of this work.

Action 37: Property Protection, Structural Projects and Maintenance – Maintain Bridge Quality –  
See # 36 above.

#### **Vulnerable Area #8**

Action 43: Property Protection, Structural Projects and Maintenance – Retrofit or Relocate - The Town has received the 2013 FIRM maps and is actively enforcing the new standards.

#### **Vulnerable Area #9**

Action 46: Property Protection, Structural Projects and Maintenance - Removal of Hazardous Tree Limbs – A Tree Management Plan is underway with the Conservation Commission / Tree Board.

Action 49: Post-disaster Opportunities - Debris Management – The Town, along with several other Washington County communities received a CDGB/DR grant in 2014 to draft a Debris Management Plan. The Town has signed on as a partner with the Regional Debris Management Plan (administered by the Town of Westerly). The plan is currently being reviewed between the consultant and the State. It has not yet been adopted by our Town Council. The Town will contact the consultant for a status update.

#### **Vulnerable Area #10**

#### Action 50: Property Protection, Structural Projects and Maintenance Harbor of Refuge

The Harbor Refuge wall – east gap wall has been repaired. The center gap wall and west gap wall will also be repaired. If money is available and if this project is compliant with RI CRMC’s regulations, repairs should be made immediately, especially to the center section Funding availability will drive the rest of the work.

#### **Vulnerable Area #11 – Sewage Treatment Facility**

1. Action 54: Property Protection, Structural Projects and Maintenance – Retrofit – The Town received all necessary approvals to retrofit the Scarborough waste water treatment facility and to flood proof the facility not only the FEMA requirement, but also incorporated sea level rise into the project. The project received a CLOM-R from FEMA before construction and the Town, having completed the project, has currently submitted a LOMR application to FEMA. The Town anticipates approval of the LOMR as the design submitted to FEMA through the CLOM-R was followed. This project will be of great service and benefit to the Town as it will protect the sewage processing plant that services the south end of the town.

#### **Vulnerable Area #12 - Sewage Pumping Station**

Action 57: Property Protection, Structural Projects and Maintenance – Flood proof – The Town purchased a third trailer-mounted large capacity sewage pump to assist in bypassing flooded or damaged stations. The Town has the third pump on hand. In addition, the Town has a contract in place with a third party private pump vendor that can supply trailer mounted pumps and hoses on an as-needed basis during an emergency.

Action 59: Post-disaster Opportunities – Retrofit - The Town was previously awarded a contract for the purchase of an e-generator at the Stanton Avenue Pump Station, one of our most vulnerable. This work has been completed as of 2016.

The Town is in the process of updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Local Hazard Mitigation Committee meets on a regular basis, and to date has drafted a list of potential Action Items to include in the Plan as well as review the Risk Assessment Matrix for the Town. New Capabilities have been identified and will be incorporated into the updated Plan as well. The updated Plan will follow the revised and suggested format of the State EMA.