

## Hardwick Projects after 2023 and 2024 flooding events

August 13, 2024

- **HMPG pre-application submitted to VEM after July 2023 to make the former Inn by the River location more flood resilient and to stability the riverbank. Possible RIVER help. Possible EWP after July 2024.**

In July 2024, Hays Service Station/Jiffy Mart and the Town of Hardwick lost 100 feet of property, 3 vehicles were swept downstream, and 3 in-ground fuel tanks are now on the river edge. A 10,000 gallon tank is in place and filled with concrete. The propane tank was removed on Thursday, July 11, 2024 as it was in imminent danger of falling into the Lamoille River. The continued erosion at this location is a



threat to both the Hays Service Station but also the Hardwick downtown and the correlating Routes 14/15/16. This has been elevated to a State-level emergency. Temporary Bank Stabilization was done on July 24 -25 by the State of Vermont at the request of the Town.

July – 2024 - Pre-application was invited to apply for funding to stabilize the entire section and create more flood resiliency on the former Inn by the River location

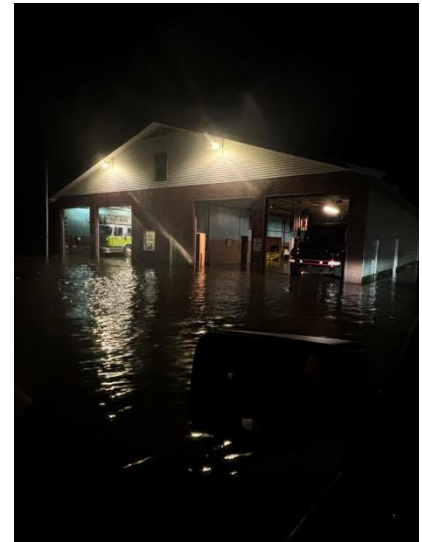
- **HMPG pre-application submitted to VEM after July 2024 to protect and create a comprehensive approach to the riverbanks in the center of town from above the North Main Street Bridge to the Cottage Street Bridge. Possible RIVER help. Possible NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) after July 2024.**

In July 2024, the parking area for the Hardwick Inn/Mike's Service Station/Civic Standard all lost considerable retaining wall sections. Mike's Service Station is in danger of being demolished by the Lamoille River in the next heavy rain event. This would be a threat to these structures and to Hardwick downtown and the correlating Routes 14/15/16. UPDATE: 65 Brush Street lost a corner of the building in the aftermath of Debby on August 10, 2024. The 41 Brush Street property (FEMA buyout – at FEMA) is also threatening to collapse. Buffalo Mountain Market has also lost streambank.



- **HMPG pre-application submitted to VEM after July 2023 to utilize the Town-owned property below the Cottage Street Bridge for floodplain restoration/flood mitigation project. Possible RIVER help.** The Lamoille River is one component of the flooding issue. Flood Benches and floodplain restoration etc. on the property below the intersection of Cooper Brook and the Lamoille River may alleviate some of the pressure at that junction.
- Storm water system near Yellow Barn, LVRT and Lamoille Valley Ford needs to be repaired and upgraded. Area is an important component in flood mitigation efforts for the Wastewater Treatment Facility plant and the Wolcott Street Commercial district. Possible FMA grant?

- Wastewater Treatment Facility Plant (FEMA)(USDA?) – Needs to be removed from Floodplain. (Damaged by flooding 2<sup>nd</sup> time in one year – engineering in process). Structure will receive a Substantial Damage Estimation next week – was Substantially Damaged last year and will probably be found to be Substantially Damaged again. Area could be used for future flood storage after removal.



- Fire Station (FEMA)(USDA?) – Needs to be removed from Floodway mapping (Damaged by flooding for 2<sup>nd</sup> time in one year – Trucks needed to be removed at 2 am) – MTAP grant is in place for scoping study to remove from the Floodplain/Floodway. Structure will receive a Substantial Damage Estimation next week – was Substantially Damaged last year and will probably be Substantially Damaged again. Standard Operating Procedure is now to remove fire equipment and trucks in weather events. Area could be used for future floodplain restoration after removal.

- Storm water/flood mitigation assistance for Granite Street



Historic district – install backflow prevention devices for water in all homes, create more resilient yard and catch basins. At intersection of Cooper and Lamoille – this section is more likely to be flooded. This area of Hardwick received higher amounts of



flooding. Neighborhood focused response – Sump pump was purchased by one resident (\$1200) and utilized by several homes. A complete review of this historic residential section was on the list after 2023 but needs to be prioritized. Atkins Field would like to be included in the discussion. August 12, 2024 – hosted the first community meeting (20+ people in attendance). Concerns include dry floodproofing the old granite basements, creating a plan for avoiding the movement of water into the Demers house at the end, floodplain restoration on the Atkins Field property, a generator for the sump pumps, road blockage to prevent traffic during flood, repair/restoration of the old clean water project at the intersection of Cottage Street and Lower Cherry Street. **A BRIC grant from FEMA may be applicable.**

- Extensive debris clean-up needs to occur
  1. Haynesville Brook on VT Route 15 East – near Fisher’s Folly Bridge – 8/13/24 per the River Engineer – needs to be removed, is a threat to property. River Engineer will be contacting VTTrans to alert them to the danger. The permission to remove is there – can we create the response?
  2. Along the Lamoille River after the Cottage Street Bridge and above the Town.
- 11 Damaged Roads/Culverts – All roads are still being graded and top-dressed
  1. Kate Brook Road (new culvert – 8/1/24)
  2. Belfry Road – asphalt damaged

3. Bunker Hill Road (bottom and close to 787) (Open – 8/1/24)
4. Smith Farm Road (Fixed shoulder – 8/1/24)
5. Dutton Road (culvert that needs to be upsized) (Done – 7/25)
6. Nichols Pond Road (culvert that needs to be upsized) (Done – 7/25)
7. Stage House Road (2 culverts need to be upsized) (Road fixed – 7/25)
8. Sawmill Lane lost gravel
9. Wright Farm Road/Yellow Barn parking (State repaired apron – 7/25)
10. Stannard Mtn Road is partially owned by Hardwick – road & river edge (Our section repaired – 7/25)
11. Tucker Brook (Open on 7/30/24)

- 6 bridges are out
  1. Tucker Brook (From 2023 – Temporary held in 2024)
  2. Carey Road box culvert/bridge - Damaged – Temporary Fix (2024)
  3. Riverside Farms bridge is gone. Access over Rail Trail. (Will be addressed by Sept)
  4. Fisher’s Folly bridge is damaged. No access. Temporary done
  5. Hardwick Farm Road bridge - damaged (incl. temporary bridge) (Ready for culverts 7/25)(RFP issued) – Engineering proposals received for permanent – Temporary done.
  6. E. Main Street, East Hardwick Bridge was removed in the spring (Damaged in 2023) (FEMA)
- 10 buyouts arranged after July 2023 flooding – All 10 structures were impacted again. May be Substantially Damaged by the additional 2024 flooding.
  1. 4 through FRCF – already purchased by the town of Hardwick, houses demolished & seeded and mulched.
    1. 223 Mill Street (location substantially flooded again)
    2. 2832 Craftsbury Road (location substantially flooded again)
    3. 387 Carey Road (location substantially flooded again)
  2. 6 through FEMA – still in process
    1. 161 VT Route 14 South – Flooded to first floor (Cooper Brook)
    2. 115 VT Route 14 South – Flooded in first floor (Cooper Brook)
    3. 24 Sawmill Lane – Flood moved the Home off of its supporting blocks (Lamoille River)
    4. 5 Sawmill Lane – Flooded on first floor (Lamoille River)
    5. 444 Wolcott Street – Flooded on first Floor (Lamoille River)
    6. 41 Brush Street – further undermined and leaning dangerously into the river (Lamoille River) (*Looking for immediate solutions*)



- Select Board voted (7/18/24) to re-open the buyout requests – 10 have been received – 8/10/24.

2 on Haynesville Brook, 2 on the Lamoille River in East Hardwick, 2 in the downtown Hardwick on the Lamoille River, and 4 on the lower Wolcott Street area. All have flooded on multiple occasions. Several will not continue the process if the town is able to install flood mitigation and protection for their properties (See above). **Pre-application has been submitted for all 10.**



- Vermont Fish and Wildlife is interested in owning 2 of the parcels on Haynesville Brook. Still in discussion. One property is in the EWP program – house is now in danger of

being swept away in a larger rain event.

- 7 properties have requested elevation assistance – 3 on the Lamoille River and 4 on Cooper Brook. Funding source has been located from the State of Vermont. Planning and access to this funding has begun. **Pre-application has been submitted for all 7.**
- Dry and wet floodproofing assistance for the Wolcott Street commercial district. From Choice Realty down to the intersection of Route 14/15.
  - Businesses and Multi-units
    1. Choice Realty (no impact in this flooding)
    2. Northeast Service Station (no impact in this flooding)
    3. Riteway Sports (minimal basement flooding) – needed to use Sump Pump to keep the water from basements on Cottage and Granite Streets from entering structure
    4. 18 Granite Street Multi-unit (basement flooding)
    5. House of Pizza (Flooded) **(Pre-app to floodproof)**
    6. Paul Davis Restoration (2 buildings – both flooded) **(Pre-app to floodproof)**
    7. Stratton Log yard (flooded) (relocation?)
    8. Poulin Lumber (Basement/foundation – major damage)
    9. Union Bank (not flooded)
    10. Aubuchon (not flooded)
    11. Walgreens (flooded) and Tops (flooded)
    12. Community Bank (flooded)
    13. Caja Madera/Dona's/Wildcat Busing (flooded)
    14. Lamoille Valley Ford (flooded)
    15. Yellow Barn and rail trail parking (flooded)
    16. Kwik Stop (not verified)
    17. New England Auto Glass (flooded)
- Wolcott Street – 3 backflow storm water valves need to be installed to prevent water back-up from the Lamoille River – Total project cost approximately \$15,000.
- **Pre-application submitted in early 2023.** Flood Hazard Mitigation project – stabilize bank next to School Street in East Hardwick (Further erosion occurred in 2024 flooding). **Application from the Town has been requested by the State – 7/25/24 Also a FEMA project**
- Overarching watershed study has been requested for Cooper Brook from the NRCS Watershed and Flood Prevention and Operations Program (WFPO). Flood modeling will occur on first 1.5 mile stretch to intersection with Lamoille River – should be completed by 2025.
- Possible flood hazard mitigation concepts for additional 10 parcels – not owned by Town at this time.
  1. 3 on Cooper Brook (Floodplain restoration).
  2. **6 adjacent and on Lamoille River – park & floodplain restoration? (Caledonia County NRCS would like to oversee). Patterned after Northfield's successful floodplain restoration.**
  3. 2 on Lamoille River in center of Town. (Floodplain restoration)
- **Pre-application** Hazard Mitigation Grant – Generator in the EOC at the Police Station (Have conceptual designs and quotes).
- Long-Term Community Recovery Plan was in initial phases after 2023 flooding. Will be even more important with the 2024 flooding.

- VCRD working with Neighbor to Neighbor and the Town to create a local partner's version to the LEMP. Consultants interviewed on 8/13/24
- Create and store a supply center that is ready to go – cleaning kits, dehumidifiers, sump pumps, fans, safety suits, masks, protective glasses, etc. Hazen has offered a location for a shipping container for storage. Possible regional approach – serve as Hub for local towns. July 2024 supply center was utilized by Walden, Wolcott, Stannard, Greensboro, and Woodbury. In process August 1, 2024
- Neighbor to Neighbor scheduled a community meeting to discuss projects, actions, etc on September 16, 2024 from 6-7:30 pm at the Hazen Union cafeteria.