

Flood Follow-up and Hardwick's Future

Hosted by Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor
in partnership with the Town of Hardwick

"There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

Margaret Wheatley

What are our goals this evening?

- ★ Provide an update on how the town has been able to rebound from the summer's flood damage.
- ★ Share what key organizations did and learned from this emergency.
- ★ Learn about a Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor and town project to be better prepared for any future emergency.
- ★ Answer your lingering questions (or help direct you to where you can find answers or help).
- ★ Scheme ways to be better prepared and to better support your neighbors in future emergencies.

What we won't be able to fit into tonight...

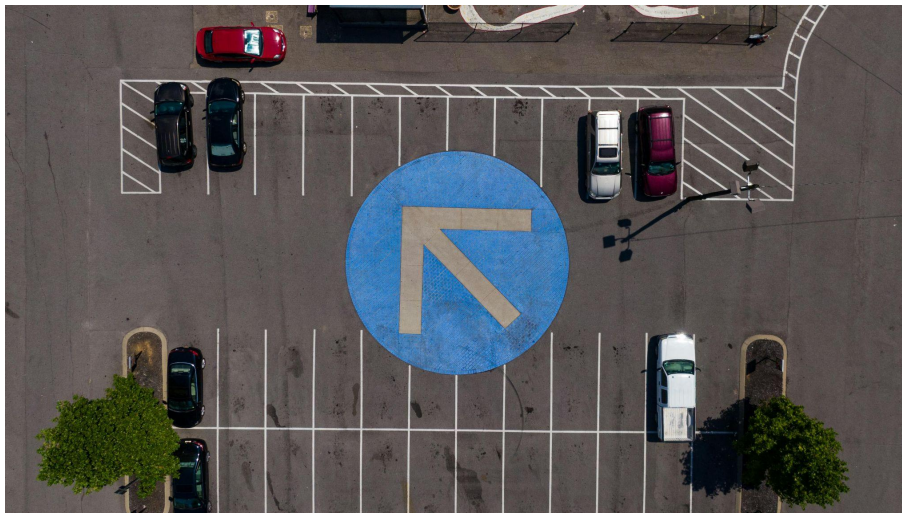
A review of the pros and cons of dredging (there will be a future meeting to review this issue in depth hosted by the town).

A deep dive into individual needs, which can best be handled on a one-on-one approach. In these instances, there will be time after the meeting to identify your next steps.

Agreements for the evening....

- Take care of YOU (each participant chooses their level of participation)
- Take care of each OTHER (be kind)
- Share the air time
- Listen with an open mind and an open heart

Our Parking Lot...



A snapshot of this evening...

- ❖ Honoring our strength and resilience
- ❖ Presentation by Opie and Kristen - How have we rebounded?
- ❖ Overview of Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor/Town Emergency Planning Project
- ❖ Panel Discussion/Questions & Answers
- ❖ Story of Cottage Street neighborhood support strategies
- ❖ Thinking of ways to strengthen our own neighborhood's emergency response
- ❖ Head Home

Flood Resiliency Hardwick, Vermont

Town of Hardwick staff • 09/16/24



Overview

Flooding in Hardwick

3 Federally Declared Disasters for Flooding in one year (July 2023, June 2024 and July 2024)

2 additional events - December 2023 and August 2024.

Recent Impacts

- 1.5 million expended by the town
- 20 roads impacted
- 6 bridges closed
- 1 major landslide in East Hardwick
- 4 At-risk properties purchased
- 2 critical facilities damaged

Biggest risk

- Continued flooding

Mill Street (Inn by the River) and Hays Service Station

- **July 2023 - Flooding**
- **Town Purchase through FRCF**
- **Pre-application for a HMGP grant**
- **July 2024 - Flooding**
- **Temporary Bank Stabilization by the State of Vermont at the request of the Town**
- **Application requested from Town for Floodplain Restoration & Bank Stabilization.**



Downtown Hardwick

- **July 2023 - Flooding**
- **July 2024 - Worse impacts from flooding**
- **Pre-Application submitted to HMGP to create a comprehensive approach to the Riverbanks**
- **10+ properties Reviewed by NRCS for Emergency Watershed Protection grants**
- **Temporary stabilization measures were installed by Gravel Construction at Mike's Service Station.**



Lower Lamoille River

- **Pre-Application submitted to HMGP to utilize the Town-owned property below Cottage Street Bridge for Floodplain restoration/mitigation project.**
- **Below the intersection of Cooper Brook and the Lamoille River.**
- **Identified as a beneficial project by the Lamoille Basin Tactical Plan in 2021.**
- **Provide more flooding capacity downstream on the Lamoille River**



Flood Mitigation by Yellow Barn, LVRT, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Lamoille Valley Ford

- **Storm water system and flood capacity near this area needs to be repaired and upgraded.**
- **Near the Wastewater Treatment Facility**
- **Near the Wolcott Street Commercial District.**



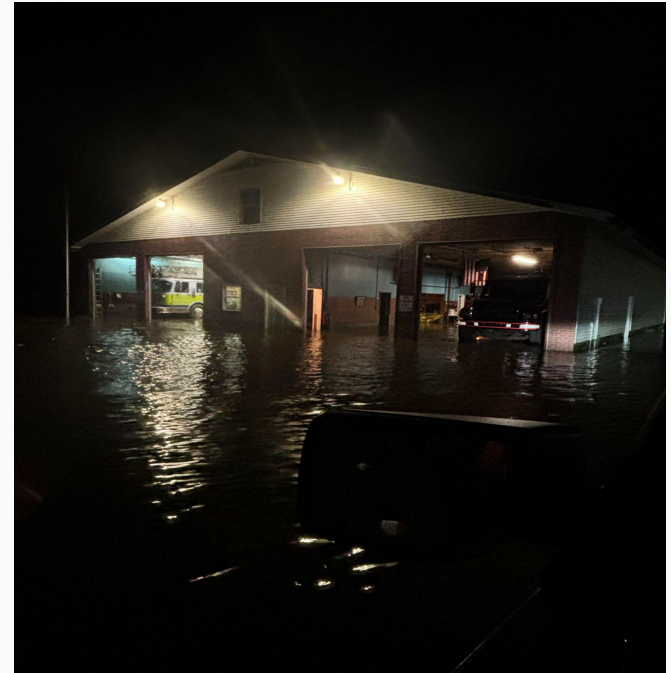
Granite Street Historic District

- **July 2023 - Flooding**
- **July 2024 - Only area that had increased flood amounts**
- **Cooper Brook expands**
- **Neighborhood focused response - private sump pump to assist several homes.**
- **Historic basements need to be floodproofed.**
- **Floodplain restoration at Atkins Field**
- **Pre-application for a BRIC grant.**



Hardwick Fire Station

- **July 2023 - Substantially Damaged.**
- **July 2024 - Damaged again.**
- **Critical Facility that needs to be relocated from the Floodplain/Floodway**
- **Standard Operating Procedure is to remove equipment in weather events.**
- **MTAP grant received to conduct a scoping study for relocation to Creamery Road.**
- **Location could be used for future floodplain restoration.**



Wastewater Treatment Facility Plant

- **July 2023 - Flooded - Substantially Damaged.**
- **July 2024 - Flooded - Substantially Damaged.**
- **Critical Facility in the Floodplain - needs to be elevated or relocated.**
- **State and Federal partners will be developing proposals and identifying funding sources.**



Debris Removal from the Rivers

- **July 2023 - Flooding**
- **December 2023 - Flooding**
- **June 2024 - Flooding**
- **July 2024 - Flooding**
- **August 2024 - Flooding**
- **Cooper Brook**
- **Lamoille River**
- **Haynesville Brook - VTrans - Fall 2024**



Damaged Roads and Culverts - 2024

- **Kate Brook Road - new culvert - 8/1/24**
- **Belfry Road - asphalt damaged**
- **Bunker Hill Road - open 8/1/24**
- **Smith Farm Road - fixed shoulder 8/1/24**
- **Dutton Road - upsized culvert 7/25/24**
- **Nichols Pond Road - upsized culvert 7/25/24**
- **Stage House Road - upsized culvert 7/25/24**
- **Wright Farm Road - State repaired apron 7/25/24**
- **Stannard Mountain Road - Hardwick section repaired - 7/25/24**
- **Tucker Brook - open on 7/30/24**

6 Damaged Bridges from 2023 and 2024

- **Tucker Brook (2023) - Temporary held in 2024**
- **Carey Road box culvert/bridge - Temporary Fix in 2024**
- **Riverside Farms Bridge destroyed in 2024 - Temporary in construction now - 9/24**
- **Fisher's Folly Bridge - damaged in 2023 and 2024. Temporary in place 8/24**
- **Hardwick Farms Road Bridge - damaged 2023 & 2024 - temporary done 8/24.**
- **East Main Street in East Hardwick - damaged 2023 - emergency removal in 5/24.**



2023 Buyouts in process (10) - Flood Mitigation projects in the future.

- **4 purchased in the spring of 2024 - demolished and seeded & mulched - 223 Mill Street (Inn by the River), 2832 Craftsbury Rd, 387 Carey Road, and School Street in E. Hardwick**
- **5 just returned from FEMA with funding**
- **1 is still at FEMA awaiting an award.**
- **Pre-Application submitted for 2 HMGP projects - Floodplain Restoration on the Lamoille River and Floodplain Mitigation on Cooper Brook.**



NRCS - Emergency Watershed Protection assistance - 2023 and 2024

- **After the July 2023 Flooding - 13 properties reviewed**
- **3 properties accepted into the program - all need bank stabilization - 2 on the Lamoille River and 1 on Haynesville Brook**
- **2 have received engineering - bids are being solicited to begin the work**
- **1 is still in the engineering phase - in process.**
- **After the July 2024 Flooding - 12-13 properties were reviewed.**
- **Only one would not meet the program standards.**
- **1 on Cooper Brook and the rest on the Lamoille River.**
- **Awaiting acceptance letter from the program.**

2024 Buyouts in process

- **The Select Board voted on July 18, 2024 to re-open the buyout requests. The Town has received inquiries from floodplain homeowners. All interested owners have flooded on multiple occasions. Several will not seek a buyout if the town is able to install flood mitigation and/or protection for their property.**
- **Vermont Fish & Wildlife is interested in purchasing two parcels on the Haynesville Brook.**



Elevations - 2023 and 2024

- **July 2023 - 5 requests to elevate**
- **August 2023 - 1 elevation completed - remained out of flooding in July 2024**
- **July 2024 - 2 additional requests to elevate**
- **The State of Vermont has allocated money for elevation projects in 5 towns - including Hardwick**
- **Waiting for the State to create the framework for the funding.**



Floodproofing in 2024

- **July 2023 - Flooding impacted the Wolcott Street Commercial District**
- **August 2024 - Flooding**
- **Pre-applications for four commercial properties to receive assistance with Dry Floodproofing their structures.**



Additional Projects in the Works

- **Flood modeling with LCPC - EDA grant received (to be done by 2025).**
- **Overarching watershed study of the Cooper Brook through NRCS**
- **Pre-Application for a Hazard Mitigation Grant for a Generator at the Police Station.**
- **Study of the Jackson Dam/Hardwick Lake.**
- **Advance Assistance Grant for scoping possible flood mitigation plans including dredging feasibility.**



Next steps

- **Continue to refine disaster response**
- **Develop future funding strategies and partnerships**
- **Study new conditions**
- **Work with State and Federal partners to identify priorities for implementation**
- **Examine the entire Lamoille River Basin with upstream and downstream communities**
- **Create projects eligible for FEMA reimbursement**

Goals for the future.

1. Working with the Rivers, Streams and Brooks
2. Upgrading Infrastructure
3. Help businesses and residents stay safe and remain in the Floodplain

Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor

September 2024

Ongoing Activities

Short Term Project

Local Emergency Management Planning (LEMP) in partnership with Town of Hardwick

Neighborhood Gatherings
Nancy Notterman

Communications
Diane Grenkow & Caro Thompson

Mary Braun
Emergency Communications

Civic Standard:
Rose Friedman & Team
Emergency Shelter

Diane Grenkow & Kristen Leahy
Volunteer Mobilization
Local Resource Mobilization eg. Service Groups
Team Rubicon

Regional Group Liaison (KURRVE & LeARN)
Jim Lewis & Regina Wdowiak

Supply and Support Center
Larry Fliegelman
Recruitment
Volunteer Staffing & Support
Inventory
Outreach to suppliers
Documentation & Tracking

Volunteer Services & Helpline Response
Diane Grenkow & Jeudevine Library
Volunteer recruitment & management
Answer and document calls and emails

This short term project is being supported by the Vermont Council on Rural Development
Cynthia Stuart & Karen Horn