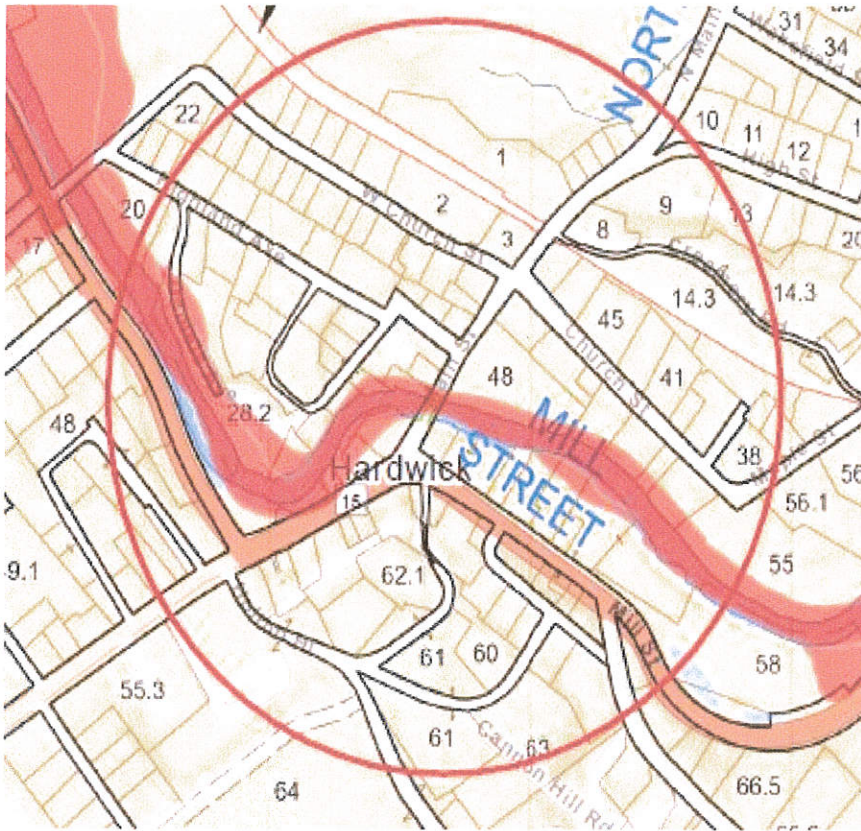


Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Fund (BRIC) – FEMA funding through Vermont Emergency Management (VEM)



Who: The Town of Hardwick was invited to apply for funding through a BRIC grant. We were one of 10 towns selected in Vermont.

Where: Downtown Hardwick on the Lamaille River from Mill Street (above Hays Service) to the Cottage Street Bridge.

What: BRIC grants are used to create the foundations of larger implementation grants. This would be creating a scoping study. Components include:

- 1) Benefit Cost Analysis
- 2) A cost estimate,
- 3) 100% engineering designs
- 4) Public engagement.

How Much Money: The various elements would total \$230,000 with a 25% match requested from the town - \$57,500. The implementation is expected to be anywhere from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000.

When: This is the round of funding that is currently at the State of Vermont. Applications are due next Friday, February 28, 2025.

Additional Thoughts:



This has been identified as one of three main projects that would protect the downtown, business and residential area of Hardwick on the Lamaille River. The other two projects are at the former Inn by the River location and below Cottage Street Bridge. Both projects have their components being generated by the RIVER program (BCA, Cost Estimate, 30% Engineering Designs) so that they can be implemented using Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding. Time frame: 3-5 years. Cost: \$0.

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We tried to source the funding of this project through the same two programs – RIVER for the design work and planning and HMGP for the implementation. The scope of the planning was beyond the capacity of the RIVER program. Once the scoping study is complete, we will be invited to apply for a HMGP to implement. We do not know what the match would be or what the funding structure would look like at that point.

We need to have the necessary components to be “shovel ready” and to obtain funding to repair aspects of this corridor.

The corridor has large sections that are owned by the Town of Hardwick. The impacts have been increasing with each rain event.

July 2023 – The Inn by the River was removed by flooding. FRCF funds purchased, demolished, and removed asbestos debris. Future mitigation is in the RIVER/HMGP program. 100% funding obtained (approximately \$1.5 million). Possible NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection to stabilize in the short term. Monetary match - \$56,250 (25%).



July 2024 – The Inn by the River location was again impacted – another 100 feet of streambank was removed. The bank by the adjoining property was also impacted. Three cars were swept away. Multiple buried tanks are now threatened. The State stabilized the bank. Additional stabilization before the implementation of the HMGP may be necessary (see above).

July 2024 – The Buffalo Mountain Market lost a substantial amount of streambank. EWP will pay \$112,500 to stabilize this area.

July 2023 and July 2024 – The retaining wall next to the Town’s Storm Water system on North Main Street was damaged and will need to be repaired. No cost estimate or funding source identified yet.



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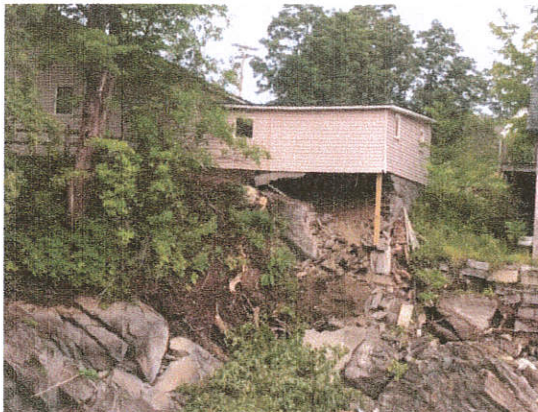


July 2023 and July 2024 – The Town’s retaining wall next to the North Main Street Bridge was damaged and will need to be repaired. No cost estimate or funding source identified yet.

July 2023 and July 2024 – 41 Brush Street was damaged and now hangs precipitously over the edge of the



Lamoille River. FEMA buyout grant will provide 100% funding for purchase, demolition and removal. The bank stabilization would be funded by the NRCS Emergency Watershed Program grant. Monetary match - \$32,812 (25%)



August 2024 – 65 Brush Street was damaged and lost a section of the house. Bank stabilization at 41 Brush Street may remedy the issue. In the meantime, the property is in the FEMA buyout program and would be purchased and demolished. 100% match obtained.

July 2024 – Mike’s Service Station was damaged by the flooding. A temporary repair was installed by the owners. The Town assisted with the permitting process. No cost to the Town (\$30,000+ cost to the owner).



Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Fund (BRIC) – FEMA funding through Vermont Emergency Management (VEM)

July 2024 – The foundation of Civic Standard Building was removed by flooding. Estimated cost to repair may be as much as \$100,000. Adjoining town-owned green space (Peace Park) has damaged retaining walls. No cost estimate or funding plan in place yet.



July 2023 – The retaining wall near the pedestrian bridge was damaged by the flooding. FEMA will be paying the expense on this repair - \$2,375,000. The Town has a 10% match (\$237,500).

