

Granite Street Neighbors – Winter 2026 Update

A collaboration of the Town of Hardwick, the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE), and residents of the Granite Street Historic District

What’s Happening in the Granite Street Neighborhood

A Neighborhood Working Together

The Granite Street Neighborhood is working closely with the Town of Hardwick and the Center for an Agricultural Economy to improve safety, reduce flood impacts, and strengthen long-term stability for residents who have experienced repeated flooding.



Residents selected a neighborhood identity: **Granite Street Neighbors**

This identity will be used for neighborhood updates, preparedness work, and future mitigation efforts. A draft brand is shown above and will be available for resident feedback this Spring.

*SLR Consulting Hired – Flood Resiliency Planning Underway

Through a Municipal Planning Grant, the Town hired SLR Consulting to prepare a Granite Street Historic District Flood Resilience Plan focused specifically on neighborhood conditions.

- On-the-ground assessments and site visits were completed this Fall
- **A community meeting will be held in May to share options, explain tradeoffs, and gather resident input**
- Lessons learned here will help inform resilience work in other parts of Hardwick

*Early-Warning Siren – Budgeted for Installation and Moving Forward

A new outdoor warning siren for the Granite Street Neighborhood has been funded in the FY2027 Town budget, beginning July 1, 2026.

This siren will provide earlier warning during fast-moving flood events, giving residents more time to act. More details will be shared as design and placement move forward.

*Watershed Improvements Supporting the Neighborhood

Granite Street flooding is influenced by both Cooper Brook and the Lamoille River system. SLR's watershed modeling identified several coordinated actions that, together, reduce pressure during high-water events.

1. **Jackson Dam** – Under evaluation for potential flood-peak reductions
2. **Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT)** – Partners are addressing trail-related constrictions that worsen flooding
3. **Lamoille River Flood Bench Restoration** – Newly funded for design and construction in 2026
4. **Sawmill Lane Park (Future Flood Storage Area)** – Three buyouts completed; more in progress

No single project can eliminate flooding. Together, these efforts meaningfully reduce risk and improve system performance during storms.

*\$700,000 for Utility Elevation in the Neighborhood

Hardwick received \$700,000 from the Vermont Legislature to elevate utilities and mechanical systems above flood levels in frequently flooded homes.

- Granite Street Historic District properties in the floodplain overlay will be prioritized
 - Homes will be evaluated through a consistent site assessment process
 - **Outreach to homeowners is included with this update**
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Building Local Resilience

*High Water Mark Project

A High-Water Mark will be installed to document historic flood levels, preserve community memory, and increase awareness of flood risk. Concepts will be available for discussion at the Community meeting in May.

*Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor – New Volunteers

Expanded in 2025, focusing on neighborhood response, communication support, and emergency coordination.

*Emergency Supply and Support Center Ready

Supplies and equipment are staged and ready for deployment to the Granite Street Neighborhood when needed.

*Granite Street Neighborhood Flood Resilience Plan – In Progress

The plan will include:

- Household-level mitigation options
- Neighborhood-scale improvements
- Watershed-linked actions
- Clear implementation steps

A draft will be shared in Summer 2026 for community review.

*Coordination on Upstream Dams

The Town and Hardwick Electric Department continue reviewing high-hazard dams upstream of the neighborhood.

* Spring Resilience Workshop Series

In partnership with Jeudevine Memorial Library, Center for An Agricultural Economy (CAE), and Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor. Workshops will focus on preparedness skills, neighborhood connections, and understanding flood risk. Dates coming soon.

In addition:

VDART Emergency Animal Sheltering - With support from The Irving and Phyllis Millstein Foundation for Animal Welfare®

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 | 6:00–7:30 PM

Jeudevine Memorial Library – Parker Ladd Room

Learn how to care for pets during emergencies, including shelter setup, supplies, and supporting pet owners.

Free and open to the public.

What to Expect Next

- Information about the SLR community meeting in May
- Updates on utility elevation outreach
- Spring workshop details
- Draft Neighborhood Flood Resilience Plan in Summer 2026

Questions - Kristen Leahy, Town of Hardwick, (802) 472-1686 zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov

Please note: Kristen will be out of the office from March 27 to April 27 to undergo a hip replacement. Town staff will continue to support ongoing work during this time, and Kristen will follow up when she returns.

