

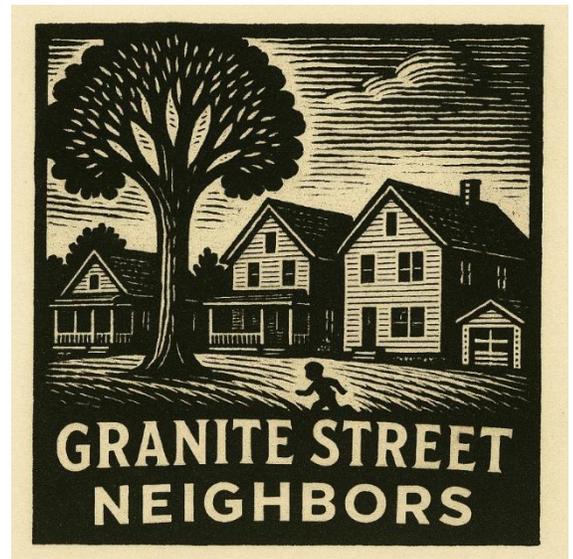
Granite Street Neighbors – Winter 2026 Update

A collaboration of CAE, the Town of Hardwick, and the residents of the Granite Street Historic District Neighborhood.

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 (CAE) 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 winter.

*SLR Consulting Hired – Flood Resiliency Planning Underway

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

- SLR completed on-the-ground assessments this fall, including site visits throughout the neighborhood and surrounding flood-impacted areas.
- A community meeting will be held this winter to share practical options, explain tradeoffs, and gather resident input.
- While this plan focuses on the Granite Street Neighborhood, 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 That Will Help 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 on the river system during high-water events.

1. Jackson Dam - Being evaluated for potential flood-peak reductions.

2. Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) - Town and LVRT partners are pursuing options to address trail-related constrictions that worsen flooding near Wolcott Street and Cooper Brook.

3. Lamoille River Flood Bench Restoration - Newly funded for design and construction. An engineering firm will be hired in spring 2026.

4. Sawmill Lane Park (Future Flood Storage Area) - Three buyouts completed; more in progress. This area is being considered for future floodplain restoration and community use.

No single project can eliminate flooding but taken together these actions 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 relocate mechanical systems above flood levels in the most frequently flooded homes in Hardwick. Granite Street Historic District properties in the floodplain overlay will be prioritized. Homes will be evaluated through a consistent site assessment process to determine feasibility and sequencing. Homeowner outreach will begin this winter.

Building Local Resilience

*High Water Mark Project

A High-Water Mark will be installed in or near the Granite Street Neighborhood to document historical flood levels, preserve community memory, and increase awareness of flood risk.

*Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor – 30 New Volunteers

The volunteer network expanded significantly in 2025 and will focus on:

- Neighborhood response
- Communication support
- Emergency coordination

*Emergency Supply and Support Center Ready

Hardwick's Emergency Supply and Support system is staged for immediate use, with resources ready to deploy to the Granite Street Neighborhood when needed.

*Granite Street Neighborhood Flood Resilience Plan – In Progress

The plan being developed this winter will include:

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

A draft will be shared this spring for community review and feedback.

*Coordination on Upstream Dams

The Town and Hardwick Electric Department are reviewing the high-hazard dams located upstream of the neighborhood. This effort builds on existing modeling and continues this winter.

*Winter/Spring Resilience Workshop Series

In partnership with: Jeudevine Memorial Library, CAE, Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor, and NEKO

Workshops will focus on practical preparedness skills, neighborhood connectivity, and understanding local flood risk. Dates will be shared soon.

What to Expect Next

- Information about SLR's winter community meeting
- Updates on the utility elevation program and homeowner outreach
- Details on the winter/spring workshop series
- A spring 2026 draft of the Granite Street Neighborhood Flood Resilience Plan

