1

Identify infrastructural vulnerabilities and strengths (small teams).

Infrastructure such as residential housing, schools, commercial building, churches, office parks/campuses, laboratories, roads, bridges, and utilities among others can be vulnerable to hazards as well as serve to strengthen the community. The objective of this step is to identify infrastructural vulnerabilities and strengthens across the entirety of the community.

(i) List infrastructural features. On the **Risk Matrix**, list infrastructural features—such as housing, commercial buildings, roads, and utilities—that have been or could be affected by the **Top 4 Hazards**. Identify those that have withstood, could withstand, and/or are critical to maintain and improve. *Examples:* Communications systems, evacuation signage, and emergency operating centers. Refer to "Triggering Questions" to accelerate dialogue.

(ii) Describe locations via participatory mapping. For each feature, describe the specific location. Mark the location on the community basemap provided. Be sure to label in such a way as to be legible after the Workshop.

(iii) Identify ownership. Add information about who owns or has responsibility for each feature listed. *Examples:* City, county, state, private, association, department, agency, and corporate.

(iv) Identify each feature as vulnerability or strength. Assign each listed feature with "V" or "S," or both. In some cases, a community feature is both a vulnerability and strength. *Example:* One municipality identified a pond as a strength and vulnerability because it served as a water source for the comm unity, yet posed a flooding risk to adjacent homes and a church if not drawn down prior to major rainstorms.

Triggering Questions:

- What infrastructure/facilities are exposed to current and future hazards? Transportation, waste water treatment, nursing homes, schools, office park, hazardous materials facility, dams, laboratories, churches, pharmacies, groceries, gas stations?
- What makes this infrastructure vulnerable? Location, age, building codes, type of housing?
- What are the consequences of this infrastructure being vulnerable? Lack of access to critical facilities – urgency care/pharmacies?

Examples of Vulnerabilities:

- Main road floods during storms, blocking emergency response.
- Power outages during heat waves lead to health concerns.
- Wildfire and high winds resulting in supply chain interruptions.
- Sewer pump stations become submerged and inoperable.
- Compromised rail system due to heat-related warping of tracks.

Examples of Strengths:

- Critical road elevated and passable by emergency management.
- Hurricane roof installed at school with improved sheltering capacity.
- Hardened utility lines reduce outages due to ice storms.
- Undersized culvert replaced to reduce flooding in key intersection.
- Improvement to communication systems during extreme weather.

2

Identify societal vulnerabilities and strengths (small teams).

Social vulnerability is a combination of the factors and forces that affect the susceptibility of various groups within a community to harm as well as their collective ability to respond positively after extreme event and/or more routine, ongoing hazards. Social vulnerability involves such factors as the availability of health care services and access to lifelines (food/water, emergency response personnel, etc.). Social strengths are often represented by those support networks that connect and maintain the supply of goods and services to impacted groups within the community. The objective of this step is to identify the people, places, and services that are at risk from the **Top 4 Hazards** as well as those that currently add strength to the communities' overall resilience.

(i) List societal features. On the **Risk Matrix**, list societal features. Consider factors that affect the ability of groups to deal with adverse impacts from hazards. Conversely, consider factors or characteristics that increase the capability of groups to negate, withstand, and quickly recover from hazards. Refer to "Triggering Questions" to accelerate dialogue.

(ii) Describe locations via participatory mapping. For each feature, describe the location. Be as specific as possible. Legibly mark the location on the community basemap provided. *Examples:* Is a population of elderly residents located in a particularly high-hazard area? Are other services such as gas stations, supermarkets, data server facilitates, critical hospital care units, pharmacies, churches, emergency command centers, shelters, public works facilities, and fire stations located in vulnerable locations?

(iii) Identify ownership. Add information about who owns or has responsibility for each feature listed. *Example:* Senior population may live in retirement communities (private) or senior housing (public).

(iv) Identify each feature as vulnerability or strength. Assign each listed feature with "V" or "S," or both.

Triggering Questions:

- What are the population characteristics of the people living in high-risk areas? Elderly, low/moderate income, special needs, languages spoken?
- What are the strengths and vulnerabilities of people in your community? Active civic groups, organizations, associations; full-time police, fire, and emergency medical services; strong lines of communication for emergency information?
- How can hazards intensify these characteristics? Where are areas for improvement in the community?

Examples of Vulnerabilities:

- Senior housing without back-up generators during heat waves.
- Residents without access transportation during hurricane evacuation.
- Household contaminate and sewage mobilization during flooding.
- Limited areas of refuge in elementary schools during tornados.

Examples of Strengths:

- Reliable communications protocols across departments for all employees.
- "Neighbor-helping-neighbor" program aligned with emergency operations.
- Well-supported volunteer organizations (fire, ambulance, CERTs).
- Faith-based and civic groups with hazard preparedness plans.

3

Identify environmental vulnerabilities and strengths (small teams).

Cataloguing the vulnerabilities and strengths of natural systems can be complex. Existing factors such as pollution, haphazard development/redevelopment, and invasive species can reduce the ability of natural systems to respond and assist with hazard impact reduction. Previous and ongoing open-space protection in high-risk areas (i.e., unstable slopes, low-lying floodplains) is viewed as a strength that often directly increases community resilience. Other benefits of natural systems to communities include flood storage, recreation, tourism, elevated property values, cooling during heat waves, and water filtration, among others. Understanding these factors can help facilitate collaborative approaches between development and conservation that fosters community resilience building.

(i) List environmental features. On the **Risk Matrix**, list environmental features. Consider natural resources that are vulnerable to hazards or that can provide protection for people, property, and amenities from top hazards. Refer to "Triggering Questions" to accelerate dialogue.

(ii) Describe locations via participatory mapping. For each feature, describe the location. Be as specific as possible. Legibly mark the location on the community basemap provided. *Example:* Identify where wetlands are in relation to current development (e.g., marinas, road crossings, fire stations, historic building, cemeteries, neighborhoods, nursing homes, etc.).

(iii) Identify ownership. Add information about who owns or has responsibility for each feature listed. *Examples:*

- Local beach with boat ramp owned by city.
- Nature preserve owned by local land trust.
- Grassland and forest owned by federal agency.
- Floodplain privately owned by farm.

(iv) Identify feature as vulnerability or strength. Assign each listed feature with "V" or "S," or both.

Triggering Questions:

- What natural resources are important to your community?
- What benefits do these natural resources provide (storm buffering, fire breaks, erosion control, water quality improvement, slope stabilization, recreation)?
- Which natural resources are exposed to current and future hazards?
- What have been the effects of these hazards on these natural resources?
- Where are the high-risk areas and what vulnerabilities exist for the environment?

Examples of Vulnerabilities:

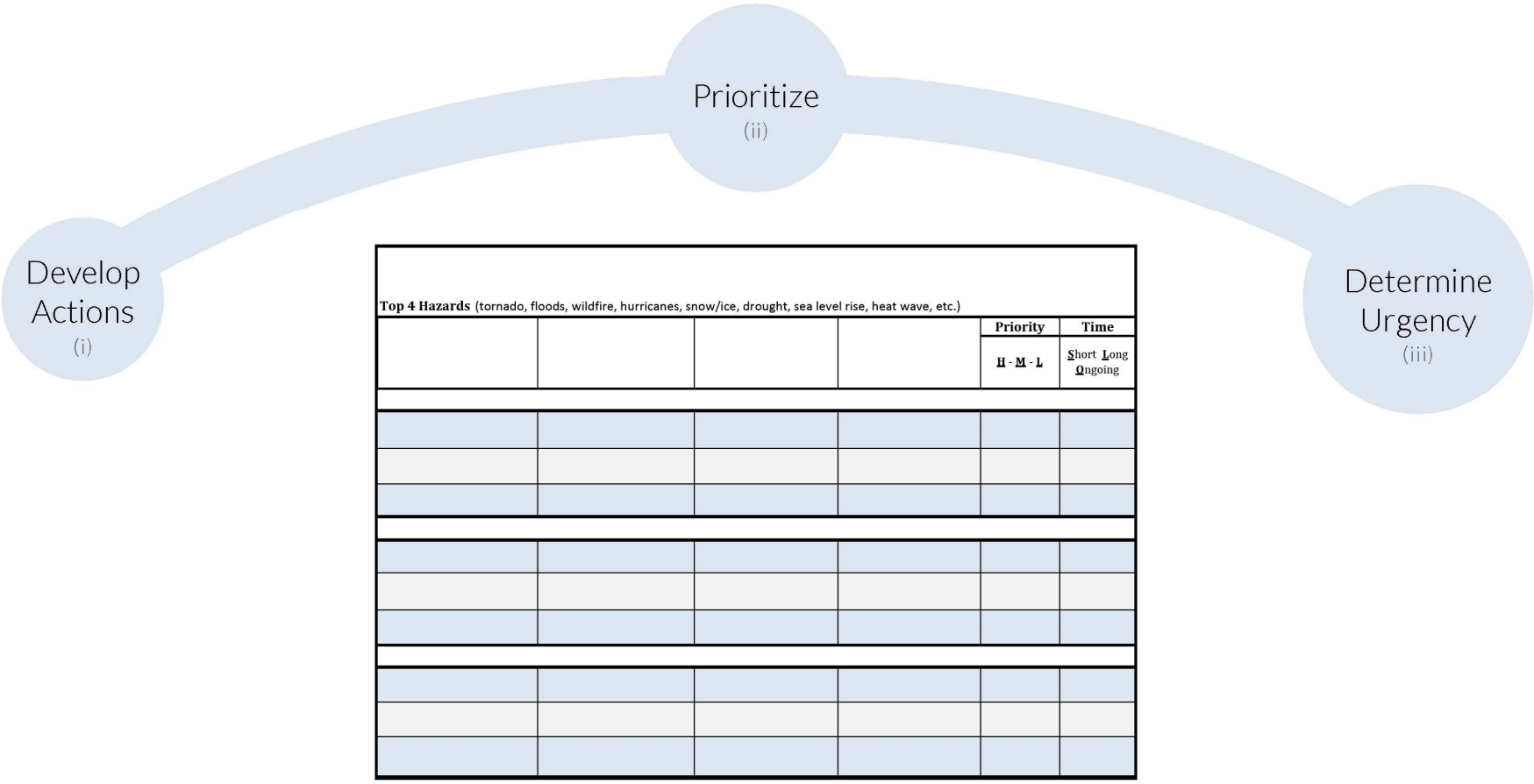
- Beachfront development reducing protection provided by dunes.
- Proliferation of subdivisions in wildfire and flood prone areas.
- Lack of urban tree canopy increasing heat island effects.

Examples of Strengths:

- Oyster reefs and tidal wetlands help reduce wave damage to property.
- Forested watersheds maintain drinking water supply during droughts.
- Native, vegetated slopes remain stable after intense 24-hour rain events.
- Floodplains provide stormwater storage and downstream flood reduction.

D Identify and Prioritize Community Actions

Section D Objective: For each profile – Infrastructural, Societal, Environmental – carefully identify and then prioritize actions to help reduce vulnerability or reinforce strengths for each or all of the **Top 4 Hazards**. Continue to work as small teams through the following three steps for each profile and capture dialogue, in detail, on the respective Risk Matrix. The **Risk Matrix** captures the community's **Top 4 Hazards**, vulnerabilities, strengths, and actions. The **Risk Matrix** provides information necessary to develop strategies, inform community plans and advance actions to lessen hazard impacts and build resilience.



Steps D1, D2 and D3 below focus on identifying and prioritizing intrastructural, societal and environmental actions. Each step requires three tasks to complete the Risk Matrix: **(i)** develop actions, **(ii)** prioritize actions (**H**igh, **M**edium, **L**ow), and **(iii)** determine urgency (**O**ngoing, **S**hort-term, **L**ong-term).

1

Identify and prioritize infrastructural actions.

Example of a **Risk Matrix** filled in with infrastructural actions, priorities, and level of urgency.

Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix

H-**M**-**L** priority for action over the **S**hort or **L**ong term (and **O**ngoing)
V = Vulnerability **S** = Strength

Top 4 Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Coastal Flooding SLR/Storm Surge	Inland Flooding and Rain Events	Ice and Snow	Wind	Priority H - M - L	Time Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural									
Town Campus	Specific	Town	V	Verify risk from flooding events; Identify alternative locations during peak flooding; Verify maintenance plan annually				H	S
Evacuation Routes - Roads	Town-wide	Town/State	V	Install highly visible signage for evacuation routes; Develop and implement communication program				H	S
Electrical Distribution System	Multiple	CL&P/Town	V	Within floodplain area, establish plan to address protection and long-term relocation of equipment		Upgrade transformers; Maintain power line protection zone (tree trimming)		H	O-L
Dams (inland and coastal)	Multiple	Private	V	Prevent possibility of catastrophic dam failure; Identify and remove dams to minimize downstream flooding due to failure				H	L
Railway and State Bridges	Multiple	Amtrak/State	V	Improve communications between parties; Expand green/gray infrastructure and improve bridge structures; Assess vulnerability and prioritize infrastructure improvement list				M	S
State Roads/Intersections	Town-wide	State/Town	V	Coordinate with DOT, volunteers, public works to improve response; Need signage to warn of flooding risk in critical intersections				M	L
Wharves and Shore Infrastructure	Shore	Town-State-Private	V	Pursue comprehensive shoreline management plan; Establish community dialogue on retaining/relocating infrastructure				L	S
Waste Water Treatment Facility	Specific	Town	V	Conduct alternative siting feasibility study; Relocate to low risk area within next 25 years.				L	L
New Ambulance Center	Specific	Town	S	Continue to support services in budget; Add additional staff and vehicle in next annual cycle					Ongoing
Zoning Regulations (maintain large lot size)	Multiple	Town	S	Current building codes control development in risky areas; Consider additional zoning incentives (TDRs) to reduce risk to residential units					Ongoing

More examples of actions:

- Improved access in high-risk locations
- Reduce housing stock in vulnerable areas
- Prioritize development in low-risk areas
- Integrate future risks in capital improvement plans
- Flood-proof manhole covers
- Secure new generators for critical facilities

When prioritizing, consider factors such as:

- Funding availability and terms
- Agreement on outstanding impacts from recent hazard events
- Necessity for advancing longer-term outcomes
- Contribution towards meeting existing local and regional planning objectives

Examples of urgency:

- Current project to install hurricane-proof roof on school is an ongoing **(O)** action.
- Ensuring evacuation procedures are updated annually is considered a short-term **(S)** action.
- Reducing housing stock in high-risk areas, elevating a road, or replacing a bridge are long-term **(L)** actions.

2

Identify and prioritize societal actions.

Example of a **Risk Matrix** filled in with societal actions, priorities, and level of urgency.

Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix

H-**M**-**L** priority for action over the **S**hort or **L**ong term (and **O**ngoing)
V = Vulnerability **S** = Strength

Top 4 Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Coastal Flooding SLR/Storm Surge	Inland Flooding and Rain Events	Ice and Snow	Wind	Priority	Time
								H - **M** - **L**	**S**hort **L**ong **O**ngoing
Societal									
Elderly Citizens (facilities)	Multiple	Private	**V**	Assess and identify vulnerabilities to determine residents needs during emergencies; Coordinate emergency planning efforts; Conduct routine evacuation drills				**H**	**S**
Neighborhood Cooperation	Town-wide	Private	**V**	Assist associations in identifying and conducting best practices to reduce risk; Advance a "Neighbor helping Neighbor" Program through Community Center training				**H**	**S**
Faith-based Organizations	Multiple	Private	**V**	Coordinate organizations in identifying and conducting best practices amongst members to reduce risk				**H**	**S**
Homeless Population	Town-wide	Town	**V**	Extreme weather flyers and communications about available services				**M**	**S**
Vulnerable Neighborhoods	South side	Town/Private	**V**	Identify level and location of vulnerable units; Develop longer term plan to reduce vulnerability				**M**	**L**
Coordinated Evacuation Plan	Town-wide	Town/State	**V**	Reconfigure evacuation routes; Update signage along critical routes				**L**	**S**
Sheltering Facility (upgrades)	Town/Region	Town/State	**V**	Conduct feasibility analysis for regional sheltering facility; Seek to construct over next 15 years.				**L**	**L**
Shelter Management Plan	Town-wide	Town	**S**	Review and update as needed on annual basis; More resources required (cots, shampoo, etc.)					**Ongoing**
Lower Household Expenses (flood insurance)	Town-wide	Town	**S**	Continue enrollment in FEMA Community Rating System (CRS);Reduced number flood insurance rate payers through volunteer buyouts/relocation					**Ongoing**
Volunteer Fire Department	Town-wide	Town	**S**	Continue support (well equipped and experienced) to further strengthen services - volunteer outreach					**Ongoing**

More examples of actions:

- Strengthen volunteer opportunities for residents
- Increase hazard awareness in high risk areas through education and outreach
- Foster a neighbor-helping-neighbor program across community

When prioritizing, consider factors such as:

- Funding availability and terms
- Agreement on outstanding impacts from recent hazard events
- Necessity for advancing longer-term outcomes
- Contribution towards meeting existing local and/or regional planning objectives

Examples of urgency:

- A current regional sheltering and shared services agreement is an ongoing **(O)** action.
- A communication campaign on hazard impacts implemented in next six months is a short-term **(S)** action.
- Relocating affordable housing from high-hazard areas is a long-term **(L)** action.

3

Identify and prioritize environmental actions.

Example of a **Risk Matrix** filled in with environmental actions, priorities, and level of urgency.

Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix

H-**M**-**L** priority for action over the **S**hort or **L**ong term (and **O**ngoing)
V = Vulnerability **S** = Strength

Top 4 Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Coastal Flooding SLR/Storm Surge	Inland Flooding and Rain Events	Ice and Snow	Wind	Priority H - M - L	Time Short Long Ongoing
Environmental									
Beaches & Dunes	Multiple	State-Town-Private	V/S	Maintain existing beaches & dunes; Assess values and key locations relative to people and property				H	S
Forest (uniform age structure)	Town-wide	Town/State	V	Seeks management that diversifies the age structure of forests in Town; Assess and identify key vulnerabilities from tree fall				H	S
Salt Marsh	Multiple	State/Private	V/S	Maintain existing marsh; Consider additional regulatory protection (increased setbacks) to prevent impacts to resource; Assess risk reduction potential from existing and future wetlands				H	S
Open Space Acquisition (for flood impact reduction)	Town-wide	Town-State-Private	V	Secure state funding; Salt marsh advancement zones	Secure state/federal funding	Include land protection needs Master Plan		H	S-L
State Parks	Specific	State	V	Encourage the State to work more closely with Town to comprehensively maintain town-wide natural resources, amenities, and water quality; Coordinate with state regarding evacuation procedures				M	S
Rippowam River	Specific	State/Town	V		Improve risk reduction characteristics of waterway through natural infrastructure & riparian buffer enhancements			M	S-L
Drinking Water Reservoir	Multiple	State-Private	V	Conduct assessment to comprehensively identify vulnerabilities and develop action plans to increase resilience of natural resources and long term water quality/quantity; Implement improvements				L	L
Protected Open Space	Multiple	State-Town-Private	S	Maintain existing open space to help reduce risk to Town; Seek to increase open space with the highest risk reduction characteristics					Ongoing
Tree Inventory	Town-wide	Town	S	Continue to utilize tree inventory to develop comprehensive, priority-based tree maintenance plan along transportation/utility corridors					Ongoing
River Restoration Projects	Specific	Town/Private	S	Continue implementation of projects to restore river buffer and remove dam to reduce risk to adjoining homes and businesses					Ongoing

More examples of actions:

- Conserve high value salt marsh advancement zones
- Protect and manage parks and lands located in flood zones
- Establish community-based green infrastructure proximate to high-risk locations
- Stabilize vulnerable slopes with native vegetation
- Increase urban tree canopy in low to moderate income neighborhoods

When prioritizing, consider factors such as:

- Funding availability and terms
- Agreement on outstanding impacts from recent hazard events
- Necessity for advancing longer-term outcomes
- Contribution towards meeting existing local and/or regional planning objectives

Examples of urgency:

- Protecting existing dunes by not permitting future development on the dunes is an ongoing **(O)** action.
- A dune restoration project implemented shortly after a hurricane is a short-term **(S)** action.
- Relocating homes to reduce risk and help expand the dune system to improve localized resilience is a long-term **(L)** action.

E Determine the Overall Priority Actions

Section E Objective: Develop agreement among workshop participants on the highest-priority actions across profiles—Infrastructural, Societal, Environmental—that will help reduce vulnerability or reinforce strengths resulting in greater community resilience. Once the large team has reconvened at the opening of this Section, directed report-outs by each small team (5-7 minutes per team using their Risk Matrix) in immediate succession is highly recommended.

1. Identify highest-priority actions (large team).

In Section D, participants in small teams created lists of actions for each feature across the infrastructural, societal, and environmental profiles. To ensure meaningful and more immediate community resilience building actions, the large team must reach agreement on a shorter (3 to 5) "highest-priority" action list. This Workshop step provides a vehicle to vet individual voices and for the large team, with all participants as a whole, to reach agreement on priorities for community resilience building.

2. Further define urgency and timing (large team).

To help move to a "highest-priority" action list, the large team should reconsider existing needs and urgency as expressed during the small team report-outs using their respective **Risk Matrixes**. The large team should also consider existing programs into which priority actions can be integrated easily or used to strengthen related actions with existing funding. In some cases, it may be advantageous to select a lower priority action if an opportunity for immediate integration and funding presents. Community resilience building is about creating irresistible and sustainable momentum through collaborative and routine action over time.

Facilitation Guidance: Several techniques are available to facilitate agreement by the large team on highest-priority actions. Directed report-outs by small teams (using **Risk Matrix**) with sequential capture and reinforcement of commonalities via flip charts is a very effective way to reach agreement on 3-5 highest-priority actions. This requires a facilitated dialogue and verbal agreement on highest-priority actions immediately following the small group reports. Providing an emphasis on "commonalities", as well as "differences", across small teams is an effective technique to accelerate agreement.

Alternatively, "sticky-dot voting" is a frequently used technique for determining which proposed actions are more important. With sticky-dot voting, a clear process is paramount, often including the following:

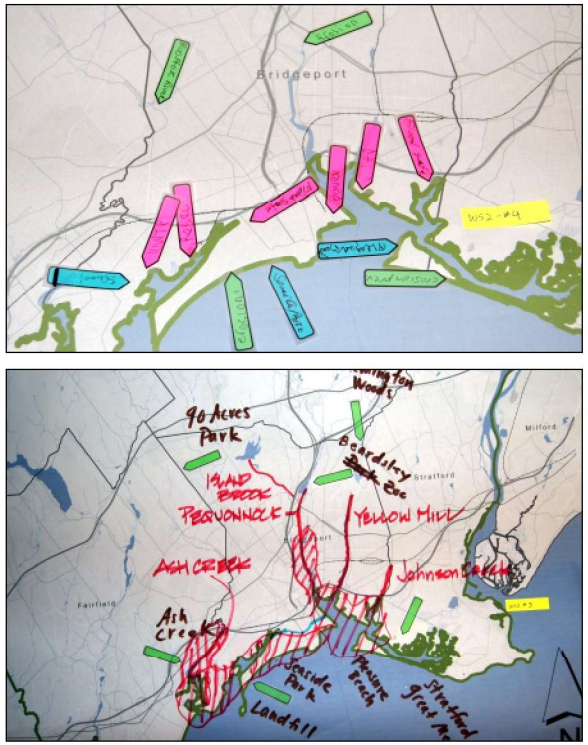
- Participants are given small dots (3-5) with an adhesive backing and told to place dots next to the actions on the Risk Matrixes they feel are of highest priority for the community.
- Specific criteria and instructions can be used to guide voting. For examples, participants may be given the option of placing all their dots next to one action, or directed to distribute among actions.
- Finally, the facilitator(s) tallies up dots to determine the 3-5 highest-priority actions. Final acknowledgement from participants on the 3-5 actions selected is paramount here.

F Put It All Together

Section F Objective: Develop comprehensive summary products from Community Resilience Building Workshop that will help reduce vulnerability or reinforce strengths resulting in greater community resilience.

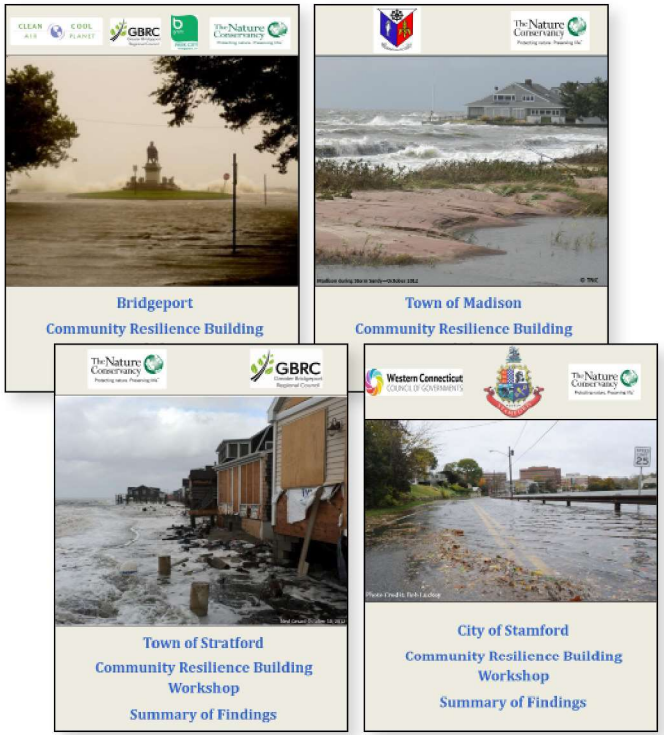
Generate final workshop products (core team).

In the aftermath of a **Community Resilience Building Workshop**, the core team must reconvene to generate a summary of findings report to be returned upon completion to participants and broader stakeholders. To achieve this outcome, the core team will need to 1) integrate and generate one master **Risk Matrix** for the community, 2) summarize top hazards and associated impacts (past, current, future), 3) distill the principal vulnerabilities and strengths, ownership, and locations, and 4) and organize a list of actions based on relative priority and urgency with emphasis on the 3-5 "highest-priority" actions. The final report should also list the affiliation of all invited and attending participants. Examples of completed summary of findings reports are available for review at **www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org**. Public presentations of final findings from the Community Resilience Building Workshop are highly recommended to help increase awareness and receptivity amongst residents, citizens, and/or employees.



Participatory mapping on Base Maps (Sections B & C)

Priority actions with agreement (Sections D & E)



CRB Workshop summary of findings (Section F)

G Moving Forward

Section G Objective: Advance the Community Resilience Building Workshop outcomes ultimately resulting in greater community resilience. Successful approaches and techniques that can help with community resilience building after the Workshop include:

1. Continue community outreach and engagement.

- Develop a strategy to secure formal approval by leadership (council, boards, commissions, etc.) to advance priority actions.
- Establish working groups and leads to enhance momentum for identified priority actions.
- Start conversations with those not involved in developing the **Risk Matrix** and the Community Resilience Building Workshop – focus on impacts where people live and work.
- Share stories of successfully completed actions with others across the community and beyond.
- Pursue and secure funding for priorities and projects.

2. Secure additional data and information.

- Define and establish partnerships to assist with data and information needs.
- Implement data collection to help fill gaps and inform additional assessments.
- Prioritize where to focus more in-depth, data/information gathering efforts.
- Integrate monitoring protocols and procedures into projects and policies to ensure future resilience efforts are continuously re-informed and improving.
- Pursue funding to help with additional analysis and/or projects.

3. Inform existing planning and project activities.

- Identify existing efforts to reduce risks and provide protection to people, property, and the environment. This can provide a foundation on which to build a stronger, more comprehensive, community resilience strategy.
- Inform existing hazard mitigation, comprehensive, capital investment, stormwater, natural resources, housing, and sustainability planning with **Risk Matrix**.
- Examine current policies such as building codes and land use policies and update as needed to accommodate climate-related concerns and/or hazards prioritized in **Risk Matrix**.
- Set priorities and targets for community resilience building over time via clearly defined and agreed upon partnerships.

Risk Matrix Guide

Page numbers for the Workshop Steps & Tasks to complete each section of the **Risk Matrix**

B 2 Page 9

Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix

H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)
V = Vulnerability S = Strength

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Top 4 Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)				Priority	Time
								H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural									
Societal									
Environmental									

C 1 Page 11

C 2 Page 12

C 3 Page 13

D 1 Page 15

D 2 Page 16

D 3 Page 17

Risk Matrix

The **Risk Matrix** captures the community's priority hazards, vulnerabilities, strengths, and actions. The **Risk Matrix** provides information necessary to develop strategies, inform community plans and advance conversations on how to lessen impacts from hazards and build resilience. Use the **Risk Matrix** and final summary report to inform ongoing discussions and decisions. Periodically revisit and update the **Risk Matrix** as your community makes progress on priority actions.

Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix

H-**M**-**L** priority for action over the **S**hort or **L**ong term (and **O**ngoing)
V = Vulnerability **S** = Strength

				Top 4 Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					
								Priority	**Time**
Features	**Location**	**Ownership**	**V or S**					**H - M - L**	**Short Long Ongoing**
Infrastructural									
Societal									
Environmental									

Recommended Risk Matrix size for Workshops is 3' x 5' - large enough to legibly capture input and provide a focal point during and after Workshops.

Example of Completed Risk Matrix: Infrastructural

Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix

H-**M**-**L** priority for action over the **S**hort or **L**ong term (and **O**ngoing)
V = Vulnerability **S** = Strength

Top 4 Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Coastal Flooding SLR/Storm Surge	Inland Flooding and Rain Events	Ice and Snow	Wind	Priority H - M - L	Time Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural									
Town Campus	Specific	Town	**V**	Verify risk from flooding events; Identify alternative locations during peak flooding; Verify maintenance plan annually				**H**	**S**
Evacuation Routes - Roads	Town-wide	Town/State	**V**	Install highly visible signage for evacuation routes; Develop and implement communication program				**H**	**S**
Nursing Homes/Elderly Care Facilities	Multiple	Private	**V**	Improve power generation; Review building codes and zoning for existing and future facilities				**H**	**S**
Homeowners Associations/Neighborhoods	Town-wide	Town/Private	**V**	Engage Neighborhood Associations and develop cooperative response plan with Town: Advance "Neighbor helping Neighbor" Program; Develop comprehensive neighborhood-based emergency plans				**H**	**S**
Electrical Distribution System	Multiple	CL&P/Town	**V**	Within floodplain area, establish plan to address protection and long-term relocation of equipment		Upgrade transformers; Maintain power line protection zone (tree trimming)		**H**	**O-L**
Dams (inland and coastal)	Multiple	Private	**V**	Prevent possibility of catastrophic dam failure; Identify and remove dams to minimize downstream flooding due to failure				**H**	**L**
Railway and State Bridges	Multiple	Amtrak/State	**V**	Improve communications between parties; Expand green/gray infrastructure and improve bridge structures; Assess vulnerability and prioritize infrastructure improvement list				**M**	**S**
Septic Systems	Town-wide	Private	**V**	Assess opportunities for community systems or alternative treatment technology; Upgrade regulations to reduce contamination in water ways				**M**	**L**
State Roads/Intersections	Town-wide	State/Town	**V**	Coordinate with DOT, volunteers, public works to improve response; Need signage to warn of flooding risk in critical intersections				**M**	**L**
Wharves and Shore Infrastructure	Shore	Town-State-Private	**V**	Establish community dialogue regarding retaining/relocating infrastructure; Advance comprehensive shoreline management plan				**L**	**S**
Waste Water Treatment Facility	Specific	Town	**V**	Conduct alternative siting feasibility study; Relocate to low risk area within next 25 years.				**L**	**L**
New Ambulance Center	Specific	Town	**S**	Continue to support services in budget; Add additional staff and vehicle in next annual cycle					**Ongoing**
Zoning Regulations (maintain large lot size)	Multiple	Town	**S**	Current building codes control development in risky areas; Consider additional zoning incentives (TDRs) to reduce risk to residential units					**Ongoing**
Business District (power generators)	Specific	Town/Private	**S**	Downtown business district with power generators in place; Prioritize pharmacy and gas stations					**Ongoing**

Example of Completed Risk Matrix: Societal

Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix

H-**M**-**L** priority for action over the **S**hort or **L**ong term (and **O**ngoing)
V = Vulnerability **S** = Strength

Top 4 Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Coastal Flooding SLR/Storm Surge	Inland Flooding and Rain Events	Ice and Snow	Wind	Priority H - M - L	Time Short Long Ongoing
Societal									
Elderly Citizens (facilities)	Multiple	Private	V	Assess and identify vulnerabilities to determine residents needs during emergencies; Coordinate emergency planning efforts; Conduct routine evacuation drills				H	S
Neighborhood Cooperation	Town-wide	Private	V	Assist associations in identifying and conducting best practices to reduce risk; Advance a "Neighbor helping Neighbor" Program through Community Center training				H	S
Faith-based Organizations	Multiple	Private	V	Coordinate organizations in identifying and conducting best practices amongst members to reduce risk				H	S
Municipal & Regional Tabletop Exercise	Town/Region	Town	V	Need to conduct exercises to maximize readiness; Better regional planning/communication plan to discuss vulnerabilities, share ideas, and resources				H	S
Homeless Population	Town-wide	Town	V	Extreme weather flyers and communications about available services				M	S
Database (locations of vulnerable population)	Town/Region	Town/State	V	Need to improve database to ensure high level responses and safety				M	S
Vulnerable Neighborhoods	South side	Town/Private	V	Identify level and location of vulnerable units; Develop longer term plan to reduce vulnerability				M	L
Coordinated Evacuation Plan	Town-wide	Town/State	V	Reconfigure evacuation routes; Update signage along critical routes				L	S
Coastal Homeowners	Coastline	Private	V	Review building codes and zoning regulations; Continue e communication about risks and evacuation procedures				L	S
Sheltering Facility (upgrades)	Town/Region	Town/State	V	Conduct feasibility analysis for regional sheltering facility; Seek to construct over next 15 years.				L	L
Code Red (Reverse 911)	Town-wide	Town	S	Maintain and upgrade as needed					Ongoing
Shelter Management Plan	Town-wide	Town	S	Review and update as needed on annual basis; More resources required (cots, shampoo, etc.)					Ongoing
Lower Household Expenses (flood insurance)	Town-wide	Town	S	Continue enrollment in FEMA Community Rating System (CRS);Reduced number flood insurance rate payers through volunteer buyouts/relocation					Ongoing
Volunteer Fire Department	Town-wide	Town	S	Continue support (well equipped and experienced) to further strengthen services - volunteer outreach					Ongoing

Example of Completed Risk Matrix: Environmental

Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix

H-**M**-**L** priority for action over the **S**hort or **L**ong term (and **O**ngoing)
V = Vulnerability **S** = Strength

Top 4 Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Coastal Flooding SLR/Storm Surge	Inland Flooding and Rain Events	Ice and Snow	Wind	Priority H - M - L	Time Short Long Ongoing
Environmental									
Beaches & Dunes	Multiple	State-Town-Private	**V/S**	Maintain existing beaches & dunes; Assess values and key locations relative to people and property				**H**	**S**
Forest (uniform age structure)	Town-wide	Town/State	**V**	Seeks management that diversifies the age structure of forests in Town; Assess and identify key vulnerabilities from tree fall				**H**	**S**
Salt Marsh	Multiple	State/Private	**V/S**	Maintain existing marsh; Consider additional regulatory protection (increased setbacks) to prevent impacts to resource; Assess risk reduction potential from existing and future wetlands				**H**	**S**
Shoreline Erosion	Coastal/Rivers	Town/Private	**V**	Assess impacts to various scenarios; Identify green infrastructure/living shoreline projects				**H**	**S**
Open Space Acquisition (for flood impact reduction)	Town-wide	Town-State-Private	**V**	Secure state funding; Salt marsh advancement zones	Secure state/federal funding	Include land protection needs Master Plan		**H**	**S-L**
Riparian Buffers	Town-wide	Town	**V**	Identify areas with greatest restoration potential; Areas for future acquisition that can prevent flooding to adjoining infrastructure				**M**	**S**
State Parks	Specific	State	**V**	Encourage the State to work more closely with Town to comprehensively maintain town-wide natural resources, amenities, and water quality; Coordinate with state regarding evacuation procedures				**M**	**S**
Rippowam River	Specific	State/Town	**V**		Improve risk reduction characteristics of waterway through natural infrastructure & riparian buffer enhancements			**M**	**S-L**
Drinking Water Reservoir	Multiple	State-Private	**V**	Conduct assessment to comprehensively identify vulnerabilities and develop action plans to increase resilience of natural resources and long term water quality/quantity; Implement improvements				**L**	**L**
Harbor Sedimentation	Coastal	Town	**V**	Reuse dredged sediment to augment natural infrastructure (beneficial reuse)				**L**	**L**
Protected Open Space	Multiple	State-Town-Private	**S**	Maintain existing open space to help reduce risk to Town; Seek to increase open space with the highest risk reduction characteristics					**Ongoing**
Beach/Dune Resiliency Plan	Coastal	Town/State	**S**	Continue to implement/update the Plan					**Ongoing**
Tree Inventory	Town-wide	Town	**S**	Continue to utilize tree inventory to develop comprehensive, priority-based tree maintenance plan along transportation/utility corridors					**Ongoing**
River Restoration Projects	Specific	Town/Private	**S**	Continue implementation of projects to restore river buffer and remove dam to reduce risk to adjoining homes and businesses					**Ongoing**

Quick Reference

Ⓐ Prepare for the Workshop

Ⓑ Characterize Hazards

1. Identify past, current & future impacts.
2. Determine the highest-priority hazards.

Ⓒ Identify Community Vulnerabilities and Strengths

1. Infrastructural
2. Societal
3. Environmental

Ⓓ Identify and Prioritize Community Actions

1. Infrastructural
2. Societal
3. Environmental

Ⓔ Determine the Overall Priority Actions

1. Identify highest-priority actions.
2. Further define urgency and timing.

Ⓕ Put It All Together

1. Finalize report.

Ⓖ Move Forward

Community Resilience Building Workshop Risk Matrix

H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)
V = Vulnerability S = Strength

Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, snow/ice, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

B 2 Page 9

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Priority H-M-L	Time Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural					
C 1 Page 11				D 1 Page 15	
Societal					
C 2 Page 12				D 2 Page 16	
Environmental					
C 3 Page 13				D 3 Page 17	

Triggering Questions:

Hazards B 2

- What hazards have impacted your community in the past? Where, how often, and in what ways?
- What hazards are impacting your community currently? Where, how often, and in what ways?
- What effects will these hazards/changes have on your community in the future? (5, 10, 25 yrs.)
- What's exposed to hazards and climate threats within your community?
- What have been the impacts to operations and budgets, planning and mitigation efforts?
- Others concerns or considerations related to impacts?

Infrastructural Profile C 1 D 1

- Transportation, waste water treatment, nursing homes, schools, office park, hazardous materials facility, dams, laboratories, churches, pharmacies, groceries, gas stations?
- What makes this infrastructure vulnerable? Location, age, building codes, type of housing?
- What are consequences of this infrastructure being vulnerable? Lack of access to critical facilities – urgency care/pharmacies?

Possible Actions: Improve access, reduce housing stock in vulnerable areas, prioritize future development in lower-risk areas, integrate future risks in capital improvement plans?

Societal Profile C 2 D 2

- Elderly, low/moderate income, special needs, languages spoken, citizens/employees?
- What are the strengths and vulnerabilities of people in your community? Active civic groups, organizations, associations; Full time police, fire, and emergency medical services; Strong lines of communication for emergency info?
- How can hazards intensify these characteristics? Where are areas for improvement in the community?

Possible Actions: Improve existing programs (which ones)? Increase awareness via education/outreach on hazards? Increase involvement by citizens/employees (on what and with whom)?

Environmental Profile C 3 D 3

- What natural resources are important to your community?
- What benefits do these natural resources provide (storm buffering, fire breaks, erosion control, water quality improvement, slope stabilization, recreation)?
- Which natural resources are exposed to current and future hazards?
- What have been the effects of these hazards on these natural resources?
- Where are the high risk areas and what vulnerabilities exist for the environment?

Possible Actions: Conserve high value resource areas? Protect land in flood zone from future development via codes, zoning, and/or land use policy?

Notes

Highest Priority Actions:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The Nature Conservancy

www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

WORKSHOP NO. 1

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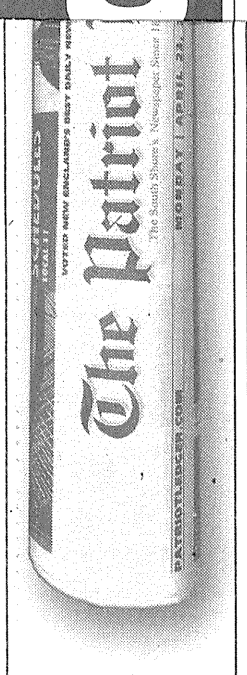

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Legals

40 Burdette Rd. Brockton
MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Mitchell E. LaFlower, Sr. and Anna LaFlower to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Infinity Mortgage, its successors and assigns, dated August 26, 2005 and recorded with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds at Book 31263, Page 159, subsequently assigned to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, solely as Trustee for MASTR Specialized loan Trust 2006-2 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-2 by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., solely as nominee for Infinity Mortgage, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Plymouth County Registry of Deeds at Book 50239, Page 69 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 AM on [illegible]

Legals

107 CARROLL AVENUE, BROCKTON
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 107 Carroll Avenue, Brockton, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Shawn O`Neil to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage and now held by Bank of America, N.A., said mortgage dated September 30, 2010, and recorded in the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, in Book 39078 at Page 8, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated April 15, 2014, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 44234 at Page 115, as affected by Loan Modification Agreement dated March 7, 2016 and recorded with said Deeds in Book 46688 at Page 27 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction [illegible]

MLG File No.: 16-16523

AD#13762723
BE 1/15, 1/22, 1/29/19

Legals

zoning ordinances

CITY OF BROCKTON
OF ZONING ORDINANCES
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing WILL
HELD at ARNONE SCHOOL, on
BELMONT STREET, TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 12, 2019, AT 7:00 P.M.

Petition of JAMES MORRISSEY & CHRISTIN H
MAN, 338 Maple Street, Bellingham, MA, to rec
Variance from Sec. 27-10, to construct a two (2)
home in a C-2 Zone, located at 70 SPRING STREE

Petition of DAVID TEXEIRA, MANAGER, 31
Manchester Street, Brockton, MA, to request a V
and Special Permit from Section 27-29,27-49,27-4
27-54, to be allowed to renovate and operate a res
without off street parking in a C-2 Zone, located a
MAIN STREET.

President, Kevin Gill, makes application for change of location of license moving from 1280 Belmont Street, Brockton to 863 Belmont Street, Brockton.

The premise located at 863 Belmont Street is a single story building containing approximately 6,400 square feet, one room with a bar and table seating and 2 bathrooms.

Henry Tartaglia, Chairman
Paul Merian
Lawrence Siskind
Jeffrey Charnel
David Teixeira
Lt. Kenneth LeGrice
BROCKTON LICENSE COMMISSION

13767023 1/29/19

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/24/2019.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Edward G Boyle, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 18, 2019

Matthew J. McDonough
Register of Probate

13766516 1/29/19

municipal plan

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan Workshop Announcement
January 24, 2019

The Town of Bridgewater has received a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to develop a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan. The MVP Plan will include a vulnerability assessment of the Town relative to climate change and mitigation strategies to make the Town more resilient to potential climate change impacts. In 2016, Governor Baker issued Executive Order No. 569: Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth. Under the executive order, grant funding was made available for Massachusetts communities to develop MVP Plans based on climate projections prepared by the Northeast Climate Science Center at the University of Massachusetts. The MVP planning grants will help cities and towns develop the necessary action steps they need to take to become more resilient to anticipated weather patterns in the future, such as higher temperatures and increased precipitation (as well as sea level rise for coastal communities).
Once Bridgewater's MVP Plan is approved by the Commonwealth, the Town will be eligible for future MVP Action Grants that will help fund implementation of specific mitigation action steps identified in the plan. The development of the MVP Plan will follow the Community Resilience Building Framework created by The Nature Conservancy and will include two 4-hour public workshops to be held at the Bridgewater Municipal Offices Building, 66 Central Square. The workshops will allow opportunities for citizen involvement in the development of the plan. Once the Draft MVP Plan is complete, a presentation will be made to the public. The two workshops are scheduled to occur on February 14th and February 21st from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. It is anticipated that the final MVP Plan will be completed by April of 2019. More information about the MVP Grant program can be found at: **https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mvp-program-information.**

If you have any interest in being involved in the MVP Planning process, please contact:
Azu O. C. Etoniru, PE, PLS
Town Engineer/Conservation Agent
Community & Economic Development Department
Municipal Building, 66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0906
aetoniru@bridgewaterma.org

13767036 1/29/19

regulation marijuana

CITY OF BROCKTON
PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING BOARD

The City of Brockton Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Basement Level, City Hall to consider the following:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 27 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Brockton concerning the Regulation and Zoning of Marijuana.

The full text of the proposed change can be viewed at the Department of Planning & Economic Development, City Hall, Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 4:00 pm or at **http://www.brockton.ma.us/Government/Departments/Planning/reports.**

David Wheeler, Chairman
January 22, 2019
January 29, 2019

13763541

1020 West Chestnut St.
CITY OF BROCKTON
PLANNING BOARD

The City of Brockton Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Basement Level of City Hall for approval of the Site Plan Application submitted by JK Holmgren Engineering on behalf of the following:

New England Tortilla, LLC/Tortilleria Mi Nina for the construction of a 44,535 SF warehouse building at 1020 West Chestnut Street.

The application and plans may be viewed in the Department of Planning & Economic Development, City Hall, Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 4:00 pm or at **http://www.brockton.ma.us/Government/Departments/Planning/reports.**

David Wheeler,
Chairperson

Enterprise
1/22 & 1/29/2019

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OBITUARIES

Obituaries appearing in this section are paid for and written by families, often through the services of a funeral director.

Wilma D'Alarcao

Wilma D'Alarcao

BRIDGEWATER – Wilma Josefa Castro Mendoza D'Alarcao, age 83, died at home on January 26, 2019 from complications related to Parkinson's Disease.

She was born on April 10, 1935 in Portoviejo, Ecuador to Oswaldo Castro Intriago and Didima Mendoza Moreira. With her five siblings and parents, she left her home country at the age of 12 and moved to Washington D.C. A few years later the family moved to Rome, Italy where she completed her secondary education and attended Rome University's medical school. She married Hugo D'Alarcao in 1956 and moved to Lisbon, Portugal. After the birth of her first child, her new family immigrated to the United States, eventually settling in Bridgewater, MA.

Wilma spent the 1970's and '80s as a homemaker as well as a prolific and talented artist. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Massachusetts College of Art & Design (MassArt). She worked as an educator at El Centro del Cardinal Adult Education in Boston, and later as a medical interpreter at Caritas Good Samaritan Hospital in Brockton. She provided interpretation in Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. She loved this work and often remarked how amazing it was that she got to do that type of work every day.

She is survived by her three children, Marco D'Alarcao (Maria), Rick D'Alarcao (Charlene), and Sonia D'Alarcao (Mark Litchfield); her grandchildren Lisa, Jesse, Simon, Nathan, Rosalynn, Sasha, Filip, and Jorge; her five siblings, Oswaldo Castro, Ana Peers, Rosa Venturi (Vittorio), Isabel Marinus (Martin); and Carlos Castro (Mariella), and many beloved nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Wilma was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Hugo, her sister-in-law Helga, and her brother-in-law Sidney.

Visitation will be held on Friday, February 1, 2019 from 4-7 p.m. at the Prophett-Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral Home, 98 Bedford St., Bridgewater. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 50 School St., Bridgewater. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to MassArt, the Fuller Craft Museum, or any arts related organization.

For online guestbook or directions visit www.ccgfuneralhome.com

Prophett-Chapman
Cole & Gleason
508-697-4332

Eleanor P. Hardy

Eleanor P. Hardy

RAYNHAM – Eleanor P. (Doherty) Hardy, 77, of Raynham, formerly of Brockton, died January 24, 2019 after failing heart health.

Raised in Jamaica Plain, she ran a home daycare on Winnifred Road in Brockton while raising her sons and later was an ambulance dispatcher with AMR.

Ellie enjoyed sitting outside with her friends at Pine Hill Estates in Raynham and was a casino supporter as well.

She was the wife of the late John W. Hardy; beloved mother of John Hardy and his wife Christine of Raynham, Patrick Hardy and his wife Paula of Raynham, Timothy Hardy and his wife Michelle of Brockton and Michael Hardy and his wife Jennifer of Brockton; devoted Nana of Heather, Timmy, Daniel, Kaitlin, Patrick and Johnny; great-grandmother of James; she also leaves her special niece Kathy Casey and granddogs Riley and Ruby.

All are welcome to calling hours Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 4 - 8 p.m. in Waitt Funeral Home, 850 North Main St., Brockton, her funeral from Waitt Funeral Home Wednesday, Jan 30, at 8:30 a.m., funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in St. Ann's Church, 660 North Main St., Raynham MA 02767 and burial at Pleasant St. Cemetery in Raynham.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Town of Raynham Fire Department, 37 Orchard St. Raynham MA 02767.

Visit www.waittfuneralhome.com or call 508-583-7272.

Waitt FUNERAL HOME TRADITIONAL CREMATION

Charlotte L. Britton

Legal Notices

MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS (MVP)

LEGAL NOTICE
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan Workshop Announcement
January 24, 2019

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Once Bridgewater's MVP Plan is approved by the Commonwealth, the Town will be eligible for future MVP Action Grants that will help fund implementation of specific mitigation action steps identified in the plan. The development of the MVP Plan will follow the Community Resilience Building Framework created by The Nature Conservancy and will include two 4-hour public workshops to be held at the Bridgewater Municipal Offices Building, 66 Central Square. The workshops will allow opportunities for citizen involvement in the development of the plan. Once the Draft MVP Plan is complete, a presentation will be made to the public. The two workshops are scheduled to occur on February 14th and February 21st from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. It is anticipated that the final MVP Plan will be completed by April of 2019. More information about the MVP Grant program can be found at: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mvp-program-information.

If you have any interest in being involved in the MVP Planning process, please contact:

Azu O. C. Etoniru,
PE, PLS
Town Engineer
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Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0906
aetoniru@bridgewaterma.org

AD#13767328
Bridgewater Independent
1/30/19

Teen voting bill pitched to complement civics education

By Chris Lisinski
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

A dozen new lobbyists roamed the halls of the State House Jan. 24, carrying clipboards and fliers, but forgoing business attire in favor of skinny jeans and hoodies.

Their goal was to find legislators who would cosponsor a new bill that would allow 16- and 17-year-olds such as themselves to vote in municipal elections. In meeting after meeting with aides and elected officials, they ran through talking points, arguing that such a measure has already been sought in several communities and that the change would promote political engagement in the wake of the state's new civics-education bill.

Their goal was to find legislators who would cosponsor a new bill that would allow 16- and 17-year-olds such as themselves to vote in municipal elections. In meeting after meeting with aides and elected officials, they ran through talking points, arguing that such a measure has already been sought in several communities and that the change would promote political engagement in the wake of the state's new civics-education bill.

"I know where I stand on the issues," said 16-year-old Felix Brody of Somerville during a meeting with an aide to Rep. David Nangle. "I'm 16, I work, I pay taxes, I drive a car. I'm treated as an adult in my community, but not given the rights of an adult."

Not actually registered lobbyists, the dozen or so teenagers who lobbied lawmakers were part of Vote16, a group working to lower the voting age. Other advocates included representatives from Generation Citizen and UTEC.

The legislation, known as the EMPOWER Act, would grant cities and towns the power to extend voting rights to individuals as young as 16 for local elections. Earlier in the day, Rep. Andy Vargas, Rep. Dylan Fernandes and Sen. Harriette Chandler unveiled the proposal and spoke to the teenagers who came to the State House to propose it.

The proposed change would not be mandatory. Communities where leaders wanted to lower the voting age could opt-in under the law, proponents said, without needing to secure passage of a home-rule petition as is currently required. Newly registered teenagers would only be able to vote in municipal races, not in state or federal elections.

"Local government is really where you can cut your teeth in politics, really get to know how politics and government impact lives on a daily basis," Vargas said.

Rep. Tami Gouveia filed a separate, but similar, bill after a Town Meeting article in Concord, which she represents, passed seeking to lower the town's voting age to 17.

Supporters argue that 16- and 17-year-olds being enfranchised while they still live at home would encourage them to remain engaged in the political process throughout their lives. Advocates also said teenagers are often more aware of issues at the town and school level than young adults who have moved for college or work and therefore would be able to cast informed votes.

"We have a whole perspective to offer that's missing in politics right now," said Elias Kern, 16, of Somerville.

Several communities, including Ashfield and Cambridge, have made individual pushes in recent years to allow 16- or 17-year-olds to cast ballots in local races, but have had no success getting the necessary home-rule petitions approved by the Legislature.

Geoff Foster, director of organizing and policymaking for the youth organization UTEC in Lowell, spoke to advocates Jan. 24 about past efforts to lower the voting age in his city. Driven by a UTEC initiative, the effort secured approval from the Senate in 2014. The House gave the bill initial approval, but the movement lost momentum and never passed that chamber.

Foster urged the Legislature to take up the latest proposal to support youth around the state.

"There is no greater fight in our country's history than when people have fought for the right to vote," he said. "What this bill will do is remove that hurdle from local cities like Lowell who want to implement that change so they don't have to go all the way with a home-rule petition from the state."

A handful of other significant statewide electoral reforms have been proposed or approved in recent years. Early voting days have been offered leading up to biennial elections since 2016, and automatic voter registration will likely begin in 2020. The state also passed a bill last year to require schools to include nonpartisan civics projects, something that lawmakers said ties in closely with the voting-age proposal.

"We signed a bill last year that provides civic education," Chandler said. "This is just a continuation of that, as far as I'm concerned."

Bridge Water MVP Workshop #1 2/14/19

name	Affiliation	Email
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Peter Richardson	"	prichardson@greenintl.co
Oxana	"	
Elijah Romulus	Town of Bridgewater	eromulus@bridgewaterma.org
Azu Eatoniru	" "	aeatoniru@bridgewaterma.org
Sandra M. Wright	" "	smwred2@AOL.COM
Kitty Doherty	Local Natural Resource Conservation	reverland927@gmail.com
Patricia Delaney	BSU	pdelaney@bridgew.edu
Marilee Kennney Hunt	Town Clerk	mkhunt@bridgewaterma.org
Steven Solari	Building Commissioner	SSolar@BRIDGEWATER.ORG
Carlton Hunt	BWTR Wastewater Plant	Carlton@thehunts.org
Eric Badger	Health Dept.	ebadger@bridgw.org
Michael Dutton	Town Mngr	mdutton@bridgewaterma.org
Paul DeCo[illegible]	Highway Dept	Pdecosta@bridgewatermA.or

Bridgewater Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan Workshop No. 1

Peter A. Richardson, P.E., CFM, LEED AP, ENV SP
Danielle Spicer, P.E., LEED AP, ENV SP
(State Certified MVP Providers)

February 14, 2019

Bridgewater
Massachusetts
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