



City of Barre, Vermont

“Granite Center of the World”

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Gunners Brook Flood Mitigation Initiative

Update #5 (07-20-16)

In an effort to keep all interested parties informed of continuing flood mitigation efforts, I have prepared this **Update** to all those on the Gunners Brook Flood Recovery Group Distribution List.

Following is a summary of actions and/or initiatives undertaken since Update #4 (05-22-16)

We were advised on May 31, 2016 that the City of Barre was awarded an **Ecosystem Restoration Program Grant** in the amount of \$100,000 from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. We are awaiting receipt of the formal Grant Agreement documents which will require Council approval, which I expect to be “routine”. This grant funding will be used to leverage the City’s \$500,000 bond funds against project costs, and/or depending on project bids and final costs, possibly allow allocations of the City funding to future mitigation efforts.

We were notified on June 17th that the **FEMA (Phase 1) Buy-Out Applications (17 & 19 Harrington Ave, 14 & 14A Reid Street)** were approved. We received the formal Grant Agreements on July 8th for Council Acceptance/Authorization, which were approved by Council on July 12th. They were returned on July 14th for counter-execution by the State.

We have also confirmed on July 5th that the Two Rivers- Ottauquechee Planning Commission (TROPIC, the HUD DR Grant Administrator for the State) that matching 25% funds have been reserved for Barre City for the above FEMA 75% buy-out grants. We are awaiting receipt of formal Notice of Award and executable Grant Agreement documents from TROPIC. This matching grant means the property owners will receive compensation at 100% of pre-flood valuation for the buy-out of their properties.

With approval of the FEMA Grant, I have directed the City Attorney to pursue the process (title searches, preparation of closing documents, coordination with/approval from FEMA, etc.) that will be needed to complete the buy-out process. He is initiating that process this week.

City staff is also initiating the initial steps of the procurement process for the necessary Lead/Asbestos Environmental Assessments of the 3 properties, as well as the subsequent request for Bids of the environmental remediation and demolition of the properties.

We are advancing communications/negotiations with the property owners for acquisition of two small pieces of vacant land at the upstream and downstream ends of the flood plain site that will facilitate the performance of the Mitigation Project.

Save the Date: There will be a **Public Information Meeting next Wednesday evening, July 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Alumni Hall.** DuBois & King, Inc has substantially completed the design of the Flood Mitigation Project, and has submitted “Final” Plans for the City for review and feedback. The purpose of the meeting is to present and review this design to all interested parties, obtain any last feedback/input as we pursue the necessary Permits and before the Bid/Construction Documents are prepared for bidding purposes. **This will be the last Public Information Meeting** related to the Mitigation Project Design Phase

We continue to await FEMA approval of our applications for additional **(Phase 2) Buy-outs at 85 and 87 Brook Street.** These applications were approved by the (State) selection committee on 4/15/16. As noted previously, we are also cautiously optimistic (no guarantees) that these will be approved by FEMA, and if so, do not expect notification before 6 +/- months (November, 2016+/-)

Please feel free to contact me at manager@barrecity.org (or 476-0241) if you have questions/comments /input reading this Update or flood mitigation activities in general. Also, please feel free to encourage any of your neighbors to contact me to add their name to this distribution list. I will also add names to a smaller US mail list for those who do not have computer access as long as I am supplied with names and mailing addresses.

I look forward to seeing you at the information meeting this Wednesday.

Respectfully,
Steven E. Mackenzie, P.E.
City Manager