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TOWN OF BRAINTREE EVALUATION OF HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – FLOOD MITIGATION ACTIVITIES Annual Update 2025

In 2023-2024 the Town of Braintree worked with Jamie Caplan Consulting, LLC to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan, approved by FEMA and adopted by Town Council in November 2024, includes a comprehensive list of prioritized mitigation actions to address the flood hazard risk. These actions are discussed below along with progress toward their implementation. For the purposes of the 2024 plan update, all the actions were reviewed for their status and relevance.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Measures from Town of Braintree Hazard Mitigation Plan

1. Complete Upgrade of Great Pond Dam: The Town made significant improvements to the dam in the past five years. However, there are continuing issues with infiltration. Addressing the remaining work will result in an upgrade of the status of the dam from “fair” to “good”.

2025 Update: Completed

2. West Street/Pond Street: The Town enlarged a culvert in 2006 and believes that this has addressed much of the flooding. The Town will continue to monitor flooding and assess options for, and the necessity of, road elevation.

2025 Update: Completed

3. Repetitive Loss Area Property Owner Outreach: As part of the town’s participation in FEMA’s CRS program, Braintree does annual outreach to repetitive loss areas.

2025 Update: In progress: the Town continues to send information to residents in repetitive loss areas with targeted suggestions.

4. Relocate Braintree Highway Barn: The highway barn is frequently flooded in large storm events. Relocating the barn is a high priority for the town. In addition to eliminating damage to the barn, relocation would have the benefit of providing additional flood storage as well as environmental, scenic and recreational benefits, including restoration of a vegetated buffer to the Monatiquot River.

2025 Update: In progress: Relocation of the Highway Barn remains a priority, and it has been included by the Department of Public Works in capital requests each year. A feasibility study has been completed, and the estimated cost of replacement is \$60-70 million which is cost prohibitive in the near future.

5. Enhance drainage at Union Street at Route 3: This is a chronic flooding area during heavy rainstorms and Union Street is a critical pathway for emergency evacuation and response. Much of the area is under the control of MassDOT. The town will engage with the state regarding drainage solutions.

2025 Update: Cancelled.

6. Promote Low Impact Development Techniques (LID) and Encourage Reduction of Impervious Pavement: The town will continue to promote LID through its various regulatory and stormwater review processes. As much of the flooding in Braintree is the result of the rapid drainage of stormwater from impervious surfaces to the extent that LID techniques can lead to less impervious areas and reduced runoff, these practices can also help to address flooding issues.

2025 Update: in progress. We will continue to conduct public outreach and education on natural hazard mitigation, climate adaptation, and low Impact Development (LID).

7. Continue Participation in CRS Program: Continue active participation in the Community Rating System program including regular public education events related to flood awareness and prevention as well as the availability of flood insurance through NFIP.

2025 Update: In Progress: the Town continues to participate in the Community Rating System program.

8. Map Storm Drain System: Building on the mapping already completed, the town will add detailed information including inverts, and condition, size, and type of pipes.

2025 Update: Completed.

9. Restore Riverfront and Floodplain to Natural Conditions.

2025 Update: in progress; the Town requires restoration and mitigation during the redevelopment permitting process.

10. Continue Public Education on Flood Mitigation: Continue active public education programs related to flood and hurricane awareness and mitigation measures. Information on strategies property owners can adopt to mitigate the impact of flooding on their homes or businesses should be provided to those in repetitive loss areas, floodplains, and areas with high water tables.

2025 Update: In progress: The Town continues outreach efforts, including mailings, flyers and resources which are available on the Town website and local library.

11. Continue to enforce the Floodplain Zoning District Requirements: Update as part of comprehensive zoning project and continue enforcement of the Floodplain Zoning District (Article VI, Section 135-608) and associated building regulations for floodplain areas.

2025 Update: Completed; The Town updated the Floodplain Zoning Ordinance to adopt pertinent sections of the FEMA model bylaw. Additional revisions were required, and the ordinance is currently being reviewed by FEMA, prior to location adoption.

12. Acquire Vacant Flood Prone Lands: Acquire priority open space parcels in floodplain areas as they become available, to maintain flood storage and water infiltration capacity.

2025 Update: The Town continues to explore opportunities for the acquisition of flood-prone land.

13. Update Rainfall Rates in Stormwater and Wetlands Bylaws: Update the 10-year, 24-hour stormwater requirements from TP-40 to NOAA 14 or Northeast Regional Climate Center standards.

2025 Update: Completed; the change to NOAA Atlas 14 has been in place since 2018 for the Stormwater Regulation and 2019 for the Braintree Wetland Regulations.

14. Update generators

2025 Update: In progress; sewer pump stations have received upgrades, mobile pumps available for sewer pump stations. The Town Hall and High School have old generators and need to be upgraded. All other municipal buildings would be candidates for installations or upgrades except for three which have newer systems (Police, South Middle School, East Middle School).

15. Upgrade social media outreach and education.

2025 Update: In progress; DPW continues outreach via Stormwater Splash and related outreach.

16. Build a New Department of Public Works Facility Outside the Floodplain

2025 Update: In progress. Feasibility study completed, estimated cost 60-70 million dollars. This may be cost prohibitive in the near future; however, it is necessary action, and the Town will continue to include it in the mitigation plan and work to secure funding.

17. Consider Long-Term Options for Watson Park Seawall & Smith Beach Seawall.

2025 Update: **New Priority**. We are considering options for financial feasibility and alignment with long-term goals for the park. We will make recommendations for future action based on review.

18. Bylaw and Regulatory Review

2025 Update: **New Priority**. Conduct review of bylaws to incorporate for opportunities to incorporate LID, GI and other Nature Based Solutions to mitigate the effects of natural hazards

19. Sewer Pump Station Evaluation & Implementation Recommendations

2025 Update: **New Priority**. Assess sewer pump stations for operation, performance and reliability; make recommendations for improvements.

20. Create Interactive Flood Map

2025 Update: **New Priority**. Create interactive flood mapping tool and link from Town's Flood Hazard Mitigation page.

21. Reconstruct the Stetson St. Culvert

2025 Update: **New Priority**. Pursue funding for reconstruction of culvert to prevent failure and achieve stream crossing standards.