

## Department of Planning and Community Development

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### TOWN OF BRAintree EVALUATION OF HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – FLOOD MITIGATION ACTIVITIES Annual Update 2021

In 2018-2019 the Town of Braintree worked with the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan, approved by FEMA in June, 2019, 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.

#### **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”.

2021 Update: An inspection of the dam from August 2020 continues to report the condition of the dam as “fair”. The Town will continue its annual scheduled maintenance and will also update the Emergency Action Plan and create a more formal Operations and Maintenance plan as identified in the inspection report.

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.

2021 Update: The Town continues to monitor this area.

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.

2021 Update: 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.

2021 Update: Relocation of the Highway Barn remains a priority and it has been included by the Department of Public Works in capital requests each year. Funding has not been available for construction, however, the Town is currently performing an updated feasibility study.

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.

2021 Update: The Town intends to evaluate the condition of the culvert under Union St. The Town has performed some minor channel clearing and continues to monitor this area

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 area and reduced runoff, these practices can also help to address flooding issues.

2021 Update: Comprehensive stormwater regulations were adopted in June, 2019. These regulations mandate a consideration of LID in any new projects that meet the applicability thresholds. Updates to the regulations are planned for 2021 to adopt new performance standards as required by the 2016 MS4 permit. Public outreach materials to residents on our website and in our publications include information on LID BMPs including rain gardens and rain barrels.

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.

2021 Update: 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 included inverts, and condition, size, and type of pipes.

2021 Update: Storm drain system mapping is much more robust and continues to improve as new structures and sub-systems are discovered and added to the GIS. Stormwater personnel use GPS driven tablets to input information and modify GIS layers as discrepancies are found in the field.

9. Continue Public Education on Flood Mitigation: Continue active public education programs related to flood and hurricane awareness and mitigation measures. In particular, 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.

2021 Update: The Town continues outreach efforts, including mailings, flyers and resources which are available on the Town website and local library.

10. 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.

2021 Update: The Town continues to enforce the requirements of the Floodplain Zoning District.

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

2021 Update: The Town continues to explore opportunities for acquisition of flood-prone land.

12. 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.

2021 Update: The stormwater regulations which were adopted in June, 2019 include a requirement for NOAA Atlas 14 rainfall data to be used in stormwater calculations. The local Wetland Bylaw regulations were also updated to require NOAA 14 data.