HMP Planning Team Meeting #2
Town of Sunderland, VT
9/17/2026 at 11:00 am
Sunderland Town Office

Attendees: Todd Lawrence, Rob Zief, Laura Hammler, Brian Hawley, Dara Zink, Callie Fishburn,

- **Review of 2021 mitigation goals**
  - The Survey asks for feedback on the 2021 mitigation goals and suggestions for additional goals.
  - 2021 goals still feel relevant to Sunderland
    - Developing a capital improvement plan is still an important priority for the town
    - FEMA encourages alignment of LHMPs with other municipal planning projects. RZ to do initial cross-reference of plans.
  - Planning team is ok with existing goals and format
- **Review of survey questions**
  - The draft survey is a shorter version based on a recent survey in Dorset. The planning team also reviewed an example survey from Bennington which is more in-depth.
  - DZ suggested using ArcGIS's survey platform which allows for interactive mapping as part of the survey.
  - "How are you connected to the community?" question to be added at the beginning
  - Add open-ended section somewhere in survey to give people the opportunity to share more if they want.
    - Prompts: How do you think the town has changed since 2021? How do you interact with the town?
  - Add #6 from Bennington survey: "Have you experienced a natural disaster?"
  - CF and DZ will finalize the survey based on feedback, and create an online form and QR code.
- **Finalize plan for survey distribution**
  - Two versions of a flyer have been drafted – will include QR code to the survey
    - Use colorful version for digital distribution and posting at town bulletin boards (town office, town garage, transfer station)
    - Plain version to be used for mass distribution
  - Other flyer locations:
    - Martha Canfield Library
    - Manchester Community Library
    - Front Porch Forum post
  - A direct link to the survey and project page on the BCRC website will be included on the town website
  - Survey to go live by Oct 1st and will remain open until Nov 15
  - Results meeting on 11/23 SB meeting

General comments:

- RZ: next plan should consider train derailment as part of hazardous materials spills. Hasn't happened before but if it did, it would be a very serious event.
    - DZ: Response to this type of event can be addressed in the LEMP. Mitigation of hazardous materials spills is not a required component of LHMPs but could be included based on town priorities.
- FEMA likes to see discussion of development changes in the town
    - Sunderland has received a Village Center designation since the last LHMP

Upcoming Meetings:

- Next planning meeting scheduled for 10/8 if needed
    - As long as survey is out by 10/1, meeting will not be needed
- Community Meeting to be held on 10/12 during regular select board meeting
    - DZ will give a brief presentation on hazard data followed by a community hazard mapping activity.
- Separate planning team meeting to review survey results not needed – can be viewed at the November select board meeting.