



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

Minutes
Board of Selectmen
August 24, 2020
Cotter Room
6:30 p.m.

Members present: Tim Chapin, Chair, Alex Bezanson, Jim Connolly, Kevin DiMarzio, Mike Kolodziej, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Announcements: T. Chapin read a letter from Chief Nuttall commending the actions of Fire Fighters Derek Haimaidi, Mike Koldziej and Captain George Gardiner on their fast action and professionalism in saving a life on August 23, 2020. The Board extended their congratulations to the members of the Abington Fire Department. Chief Nuttall's letter is attached.

1. Motion made by J. Connolly to approve August 10, 2020 minutes, seconded by M. Kolodziej, unanimous.
2. Request to appoint Paul Ferris as Democratic Registrar of Voters. Motion made by A. Bezanson to approve, seconded by J. Connolly, unanimous.
3. Discussion on October 19, 2020 Special Town Meeting. Warrant was opened at the last meeting. There should be 3 – 4 budget articles, 2 or 3 roadway acceptance articles, which will require public hearings before the Board of Selectmen, and six zoning articles. A draft will be ready prior to the next meeting.
4. Town Manager Report:
There are several projects going on. The Board accepted the Complete Streets Policy, and with a \$36,700 grant hired a consultant to prioritize a list to qualify for additional funding. Lincoln Blvd./Gliniewicz Way shared use pedestrian bike path was chosen, starting at the High School, and going down to Washington Street and tightening up on the south side of Lincoln Blvd. A traffic study was done. It is all being funded by the grant. There is a binder course by Town Hall, and they have started at the Senior Center, with final coats by end of the month.

Early voting is taking place this week. Please follow guidelines for wearing masks and social distancing. As of today, the Clerk's office has processed 2,339 early ballots and 292 absentee ballots. Residents can use the drop box outside Town Hall. The State Primary is September 1st at Emerald Hall, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Town Manager is working on updating personnel policies with labor counsel. Drafted policies will be sent to unions to see if they affect impact bargaining, then they will be brought before the Board. They become effective 15 days after being presented to the Board. They have started with a travel policy which will be in effect until the COVID emergency ends. Vehicle use and electronic use policies will be going out to the departments.

MRI Management Study Implementation – Chief Majenski has authorized Deputy Chief Cutter to implement suggestions in the MRI Management Study. Town Manager has received an implementation outline from the Deputy Chief and will share it with the Board and place it on a future agenda. The Department is in the midst of the accreditation process.

Town Manager Corner – has taped with the Library, and this week has taped with John Stone at the DPW and Suzanne Djusberg at the Senior Center. This lets people know Department heads and what programs we have.

7:15 p.m. Public listening session on the summary findings of the Community resilience building workshop. Liz Shea gave an introduction on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program grant. She applied for the grant and was issued \$17,000 to conduct workshops to determine and prioritize the Town's climate resilient hazards. The listening session is part of the requirements of the grant. Two workshops were held with Liz, Bob Hartzel, the grant's consultant, department heads and community members. Grants are available once a year. Mr. Hartzel gave a 15-minute power point presentation (attached), outlining the town's priorities. A. Bezanson - the Board has been discussing some of these issues. Grants for some of these projects would be great.

7:30 p.m. Complaint that dogs owned or kept by Steven and Karen May at 44 Cleverly Street are nuisance or dangerous dogs; examination of witnesses and evidence; discussion and possible vote. Motion to open the hearing made by A. Bezanson, seconded by J. Connolly, unanimous. Town Counsel Gregg Corbo, K.P. Law, explained the procedure.

The Board heard testimony from Gail Bergin, 71 Morton Street, who had been knocked to the ground and bitten on June 4th and submitted photos. She is afraid of the dogs and requested they be removed.

The Board questioned Animal Control Office Joe Kenney who quarantined the dogs after the incident. The dogs were up to date on shots and were both registered. He recommended the dogs be muzzled when they go out. He hasn't had any other calls on the dogs.

Atty. Jeremy Cohen, attorney representing Mrs. May, asked that the dogs be deemed nuisance dogs. At the time of the incident, Mrs. Bergin, Mrs. May, and the dogs were startled. His client would not walk both dogs at the same time now. This was an unfortunate mistake.

Jim Crosby, a consultant hired by Mrs. May, reviewed his background as an expert on dog bite issues, spoke on the injuries after examining Mrs. Bergin's written statement and the photos, and considered them to be minor wounds. Believes it was a startle reaction. Suggested additional training, leash control, socialization to different people and circumstances, walked one at a time.

Karen May – Was very sorry this happened; they were all startled. Both dogs were quarantined, and they have been muzzled when they have gone out and with an adult. They will have

additional training. Murphy has been to Canine College in Holbrook. Would be willing to accept conditions.

Atty. Corbo – reviewed definitions of nuisance and dangerous dogs for Board to reach a decision. Thought dogs may have reacted to being startled. Board to decide if dogs acted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances. If the Board decides they are nuisance dogs, conditions can be listed. After discussion, the Board voted.

Motion by A. Bezanson that the dogs be classified as nuisance dogs, with the following conditions:

1. The dog known as Murphy shall be muzzled at all times when outdoors;
2. If walked off of your property, both dogs shall be restrained on a leash no longer than four (4) feet in length;
3. If walked off of your property, each dog shall be walked by an adult capable of controlling the dog; if the dogs are walked at the same time, each dog shall be on a separate leash and walked by its own adult so that there is always one adult per dog.
4. If allowed outside on your property, the dogs shall be tied to a run and shall be under direct adult supervision at all times; and
5. The dogs shall be enrolled in an accredited training program approved by the Town's Animal Control Officer.

The motion was seconded by J. Connolly, unanimous.

7:45 p.m. **Petition of Selsiane G. DeOliveira to transfer the commercial garage license at 347 Summer Street dba Abington Auto Repair Corp. from Gilvan A. Leite.** Motion by J. Connolly to open the hearing, seconded by A. Bezanson, unanimous. M. Kolodziej – number of cars requested on license is 50; current license is for 33 on the property. It was the Board's consensus it should stay at 33.

Motion by A. Bezanson to approve the commercial garage license transfer for 33 vehicles, seconded by M. Kolodziej, unanimous.

7:50 p.m. **Petition of Larrisa DaSilvera Rodrigues to transfer the Class II license at 766 Adams Street from Edward McLaughlin dba Mass Car Mart LLC, to Panda Auto Group.** Motion to open the hearing made by M. Kolodziej, seconded by A. Bezanson, unanimous. Ed McLaughlin, Mass Car Mart, was present. On the basis of Deputy Fire Chief Jack Flynn's inspection, Fire Chief John Nuttall recommended the Board hold off on granting the license until the pending items from the inspection are dealt with.

Motion by A. Bezanson to continue the hearing to September 14, 2020 at 7:05 p.m., seconded by M. Kolodziej, unanimous.

Motion by J. Connolly to adjourn at 10:00 p.m., seconded by M. Kolodziej, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst



911 Emergency
(781) 982-2114 General
(781) 982-2104 Facsimile

ABINGTON FIRE-RESCUE



Emergency Services
1040 Bedford Street
Abington, Massachusetts 02351



Chief
John M. Nuttall
Deputy Chief
John W. Glynn

Actions of several save a life at MBTA crossing

August 24, 2020

Mr. Scott Lambiase, Town Manager,
and the Honorable Board of Selectmen
Town of Abington, MA

Dear Scott and Board of Selectmen,

I would like to provide a brief report of the actions of a member of the general public, and three Abington Fire Department members who were responsible for the saving of a life on the early morning of Sunday, August 23, 2020.

Around midnight, while investigating a fire alarm activation at 10 Railroad Street, Abington Fire crews and myself were verbally alerted by a member of the public, who wishes to remain anonymous, of a vehicle stuck on the railroad tracks on Birch Street, with an oncoming train approaching.

With no time to react, or properly notify the MBTA to stop the train, Abington Fire Fighters Derek Haimaidi and Mike Kolodziej, followed by Captain George Gardiner, began to sprint in full firefighting gear towards the Birch Street crossing to reach the vehicle, at a considerable distance.

Firefighter Haimaidi was the first to approach but was outpaced by the train which was travelling at a high rate of speed. Firefighter Haimaidi noticed the passenger vehicle driver outside of her car appearing confused and was able to direct her away from the tracks enough to avoid being struck, just as the train passed her. Her vehicle was struck, but fortunately she was not injured.

Firefighter Kolodziej was able to visually notify the train engineer to begin the stopping process, by waving his flashlight in the correct manner, possibly reducing the impact. He then ran to the front of the stopped train, close to the Plymouth Street crossing, to check on the condition of the engineer and the train.

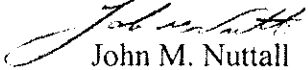
Captain Gardiner entered the last passenger car and assessed all the passengers and train personnel for injuries, of which none were reported.

I took overall command of the incident and was able to witness their actions directly.

There is no doubt, that had we not been alerted to the vehicle on the tracks, and our personnel not rushed over to verbally alert the driver to move from her vehicle, as well as begin to slow down the train, this incident would have had a very different outcome.

I wish to recognize and thank the actions of all the people previously mentioned, as well as their professionalism. Abington truly has highly trained, experienced and capable members of this department working 24 hours a day to keep all of us safe, and I am proud of their efforts which were able to be witnessed firsthand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John M. Nuttall".

John M. Nuttall
Chief of Department

Cc.

Captain George Gardiner

Firefighter/Paramedic Derek Haimaidi

Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Kolodziej

File



TOWN OF ABINGTON

PLANNING BOARD

TOWN HALL
500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351
781-982-0069

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
ABINGTON, MA
RECEIVED

2020 AUG -7 AM 9:29

PUBLIC LISTENING NOTICE

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public listening session at their meeting on August 24, 2020 at 7:15 P.M. on the summary findings of the Community resilience building workshop. The meeting will be held in the Cotter Hearing Room, Abington Town Hall, 500 Gliniewicz Way, Abington, MA.

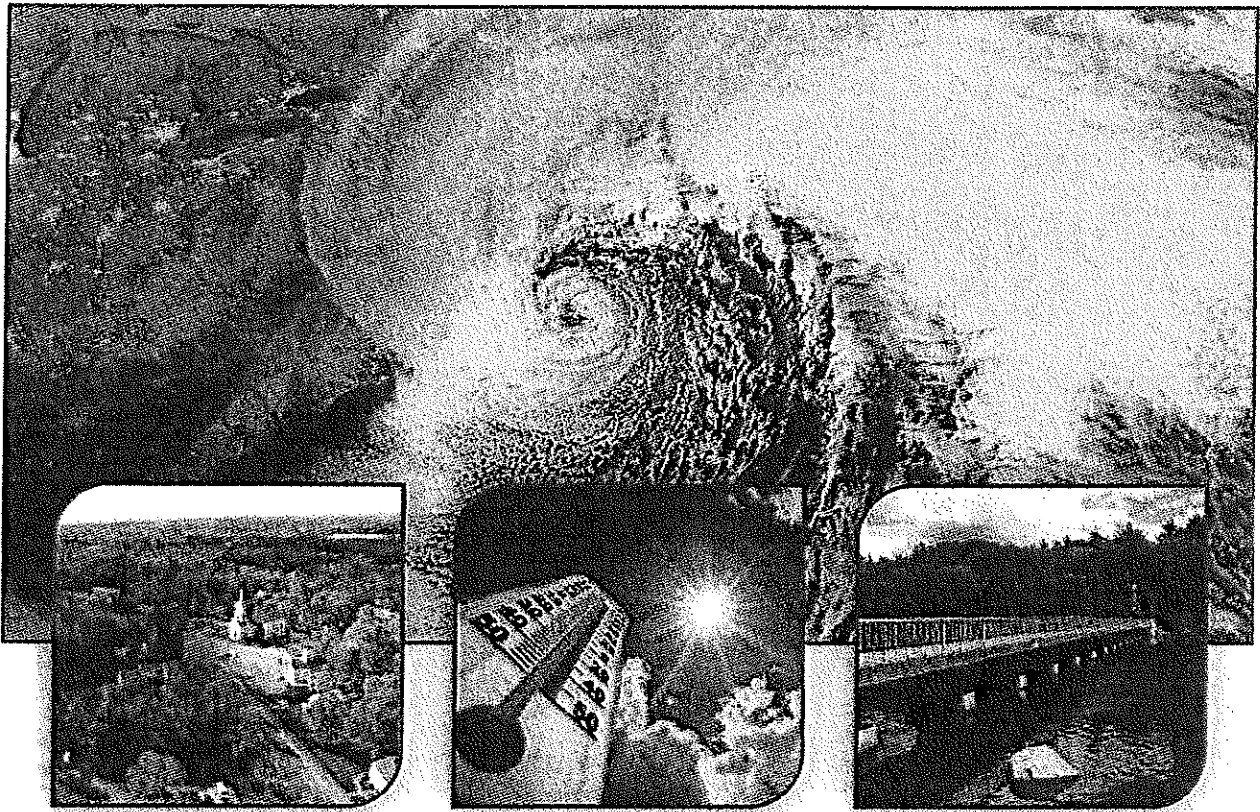
Workshops were held to determine and prioritize the Towns climate resilient hazards. Please join us in hearing the report.



June 2020

TOWN OF ABINGTON

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BUILDING WORKSHOP SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

*Prepared for:*

Town of Abington
500 Gliniewicz Way
Abington, MA 01940

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Appendices

- Appendix A: Introductory Presentation Materials and Base Maps
- Appendix B: Completed Risk Matrices
- Appendix C: Listening Session Results

Note: This report has been prepared in accordance with the Community Resilience Building (CRB) Guide and Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) "Summary of Findings Template Guidance" provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (MA EEA).

1. Background Information

1.1 MVP Program Overview

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

In 2016, Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker issued Executive Order 569 to establish a comprehensive statewide approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. As part of this initiative, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs administers the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program. The MVP Program provides communities with funding to identify vulnerabilities and develop plans to increase climate change resilience. In 2018, a \$2.4 billion Environmental Bond Bill authorized over \$200 million to fund climate change adaptation, including both planning and implementation aspects of the MVP Program.

To date, 285 of the Commonwealth's 351 municipalities (81%) have participated in the MVP Program. This has resulted in more than \$17 million dollars in Planning Grants and Action Grants to implement high priority actions identified during the planning process. Projects funded through Action Grants are wide ranging, including the following priority project categories:

- More detailed vulnerability and risk assessments;
- Community outreach and education projects;
- Local bylaw updates;
- Redesign and retrofits of infrastructure;
- Nature-based solutions for flood protection, drought mitigation, and water quality improvements;
- Nature-based infrastructure and technology solutions for extreme heat and poor air quality.

1.2 Community Resilience Building Workshop

The Town of Abington (Town) received funding through an MVP Planning Grant to compile data for and conduct a Community Resiliency Building (CRB) workshop. The goal of the CRB workshop was to have community stakeholders work collaboratively to complete a climate change and natural hazard vulnerability assessment and develop prioritized actions to address vulnerabilities and improve strengths. Upon completion of the CRB workshop process, Abington will become an "MVP Community" and will be eligible to apply for MVP Action Grant funding from the Commonwealth.

An interdisciplinary team of Town staff (i.e., "Core Team") worked to implement the CRB process with consulting support from Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (CEI), a certified MVP provider. The Town's MVP Core Team included the following:

Town of Abington – MVP Core Team
Elizabeth Shea, Planning Board
Lt. Kevin Sullivan, Police Department
John Stone, Department of Public Works
Chief John Nuttall, Fire Chief
Jerry Kelliher, Conservation Commission
Marty GoLightly, Health Agent

1.3 Workshop Preparation

The following tasks were performed to prepare for the CRB workshop:

- The Core Team and CEI held a kickoff meeting on March 11, 2020 to plan for the workshop.
- CEI worked with Core Team members to identify potential areas of concern, strengths, and vulnerabilities.
- CEI prepared presentation materials and a set of maps to guide the workshop (Appendix A).
- The Core Team scheduled the workshop, invited stakeholders, and handled logistics.

1.4 Workshop Process

The MVP Planning Workshop was conducted as two web-based virtual meetings due to COVID-19 limitations in accordance with guidance from EOEEA. The workshop sessions followed the format as presented in the CRB guidance¹. The workshop participants are listed below.

Name	Department/Committee	Part 1 May 12, 2020	Part 2 May 19, 2020
Elizabeth Shea	Planning Board	x	x
Wayne Smith	Planning Board	x	x
Bruce Hughes	Planning Board	x	x
John Stone	Department of Public Works	x	x
Suzanne Djusberg	Council on Aging	x	x
Peter Schafer	Superintendent of Schools	x	x
Lt. Kevin Sullivan	Police Department	x	
Capt. Jack Glynn	Fire Department		x
Steve Wakelin	Strawberry Valley Golf Course	x	x
Jerry Kelliher	Conservation Commission	x	x
Shawn Reilly	Citizen	x	x
Carolyn Meklenburg	Regional MVP Coordinator	x	x
Bob Hartzel	CEI	x	x
Emily DiFranco	CEI	x	x

As listed below, the exercises solicit and organize input from workshop participants through use of the Risk Matrix presented in Appendix B. To help generate ideas and discussion during the planning exercises, workshop attendees were provided with a series of maps (Appendix A) with information such as FEMA flood hazard areas, critical habitat areas, and conservation land within Abington. This information was emailed to the group before the webinars.

¹ CRB Guidance: www.communityresiliencebuilding.com

Introductory information included:

- Description of the MVP program and CRB process.
- Introduction to climate change, including climate change projections for Massachusetts and Plymouth County².
- Introduction to nature-based solutions (i.e., green infrastructure).

Upon completion of the second part of the workshop, an email was sent to the group with the vulnerabilities and actions identified as high priority. The workshop attendees responded by email to vote on their top three priority actions for Abington. The votes were then tallied to determine the Town's three top priority climate resiliency actions as presented in Section 5.1 of this report.

This report provides an overview of workshop findings, including a summary of the Town's top hazards related to climate change, current climate resiliency strengths and vulnerabilities, and potential actions to improve the community's resilience to natural and climate-related hazards. The summary of findings described in this report are compiled from feedback from the workshop participants.

Workshop Exercises

Exercise 1: Identify the Town's top local natural and climate-related hazards of concern.

Exercise 2: Identify the Town's strengths and vulnerabilities relative to top hazards.

Exercise 3: Identify and prioritize actions to reduce vulnerabilities or improve strengths.

Exercise 4: Determine the Town's overall top priority actions.

Note: Exercises 1 and 2 were conducted during Part 1 of the workshop held on May 12, 2020. Exercises 3-4 were conducted during Part 2 of the workshop held on May 19, 2020.

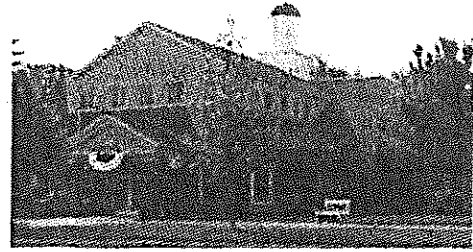
² Climate Projections obtained from: www.resilientma.org

2. Top Hazards and Vulnerable Areas

2.1 Summary of Top Hazards

During Exercise 1, workshop participants discussed Abington's top natural hazards and areas of concern. The group then reached consensus on these topics.

The following three hazards were identified as presenting the highest direct and indirect risks to the infrastructure, societal, and environmental resources of Abington:



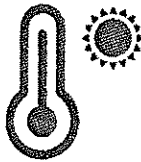
Abington Town Hall



- 1. Flooding:** Flooding was a hazard of concern to Abington. There are multiple areas in town that have experienced historical flooding and others that would be expected to flood under future climate change projections.



- 2. Strong Storms:** Extreme weather events, including strong winter storms, heavy rainfall with high winds, and ice storms were a top concern due to their potential for damage to infrastructure and other physical, social, and environmental consequences.



- 3. Drought and Extreme Temperatures:** As global temperatures continue along a long-term warming trend, local occurrences of drought and extreme temperature (i.e., days greater than 90° F) are predicted to increase. Drought conditions have the potential to limit water supply availability, increase wildfire risk, and impact agriculture in Abington. Extreme temperatures have the potential to impact vulnerable populations without access to air conditioning.

2.2 Areas of Concern

Key stakeholders developed a preliminary list of Abington's primary climate resiliency vulnerabilities and strengths. These stakeholders were primarily concerned with vulnerabilities relative to flooding and storm induced hazards. Vulnerabilities of concern included potential culvert, dam, and bridge failures, water supply infrastructure, and access to key town-owned properties during an emergency.

The table below lists areas of concern that were identified based on stakeholder feedback. Subsequent sections of this report provide more details on strengths and vulnerabilities (and potential solutions to increase resilience) relative to these areas of concern.

Category	Areas of Concern
 Infrastructure	• Stormwater management system (town-wide) • Dam maintenance/repairs needed (Hunts Brook, Beaver Brook, Island Grove Pond) • Bridge repairs (e.g., Central Street Bridge) • Public water supply
 Societal	• Senior Housing Centers • Schools • Critical facilities with only one egress
 Environmental	• Island Grove area (erosion and tree loss) • Carista property (potential for wild fires) • Loss of tree canopy (town-wide) • Water quality concerns (e.g., algae blooms) • Strawberry Valley Golf Course (loss of pond)

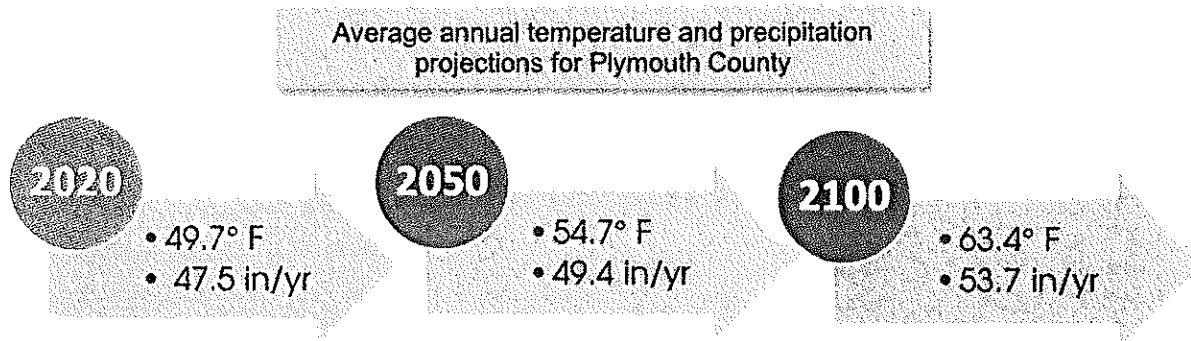
3. Current Concerns and Challenges Presented by Hazards

Abington faces multiple challenges related to potential impacts from natural hazards. In recent years, the Town has experienced multiple disruptive and damaging weather events, including Tropical Storm Irene (August 2011), Tropical Storm Sandy (October 2012), winter Nor'easter Nemo (February 2013), winter Nor'easter Quinn (March 2018), and Hurricane Barry (August 2019). These storms brought heavy rain-induced inland flooding, wind damage to trees, and snow that caused widespread damage to Abington and many other Massachusetts communities.

The intensity and frequency of extreme weather events has increased awareness of Abington's natural hazards and risks associated with climate change, while motivating communities throughout Massachusetts to comprehensively assess and improve resilience at the local level.

The following is a summary of climate change projections for Plymouth County, Massachusetts from the Climate Change Clearinghouse (CCC) for the Commonwealth (www.resilientma.org):

Note: Climate change projections below are based on median modeled results – some models predict higher and lower outcomes.



3.1 Categories of Concerns and Challenges

During the guided exercises, workshop participants identified Abington's vulnerabilities and strengths to natural hazards. As in any community, Abington is not uniformly vulnerable to potential hazards and climate change impacts – certain locations, resources, and populations will be affected to a greater degree than others. Workshop participants identified the following as key areas of concern across three categories – infrastructure, societal, and environmental.

3.1.1 Infrastructure Concerns

- **Stormwater Infrastructure:** Workshop participants expressed concerns about the Town's stormwater management system. Specific areas of concern included the following:



- Localized flooding historically occurs due to low spots in the roads at Shaw Avenue near the Senior Housing Center, on Ashland Street under Route 123, on Chestnut Street at the bridge, and near the Old Town Dump on Route 123,
 - The Central Street Bridge is at increased risk of failure due to flooding and has been documented as a significant hazard during a recent inspection.
- **Dams:** Workshop participants expressed concerns about multiple dams in town requiring repair

associated with flooding and damage from high peak flows during storms. High priority dams include the following:

- **Hunts Brook Dam:** An Emergency Action Plan (EAP) has been developed for this dam and identifies at-risk downstream properties. This dam is co-owned by the City of Brockton.
- **Island Grove Pond Dam:** An EAP has been developed for this dam and identifies at-risk downstream properties.
- **Beaver Brook Dam (near Elementary School):** Dam requires rehabilitation per a recent state inspection. This dam does not have an EAP.
- **Ice Build-up from Sump Pumps:** Sump pumps are widely used throughout town and many homeowners discharge water onto roadways causing ice build-up in the winter months. A current town bylaw prohibits pumping into streets but is not strictly enforced.
- **Water Supply:** The town's water supply is brought into Abington from Great Sand Bottom Pond in Pembroke, via a single pipe that crosses ten miles through several adjacent towns. The workshop participants expressed concerns regarding the state of the pipe as well as the reliance on this water supply as the primary source for the town.

3.1.2 Societal Concerns

- **Elderly Population:** Senior housing facilities are vulnerable to extreme heat and impacts from power outages due to strong storms. Specific concerns related to population include:
 - The senior housing facilities do not have central air conditioning. Some residents have window unit air conditioners, but not all residents. During periods of extreme heat, residents are bused to the local Senior Center which is air conditioned, but is not currently available for housing guests overnight due to lack of a generator and storage for cots and other equipment.
 - Senior housing facilities do not have generators, making residents vulnerable to power outages due to strong storms. Many residents rely on electricity for oxygen and other healthcare equipment. Cooling from window air conditioning units would also be impacted.
- **Emergency Alert System:** Workshop participants expressed concern that the current emergency alert system (NIXLE) is not adequate for all residents, as it only works if you are subscribed to the NIXLE system.
- **Access to Critical Facilities:** Flooding of some key arterial streets may limit emergency services and limit access to Abington High School (emergency shelter) and other critical facilities as this road only has one egress. Specific areas of concern are Gliniewicz Way and Lincoln Boulevard.
- **Air Conditioning at Public Schools:** Woodsdale and Beaver Brook Elementary Schools are not air conditioned and are therefore vulnerable to extreme heat. Abington High School has some cooling in the building but it is not extensive.
- **Insect-Related Illnesses:** Workshop participants expressed concern about climate-related



increases in mosquito breeding areas due to increased temperatures and longer periods of standing water due increased precipitation. Increases in other pest insect populations such as ticks were also noted.

3.1.3 Environmental Concerns



- **Erosion and Tree Loss:** Workshop participants expressed concern about the Island Grove area which has been impacted by flooding and damage from strong storms, resulting in erosion of the shoreline of Island Grove Pond and loss of trees.
- **Canopy Management:** Workshop participants indicated that trees are increasingly falling during storms and that many are vulnerable to future loss as they are damaged from wooly adelgid.
- **Risk of Wild Fires:** Workshop participants expressed concern about the potential for an increase risk of wildfires in specific areas of town including the Carista Property (west of Route 18, north of Vineyard Road) due to drought and extreme temperatures.
- **Increased Algal Blooms:** Workshop participants were concerned with increasing levels of phosphorus and associated potential for increased nuisance algal blooms in Island Grove Pond. These impacts may occur due to increased temperatures during the growing season which can exacerbate impairments associated with biological productivity (e.g. algae blooms, low dissolved oxygen), and increased amounts of intense precipitation that can increase nutrient loading and turbidity.
- **Damage to Property:** Workshop participants expressed concern about the town-owned Strawberry Valley Golf Course and the impacts drought and flooding could have on the property. A pond in the center of the property is used to irrigate the greens.

4. Current Strengths and Assets

Workshop participants identified the following as Abington's key climate change resiliency strengths:

- **Tree Canopy:** The Town currently has good tree canopy town-wide. Though some areas of town have been affected by tree loss due to storm or insect damage, the overall canopy is intact.
- **Cooling Stations:** The Town has two cooling stations available for residents during periods of extreme temperatures.

5. Recommendations to Improve Resilience

As summarized below, the final step of the workshop was to develop recommended actions to address identified vulnerabilities and to build upon strengths.

- The workshop participants identified potential actions and assigned each action a priority (i.e., high, medium, low), then differentiated them as short-term, long-term, or ongoing efforts.
- After the workshop, a list of the actions identified as "high priority" were sent by email to the workshop participants. The workshop participants then submitted votes by email for their top three priority actions. The votes were then tallied to determine the Town's three top priority climate resiliency actions as presented in Section 5.1.

5.1 Top Three Recommendations

1. Repair Island Grove Pond Dam

A recent Emergency Action Plan has identified Island Grove Pond Dam under the Centre Avenue/Route 123 bridge as needing repair. The pond identifies at-risk downstream areas and risk to the dam due to flooding and damage from high peak flows due to strong storms.

It is recommended that the Town implement a phased plan to assess, repair, and maintain Island Grove Pond Dam as outlined in the Emergency Action Plan. Given ongoing efforts, it is recommended that the following phases within this plan be performed concurrently.



Island Grove Pond Dam, located at the southern end of the pond at Centre Ave. (Rt. 123)

- **Assess:** Expand the assessment conducted in the Emergency Action Plan as needed to include additional information related to the climate resiliency of Island Grove Pond Dam. This could include additional condition inspections and dam engineering assessments, flood modeling relative to potential future higher intensity storms, and prioritized recommendations for repairs.
- **Repair:** Repair the Island Grove Pond Dam based on recommendations from the assessment. Repair steps would include: engineering feasibility analysis (i.e., modeling, conceptual design), permitting, engineering design, and repair.

2. Senior Center – Provide Generator and Evaluate as Shelter

The Abington Senior Center (441 Summer Street) is currently used as a cooling station during periods of extreme heat for the elderly population living in senior housing facilities in Abington. The two senior housing facilities in Town do not have central air conditioning. The Senior Center is not available to serve as an emergency shelter for this population in the evenings or overnight as it does not have the capacity to serve as an overnight emergency shelter and does not have a back-up generator in the case of a power outage.



Abington Senior Center

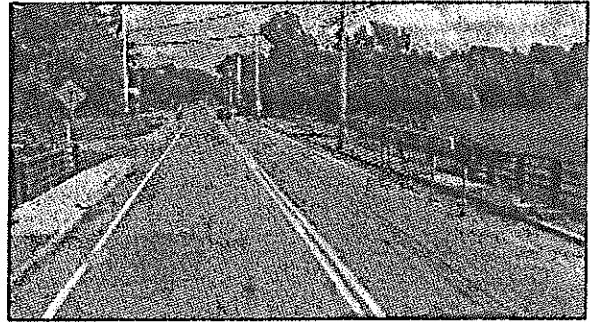
It is recommended that the Town:

1. Install a back-up generator at the Senior Center with adequate capacity to provide air conditioning and other emergency shelter functions; and
2. Assess the feasibility of facility improvements needed to provide overnight housing during heat waves and other emergencies.

3. Repair Central Street Bridge

A recent inspection identified Central Street Bridge as a significant hazard due to flooding and damage from high peak flows during strong storms. The bridge is located at the inlet of the Shumatuscacant River to Island Grove Pond. A preliminary assessment has been completed and the approximate cost of the rehabilitation is estimated at \$450,000.

It is recommended that the Town implement a plan to rehabilitate and maintain Central Street Bridge as outlined in the initial assessment of the bridge. Given ongoing efforts, it is recommended that the following be performed:



Central Street Bridge

- **Assess:** Expand the assessment conducted in the Emergency Action Plan as needed to include additional information related to the climate resiliency of the Central Street Bridge. This could include additional condition inspections, flood modeling relative to potential future higher intensity storms, and prioritized recommendations for repairs or bridge replacement.
- **Rehabilitate:** Rehabilitate the Central Street Bridge based on recommendations from the assessment. Steps towards rehabilitation would include: engineering feasibility analysis (i.e., modeling, conceptual design), permitting, engineering design, and rehabilitation.

5.2 Other Prioritized Recommendations

Higher Priority

- Repair Beaver Brook Dam (near Beaver Brook Elementary School) as it was found to require rehabilitation during a recent state inspection. The dam is at-risk due to flooding and damage from high peak flows due to strong storms. An Emergency Action Plan has not yet been developed for the dam.
- Conduct a study to determine climate-related risks to the Town's water supply and alternatives to improve water supply resiliency to climate change. The Town's water supply is supplied by Rockland Water Works and is currently brought into Abington from Great Sandy Bottom Pond in Pembroke through a single pipe that crosses through several adjacent towns. The study should focus on risks from drought, to infrastructure, and to water quality and associated treatment processes to ensure a safe water supply.
- Install a back-up power supply generator and central air conditioning in Senior Housing facilities on Gliniewicz Avenue and Shaw Avenue. Currently, the facilities only have window air conditioning units. Seniors can be bussed to the Senior Center during the day for relief from extreme temperatures, but must return to Senior Housing in the evenings because the Senior Center is not equipped as an overnight shelter. The lack of a generator at these facilities would impact seniors during power outages as many are reliant on equipment such as oxygen tanks that rely on a power supply.

- Improve the Town's emergency alert system to make it more available to all populations. This could include a system that provides outgoing messages from Town Hall, rather than the current NIXLE system that requires citizens to obtain information from the Town website.
- Implement nutrient loading reduction measures and other algae control measures for Island Grove Pond as recommended in the recently completed study. Phosphorus loading to Island Grove Pond may increase with increased precipitation and nuisance algal blooms and vegetation may be impacted by higher temperatures.

Moderate Priority

- Conduct an engineering assessment of roads in town that flood due to low-points or proximity to surface waters. Specific areas of town include the Senior Housing complex near Shaw Avenue, Ashland Street under Route 123, and Route 123 near the Old Town Dump.
- Develop engineering designs for Chestnut Street Bridge to mitigate risk of failure due to flooding and scour from high velocity flows.
- Repair Hunts Brook Dam per the completed Emergency Action Plan. The dam has been shown to require repair associated with flooding and damage from high peak flows from strong storms. This dam is co-owned by the City of Brockton and any mitigation efforts should include them.
- Assess public safety issues related to ice build-up on the roads due to use of sump pumps by residents and determine the areas of town most affected. Determine solutions such as reviewing bylaws for updates and/or changes or requiring homeowners to redirect sump pump flow onto property. Assess funding options for stormwater retention, infiltration, and drainage structures (e.g., French drains) on private properties.
- Install central air conditioning in the two elementary school buildings to mitigate the effects of increased temperatures.
- Conduct a study of the Island Grove area to determine and prioritize repairs necessary due to increased erosion and tree loss associated with flooding and/or damage from strong storms. This study should focus on shoreline areas along Lake Street and Central Street.
- Develop a town-wide tree planting plan to improve nature-based resiliency to climate change.

Lower Priority

- Install central air conditioning at Abington High School. A cooling system was recently installed, but it is not extensive.
- Conduct a study to evaluate options for a second egress to the Senior Housing facility off of Shaw Avenue. Potential options include access from Route 18, Colonial Road, or Warren Street. A single access at this facility increases risks to vulnerable populations if it is flooded or blocked by a felled tree during a storm.
- Investigate possible solutions to insect-related hazards including revising design, guidance, and regulations to decrease locations for mosquito breeding areas such as detention ponds.

As previously discussed, this list of prioritized recommendations was developed by workshop participants based on identified vulnerabilities.

- It is recommended that the Town create a committee or working group to implement recommendations from this plan. Specifically, the committee or working group would develop an anticipated timeline, determine potential funding requirements, then apply for local, state or federal grant funding to implement prioritized recommendations.
- It is also recommended that this report be reviewed and updated annually as actions are completed and/or new needs are identified.

6. Public Listening Session

Workshop findings were presented to the general public during a listening session held during **[insert meeting]** on **[insert date]**. Public feedback on this report and the public listening session was compiled from a feedback survey available at: <https://arcg.is/1iua1j>. Public feedback was compiled and is included as Appendix C to this report.

In addition to the public listening session, all materials from the MVP Planning Grant project have been made available on the Town of Abington website.

7. Report Citation

Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (2020). Community Resiliency Building Workshop Summary of Findings. Town of Abington, Massachusetts.