

Cabot Flood Resiliency Task Force
Meeting Notes
February 5, 2025

Present: Dawn Andrews, Peg Elmer Hough, RD Eno, Gary Gulka, Roland Payne, Jr., Chris Tormey, Karen Deasy

Next Meeting: March 5

Meeting notes of January 8 approved as drafted.

Updates

The following updates were presented:

Hazard Mitigation Program Grant – In process of developing the grant application in conjunction with Vermont Emergency Management and their consultants who are developing the Benefit Cost Analysis. We have provided additional information on damage costs from 2011. We are hoping that these additional damage costs will provide us with sufficient costs to justify our \$3.4 million project in the application. Target date for application completion is beginning of March.

Cabot Garage Buyout Grant – After completing the property appraisal our next step is to complete and Environmental Site Assessment, also known as Phase 1 Assessment. If contamination is suspected, we will be required to conduct a Phase 2 Assessment with sampling. We are applying to the *Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Act Program (BRELLA)* to conduct this work. This program will reduce our environmental liability and may help to pay for any corrective actions required. We will be issuing a RFP for Phase I assessment in the coming week. The grant will pay for this work.

Community Development Block Grant Pre-Application – Submitted to Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) on January 22. The grant would allow us to hire consultants to evaluate alternative sites for re-location of the Cabot Garage, site planning, building design and cost estimates. We have an application review meeting later this week with ACCD. They have indicated that there may be other federal funding sources (HUD – CDBG available to Vermont that would allow us to complete this work in a shorter timeframe. We are actively seeking land parcels in the village vicinity for relocating the garage.

Note on Federal Grant Funding – We have not as yet received any official notice from funding agencies like FEMA or HUD on future funding status.

Copies of Beaver Land Available to Borrow – Let me know if you are interested in borrowing a copy and I will drop off at the library.

Functioning Floodplain Initiative (FFI) - I provided information on this initiative via email. UVM is awaiting funding to begin assessing floodplain connectivity in the upper Winooski watershed.

Vermont Emergency Management indicated that they may have some funding that can be put toward Winooski watershed issues like this or other collaboration in the watershed.

Additional Notes regarding Updates

We are still refining and updating damages from the 2011 floods so that we can forward along to the consultants doing the Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA). RD is still trying to gather additional damage information from businesses and the town. See below the latest damage estimates addendum that was sent to the consultants working on the BCA. The north tributary bridge was closed and there were road washouts in the area. The bridge abutments were similarly exposed to the 2023 flood. The rec field was covered with silt. It was raised, reseeded and sod was purchased (\$7000). About \$1 – 2K for topsoil. Some grant money was obtained. Chris Tormey will contact Michelle Delaney regarding rec field damages and repairs from 2011. The town garage was relocated because of damage upstream of the bridge. A flood bench was constructed in the vicinity of the old garage at a sharp bend in the tributary. That was destroyed in the 2023 flood.

**CABOT VILLAGE FLOOD DAMAGE ESTIMATES
ADDENDUM: FIGURES FROM 2021, 2023**

FLOOD OF JULY 2023

3418 VT Route 215 North (Currier).....20,000.00

FLOOD OF MAY 2011

PRIVATE PROPERTIES

3109 Main Street (Cabot Village Store)50,000.00

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

Town Garage (within Village limits) repairs26,408.25

Town Garage Relocation

 Loan from Town UDAG Fund (established in 1991)402,000.00

 CDBG Grant DR 4001700,000.00

 Town Appropriation100,000.00

 VT Agency of Transportation50,000.00

 VT Rural Fire Protection4,000.00

 Other Town2,000.00

 Bond for Storage Locker90,000.00

Total for Garage Relocation1,348,500.00

Total for Demolition and Restoration in Village195,000.00

Total Garage Expenses in Village221,408.25

Second Main Street Culvert65,000.00

Total Estimated municipal Village Damage expenses286,408.25

Total Estimated municipal Village and Private damages336,408.25

Total Estimated 2011 Damages including Garage Relocation Outside Village ...1,489,908.25

The old Town Garage, located in the Village Center adjacent to the tributary running under the North Bridge, sustained serious damage in the Flood of 2011 and was relocated outside the village in 2016. Repairs to the old garage were necessary in the interim. Of the relocation expenses, \$125,000 went for riverbank restoration at the old site, \$30,000 for demolition of the old garage and \$40,000 for subsequent site restoration.

Below is a table from the Cabot Local Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2024, page 14.

Floods Hazard History

These are the most up to date significant events impacting Cabot.

Federal declarations are depicted in **bold**.

12/18-19/23: 2” of rain on snow event

7/11/2023: DR4720 5-9”” rain: \$12,000,000 estimated local damages

7/20/2021: Heavy rain: \$50,000 county damages 7/14/2020: 3-4” rain: \$5,000 town damages

11/1/2019: 2-4” rain: \$250,000 county damages 6/20/2019: Heavy rain: \$25,000 county damages

5/20/2019: Heavy rain: \$25,000 county damages **4/15/2019: DR4445** 1” rain with significant snow melt:

\$45,773 town damages

7/1/2017: DR4330 3-4” rain the previous 3-4 days with flash flooding on 7/1/17: \$240,000 county damages

7/19/2015: Heavy rain: \$1,000,000 county damages

4/15-18/2014: DR 4178 heavy rain on snow event

\$250,000 county damages

6/25-7/10/2013: DR4140 1-3” of heavy rain over a half hour: \$625,000 county damages

8/28/2011:DR4022 Tropical Storm Irene with 3-7+” rain:

\$75,000,000 Public county damages

5/26-27/2011: DR4001 3-5+” rain on snow event: \$5,500,000 county damages

5/20/2011: DR4043: Heavy rain: \$400,000 county damages

4/23-5/9/2011: DR4043 rain on snow event:

\$1,000,000 county damages

Cabot Garage Relocation – RD has contacted the Cabot Creamery about three parcels that they own and whether they could be considered for relocation sites. The parcel next to the Creamery truck entrance(Lawson house) is likely going to be used by the Creamery for driveway expansion. Other sites include land just south of the Creamery buildings (formerly a house located there and site of Ron’s Bakery. The other site is downhill of the fire pond that at one point was considered for

Creamery employee housing. These other sites await further discussion with the Creamery. The Nunn property on South Walden Rd is not available.

The CDBG planning grant application was submitted for \$26,000, \$20,000 in grant funds and \$6,000 in matching funds. Given that this funding, if successful, would not be available to us until late summer, we feel the delay would be too long to find an alternative site. As another option, RD is going to seek Select Board approval of \$26,000 of the town's 2023-2024 fund balance to conduct the engineering studies. The Select Board has already approved \$6000 for the match for the CDBG application.

Public Outreach Planning

It was suggested that we begin planning for the public outreach being funded by the Vermont Community Foundation in March. We currently have a lot on our plates with grants in February. VRCD is a partner. It was also suggested that we get input and involvement from a larger planning group, including DEC, Friends of the Winooski, and Marshfield and Plainfield. Consider a tri-town event in the summer.

Roland wrote an article for the Cabot Chronicle January issue of forests and flood resiliency. We had articles about our flood mitigation and resiliency efforts in the Hardwick Gazette and VT Digger.