Andover

Andover is a rural community on the eastern edge of the Capitol Region with a population of about 3,300. The town is approximately 15.7 square miles and has an elevation of about 400 feet above sea level. Andover is located in the Willimantic Watershed. Several small rivers and streams flow through the town including the Hop and Skungamaug Rivers and their tributaries: Burnap and Staddle Brooks. Bear Swamp Brook runs through the Nathan Hale State Forest located in the northeast corner of town. The State owned Bishop’s Conservation Area is located in the southwest corner of town and includes the 53-acre Bishop Swamp Pond. Andover Lake is a 155-acre lake in the southeast corner that provides recreational opportunities to members of the private association that owns it. The Doris Chamberlain Nature preserve with small pond and walking trails is located on Route 316 near School Road. The major transportation routes through Andover include state routes 6, 87, and 316. Principal industries include agriculture and small wood and machine shops.

Route 6 through Andover and the neighboring towns of Bolton and Coventry was a recent focus of a transportation corridor study and review of economic development opportunities. As a follow-up to this study, the town anticipates reviewing its zoning regulations to consider revisions which could encourage commercial development at appropriate locations in the corridor.

Challenges

Storm damage from trees resulting in road blockages, power outages and debris accumulation is a major concern of the Town. Andover also contains significant forested land, including State Forest land, which poses some fire risk to residential areas. Andover is the smallest of the Capitol Region municipalities, has a limited staff and budget, and relies on a volunteer fire department. Nonetheless, the town has established working relationships with neighboring towns for assistance when needed.

The Town has two areas of localized flooding concern: Bunker Hill Road and the bridge over Hop River, and the bridge on Long Hill Road over the Hop River. Debris accumulation and erosion of stream banks are the main contributors to flooding problems at those locations. The National Flood Insurance Program has paid four property damage claims in Andover totaling $4,980.94 to-date. The Town has not permitted any new construction in the special flood hazard area. Andover has had no Repetitive Loss Property claims to-date. Although flooding is not as large a concern in Andover as in some other communities, a significant flood event could result in much damage. CRCOG used FEMA’s Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the Town of Andover might face from flooding. The model estimates that economic losses to the town including residential and commercial damage and business interruptions due to a flood having a 1% chance of occurring any given year (the 100-year flood) would be over $10 million. The impacts of such a flood are summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Damages from 100-Year Flood</th>
<th>Households Displaced</th>
<th>People Needing Shelter</th>
<th>Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged</th>
<th>Total Estimated Economic Losses</th>
<th>Total Residential Building &amp; Content Losses</th>
<th>Total Commercial, Industrial &amp; Other Building &amp; Content Losses</th>
<th>Total Business Interruption Losses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>57</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$10,290,000</td>
<td>$5,870,000</td>
<td>$4,400,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CRCOG also used FEMA’s Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the Town of Andover might face from a hurricane as powerful as the 1938 hurricane. The model estimates that economic losses to the town including residential and commercial damage and business interruptions due to such a Category 3 hurricane would be nearly $15 million. The impacts of such a storm are summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Damages from a 1938 Strength Hurricane</th>
<th>Households Displaced</th>
<th>People Needing Shelter</th>
<th>Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged</th>
<th>Buildings Completely Damaged</th>
<th>Total Estimated Economic Losses</th>
<th>Total Residential Building Losses</th>
<th>Total Commercial, Industrial &amp; Other Building Losses</th>
<th>Total Business Interruption Losses</th>
<th>Total Debris Generated</th>
<th>Truckloads (at 25 tons/truck) of building debris</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$14,800,000</td>
<td>$12,660,000</td>
<td>$990,000</td>
<td>$1,150,000</td>
<td>28,188 tons</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to information from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the three federally declared natural disasters of 2011 resulted in total expenses to the municipality and local and private nonprofit agencies of $75,218.43. These expenses include debris and snow removal, emergency protective measures and repairs to damaged infrastructure and buildings but do not include damages experienced by private citizens and businesses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant: Municipality and Other (Other = Fire Districts, Schools, Private Non-Profit Agencies)</th>
<th>100% of Amount Eligible for 75% Reimbursement</th>
<th>Total Damages Eligible for Public Assistance Due to 2011 Disasters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DR-1958-CT 2011 Snow</td>
<td>DR-4023-CT Irene August 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Andover</td>
<td>$20,262.29</td>
<td>$21,914.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andover Other</td>
<td>$3,250.81</td>
<td>$15,757.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andover Total</td>
<td>$23,513.10</td>
<td>$37,672.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

**GOAL: MINIMIZE LOSS OF LIFE, PROPERTY DAMAGE, AND COMMERCIAL DISRUPTION AND FACILITATE RECOVERY FROM NATURAL HAZARDS.**

**Objective 1:**
Improve warning notification through Reverse-911 and evacuation assistance.
**Strategic Actions**

1.1 Monitor implementation of Reverse-911 system, and plan for updates.
   - **Lead:** Emergency Management
   - **Priority:** Medium
   - **Status:** In the 2008 Plan, this action referred to the implementation of the Tolland County TN 911 dispatch system. This system’s set up is complete now. It is recommended that this mitigation activity remain in the plan, however to address any available updates for Andover.
   - **Potential Funding Sources:** General budget funds will be used for updates.
   - **Timeframe:** 2014-2019

1.2 Educate the public on new warning notification system, sheltering facilities and other emergency preparedness measures.
   - **Lead:** Emergency Management
   - **Priority:** Medium
   - **Status:** CERT notified town residents through door to door notifications, social media updates, and signs at strategic locations throughout town. The Board of Education uses call out notifications to parents in the event of emergencies such as snow storms. It is recommended that this activity be continued.
   - **Potential Funding Sources:** General budget funds will be used to continue efforts. The town will investigate grant funding to acquire Everbridge for call out notifications.
   - **Timeframe:** 2014-2019: Outreach efforts will be made prior to storm events on an as needed basis throughout the 2014-2019 plan period. Also periodic public notifications will be made in the local weekly publication, River East.

1.3 Coordinate with municipal agent for the elderly on special needs population list maintenance.
   - **Lead:** Emergency Management/Agent for the Elderly
   - **Priority:** Medium
   - **Status:** CERT compiled list of vulnerable persons several years ago. It is recommended that this activity be continued.
   - **Potential Funding Sources:** General budget funds will be used to continue efforts.
   - **Timeframe:** 2014-2019: Annual reviews of the list

**Objective 2:**
Ensure adequate natural hazard response and recovery through zoning and public works activities.

**Strategic Actions:**

2.1 Areas draining into the Hop River will be monitored to identify and prevent future erosion.
   - **Lead:** Public Works
   - **Priority:** Medium
   - **Status:** In the 2008 Plan, this project was described as: *Study and implement improved bank stabilization measures near bridge on Long Hill Road*. State inspections have been conducted and the bridge is considered in good repair. It is
recommended that this mitigation action be modified to address additional areas along the Hop River.

Potential Funding Sources: General budget funds
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Periodic inspections will be made during the course of normal public works operations.

2.2 Study debris and flooding issues on Parker Bridge Road.
Lead: Public Works
Priority: Medium
Status: Parker Road Bridge is located in Columbia and Coventry. Flooding on Parker Bridge Road has not been an issue in Andover. It is recommended to remove this activity from the plan.

2.3 Educate property owners on property maintenance, especially around natural and artificial drainage systems.
Lead: Public Works, Emergency Management
Priority: Medium
Status: Public works contacts property owners of specific problems as needed. Proposed subdivisions and first cuts are reviewed for their drainage impacts. It is recommended that be continued. Applications for development are to be reviewed through the site plan and subdivision process for drainage impacts.

Potential Funding Sources: General budget funds
Timeframe: 2014-2019

2.4 Establish a list of, and agreements with, private tree service companies to ensure prompt debris removal service following storms.
Lead: Public Works
Priority: Medium
Status: The list has been established and is periodically updated; agreements are made as required.

Potential Funding Sources: General budget funds
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Annual reviews during the budget process

2.5 Investigate the CRCOG service sharing initiative, especially surrounding tree and other debris removal equipment.
Lead: Public Works, Selectmen
Priority: Medium
Status: Andover has used regional service sharing for road salt and will investigate use of additional services if there are cost savings. The town maintains mutual agreements with neighboring towns for plowing and other services such as brush removal. It is recommended that this activity be continued.

Potential Funding Sources: General budget funds
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Service sharing agreements will be considered as available during the 2014-2019 plan period. The town participates several times a year at COST (Council of Small Towns), CCM and CRCOG meetings related to service sharing opportunities.
Objective 3:
Ensure capacity for emergency sheltering of residents.

Strategic Actions:

3.1 Improve shelter facility, especially sanitary facilities, handicapped accessibility and generator.
   Lead: Emergency Management
   Priority: Medium
   Status: The Congregational Church and Town elementary school were used as an additional emergency shelters in the last two years. It is recommended that this activity be continued to address the need for a generator for the Town Hall addition.
   Potential Funding Sources: Grant funding will be investigated.
   Timeframe: 2014-2016

3.2 Investigate animal sheltering alternatives.
   Lead: Emergency Management
   Priority: Low
   Status: In the 2008 Plan, it was proposed to Investigate pet sheltering alternatives. The opportunity for this was reviewed and the animal shelter/dog pound was improved in 2010 to allow this facility to be used for sheltering animals during emergency situations. For the Plan Update, it is recommended that this activity be restated so that additional opportunities for sheltering larger animals such as horses can be pursued.
   Potential Funding Sources: General budget funds

Objective 4:
Train first responders and provide proper support, including supplies and equipment.

Strategic Actions:

4.1 Continue to participate in National Incident Management System (NIMS) training.
   Lead: Emergency Management, Public Safety
   Priority: High
   Status: Andover was the site of a NIMS small town training drill in August 2012; the Town has also participated in statewide drills. New radios were purchased in 2013 for CERT volunteers. It is recommended that this activity be continued as opportunities are available.
   Potential Funding Sources: Funding for NIMS is provided by FEMA.
   Timeframe: 2014-2019

4.2 Coordinate with DEEP on maintenance of the Andover Lake Dam and of state forest land for structural integrity of dam, wild fire prevention and emergency response.
   Lead: Fire and Emergency Management
   Priority: Medium (The town reassessed the priority assigned to this project in 2008, raising it from Low to Medium.)
Status: Town land is under a forestry plan which includes periodic cutting and vegetation removal. Active coordination with DEEP has not been pursued to-date. It is recommended that efforts to meet with the state be pursued.

Potential Funding Sources: State funding to address state lands and facilities. Town efforts are self-funded from the harvesting of trees.

Timeframe: 2015-2019

Objective 5:
Ensure residents are aware of the gas pipeline that runs through town.

Strategic Action:

5.1 Coordinate with pipeline owner on public education and outreach regarding line and public safety.

Lead: Emergency Management
Priority: Low
Status: Algonquin Pipeline Company, owner of the pipeline, has conducted several outreach efforts to public officials. It is recommended that this activity be continued particularly with outreach to first responders.

Potential Funding Sources: Private (Gas Company)

Timeframe: 2014-2019: Annual seminars to be conducted by the gas company
Map 10: Andover Population Density, Dams and Flood Zones
Map 11: Andover Flood Plains, Repetitive Loss Areas, Dams and Important Facilities