Ellington

Ellington is a growing community located in Tolland County. The town covers 34 square miles with a population of approximately 15,600. Ellington lies at an elevation between 100 and 800 feet above sea level and is part of three watersheds, the Scantic to the west, the Hockanum in the middle, and the Willimantic to the east. Principal watercourses that run through Ellington include Broad, Charters, Creamery, Kimball’s, Marsh, Martins and Muddy Brooks. With over 5,500 acres under cultivation, Ellington remains one of the largest agricultural production towns in Connecticut. Major thoroughfares in Ellington include north-south state route 83 and east-west state route 140. The eastern highlands ridgeline runs through the central part of town. This area contains extensive areas of upland forest including more than 1,200 acres of the Shenipsit State Forest.

Challenges

For Ellington, the natural hazards of most importance, and those having the greatest impact on the community, are winter storms and hurricanes/tropical storms. No new construction or demolition has occurred since 2008 in floodplains or other vulnerable areas. No changes have been made to zoning, floodplain or inland wetlands regulations since 2008 which would increase or decrease Ellington’s vulnerability to natural hazards. Most critical municipal facilities are located within a two mile radius in the Town’s center. A major challenge, as verified by most recent storms, is maintaining public/emergency access from town center out toward the Crystal Lake community. Access is essential via State Routes 140 and 30. During times of lengthy town-wide power outages access to fuel could be limited by lack of generator power at fuel distribution facilities in and around town.

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 other local agencies of over $750,000. The majority of these costs were incurred as a result of Storm Alfred which hit in late October while leaves were still on the trees. These disaster related 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.

| 2011 Disasters Damage Amounts Eligible for 75% Reimbursement Under FEMA Public Assistance Program |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Applicant Town & Other (Other = Fire Districts, Schools, Private Non-Profit Agencies) | 100% of Amount Eligible for 75% Reimbursement | | | |
| Town of Ellington | $77,625.51 | $44,076.23 | $620,025.07 | $741,726.81 |
| Ellington Other | $16,231.20 | $16,231.20 | | $16,231.20 |
| Ellington Total | $77,625.51 | $44,076.23 | $636,256.27 | $757,958.01 |

CRCOG used FEMA’s Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the Town of Ellington 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 over $87 million. The impacts of such a storm are summarized below:
Estimated Damages from a 1938 Strength Hurricane

<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>$87,370,000</td>
<td>$63,640,000</td>
<td>$14,245,000</td>
<td>$9,485,000</td>
<td>57,551</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Flood Insurance Program has paid four property damage claims in Ellington totaling $8,954 to-date; none have been Repetitive Loss Property claims. A significant flood event could result in much damage. CRCOG used FEMA’s Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the community might face from a major flood. 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 $11 million. The impacts of such a flood are summarized below:

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

**GOAL: REDUCE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT CAUSED BY LOSS OF POWER**

**Objective 1:**
Provide auxiliary power to critical facilities.

**Strategic Actions:**

1.1 Work with the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Commission to obtain generators for all five schools and town hall complex.

- **Lead:** Emergency Management
- **Priority:** High
- **Status:** Four of five schools completed since 2011; Windermere School and the Library remain. The Annex building containing land use offices needs physical connection to Town Hall generator.

- **Potential Funding Source:** grants
- **Timeframe:** 2014-2019
1.2 Complete strategic plan for evacuating and sheltering special needs populations with emphasis on sheltering in place for those not able to get to designated shelters (i.e. Snipsic Village Community Building)

Lead: Emergency Management  
Priority: High  
Status: Plans are in place to connect a generator to Snipsic Village Community Building for electric and water service and heat. Trained persons have to transport residents to and from the community building  
Potential Funding Source: grants or other funding (i.e. CIP)  
Timeframe: 2014-2019

1.3 Encourage private fuel dispensaries to install back-up generator power to ensure continued access to fuel for residential and business transportation, heating/cooling and power needs.

Lead: Emergency Management  
Priority: High  
Status: This is a new initiative.  
Potential Funding Source: Town general fund for municipal staff time; private (fuel companies) funds for equipment and installations.  

Objective 2:
Continue to provide adequate equipment for clean-up initiatives.

After Storm Alfred, the Town established a list of on-call contractors and available equipment (through competitive bidding) for assistance when needed.

GOAL: MINIMIZE DAMAGE RESULTING FROM FLOODING

Objective 1:
Ensure infrastructure is constructed to FEMA standards.

Strategic Actions:

1.1 Continue to work with CRCOG to advance Windermere Bridge renovation project on DOT list.
Lead: Administration  
Priority: High  
Status: Completed in 2008

1.2 Work with State DOT to ensure safe/emergency vehicular passage to the Crystal Lake community prior to, during and after storms (Routes 140 and 30).
Lead: Administration  
Priority: High  
Status: Although this is a new initiative for the Plan Update, emergency contact lists have been established between the Department of Public Works, CL&P and tree
removal services. Mutual aid packs are in effect and coordinated through a regional dispatch center.

Potential Funding Source: State
Timeframe: 2014-2019: annual updates to the list are anticipated.

1.3 Continue to work with CRCOG to advance Route 74 bridge renovation project on DOT list in Vernon.
Lead: Administration
Priority: High
Status: This is a new Initiative
Potential Funding Source: State

Objective 2:
Ensure buildings are constructed to FEMA standards.

Strategic Action:
2.1 Continue to implement and enforce local building and zoning regulations to prevent development in risk-prone areas.
Lead: Planning, Building
Priority: High
Status: This work is undertaken routinely as part of the development review and construction inspection processes. Reviews are conducted as development applications and building permits are received.
Potential Funding Source: General fund
Timeframe: 2014-2019

Objective 3:
Protect the integrity of "Great Swamp" and other wetlands from development pressure.

Strategic Action:
3.1 Educate public on property owners' responsibility to maintain drainage systems.
Lead: Public Works, Administration
Priority: Low
Status: Information has been periodically sent to residents via a town newsletter
Potential Funding Source: General fund
Timeframe: 2014-2019; annual efforts are anticipated.
Map 26: Ellington Population Density, Dams and Flood Zones
Map 27: Ellington Flood Plains, Repetitive Loss Areas, Dams and Important Facilities