



TOWN OF HOLLAND
Police Department
27 Sturbridge Road Holland, MA 01521
Bryan C. Haughey
Chief of Police

To: Select Board
From: Bryan C. Haughey- Chief of Police/EMD
Date: October 15, 2021
Subj: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program – Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project Proposal

Greetings,

1. As you may be aware, on Friday, October 7, 2021, Town Administrator Stout and I met with Andrew Smith, Greater CT River Valley Regional Coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, (MVP).
2. This program was initiated by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, (EEA) in 2017 as part of Governor Baker's Executive Order 569, Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth.
3. In my role as Emergency Management Director, I began corresponding with Andrew in July of 2021 concerning potential financial and technical assistance in the areas of emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation. Included in that is developing and maintaining comprehensive programs to identify vulnerabilities and deficiencies in an effort to minimize the negative impact of natural events that affect our environment and infrastructure.
4. In order to protect the health and safety of persons and property I recommend we consider establishing a multi-phase environmental hazard mitigation project consisting of a vulnerability assessment followed by the implementation of mitigation strategies and physical protective measures that aim to protect, restore, promote, and manage our ecological and environmental systems. To protect and foster the natural, scenic, and aesthetic qualities of our environment we should intend to focus on defending forests and other ecological habitats from destruction, flood, erosion, and pollution control, enhancing water runoff control systems, managing the growth of invasive vegetation in our waterways, and preparing for the harmful impacts of climate change.
5. The purpose of the MVP program is to provide support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to identify climate hazards, assess vulnerabilities, and develop action plans to improve resilience to climate change by way of the MVP Program Planning Grant. As part of this process the state awards communities with funding to complete those vulnerability assessments and to develop action-oriented resiliency plans. This funding would allow us to complete the vulnerability assessment and to develop mitigation strategies which are two major steps in the overall project.

27 Sturbridge Rd - Holland Massachusetts 01521

Station: (413) 245-0117

Dispatch: (413) 245-7222

Fax: (413) 245-4482

Email: police@hollandma.org

6. The MVP program planning process follows the Community Resilience Building framework to plan for the future. Community Resilience Building is a unique, “anywhere at any scale”, community-driven process, rich with information, experience, and dialogue, where participants identify top hazards, current strengths, challenges, and priority actions to improve community resilience for all hazards today, and in the future.
7. After completing the planning phase the municipality becomes certified as an MVP Community, and in turn, this allows them to be eligible for MVP Action Grant funding opportunities. The Action Grant program provides assistance to the eligible municipality to invest in priorities that actually build resilience. Projects can range from a vulnerability assessment of a specific sector to an outreach and engagement campaign to constructing green infrastructure that takes into account climate change projections.
8. To summarize, the community must first complete the Planning Grant process to become designated as an MVP Community, and then they will become eligible for Action Grant funding which will allow the community to physically implement the priority actions that were identified during the planning process.
9. The Planning Grant requires no cash match by the municipality, however, will require the municipality to establish a core team to guide the planning process and to engage with a state-certified MVP provider. This team will be required to assist in gathering available background information on climate change impacts, hazards, vulnerabilities, and strengths, and complete several other tasks, including but not limited to, planning and participating in workshops, identifying infrastructural, societal, and environmental vulnerabilities, evaluate strengths that help make the community more resilient to climate change and natural hazards, explore nature-based solutions to address identified vulnerabilities, develop and prioritize actions, and delineate subsequent steps for the municipality.
10. There is a limited amount of funding for this competitive program and the final FY22 application is due by January 7, 2022, at 4 pm. Applying early is encouraged and funding selections are estimated to be announced by February 2022. In an effort to expedite the process I have procured and reviewed the application and have also produced and attached a detailed Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project proposal for your consideration. You will see that this proposal has been configured in the same manner used in past proposals that I have submitted to your office. I would like to make it clear that the proposal is only a preliminary document at this time and has been formatted with the expectation of revisions.
11. I would like to thank you for your consideration in this matter and look forward to hearing back from you promptly as the application deadline is fast approaching on January 7.

Respectfully,



Bryan C. Haughey
Chief of Police

27 Sturbridge Rd - Holland Massachusetts 01521

Station: (413) 245-0117

Dispatch: (413) 245-7222

Fax: (413) 245-4482

Email: police@hollandma.org