



# *City of Barre, Vermont*

*“Granite Center of the World”*

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## **Gunners Brook Flood Mitigation Initiative**

**Update #4**  
(05-22-16)

In an effort to keep all interested parties informed of continuing flood mitigation efforts, I have prepared this **Update** to all those on the Gunners Brook Flood Recovery Group Distribution List.

### **Reminder:**

There will be a **Public Information Meeting this Wednesday evening, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at Alumni Hall.** The purpose of the meeting is to provide a progress update on the Phase 1 Flood Mitigation Design, as well as to answer questions and to obtain feedback that interested parties may have regarding the design elements.

### **Following is a summary of actions and/or initiatives undertaken since Update #3 (03-13-16)**

With the lead preparation assistance of DuBois & King, Inc., we have submitted an **Ecosystem Restoration Program Grant Application** on April 8, 2016 in the amount of \$100,000 to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. If awarded, this grant funding will be used to leverage the City’s \$500,000 bond funds against project costs, and/or depending on project bids and final costs, possibly allow allocations of the City funding to future mitigation efforts. We are cautiously optimistic this is a competitive grant application. We are advised award decisions will be made in June.

We prepared and submitted a funding request to the **Vermont Disaster Relief Fund (VDRF) for approximately \$5,000** for the repair of two destroyed sections of the Gunners Brook retaining wall adjacent to the properties at 85 and 87 Brook Street. This funding was approved and the interim wall repairs were completed by City DPW staff in April.

With regard to the **Primary (Phase 1) Buy-Out Applications (17 & 19 Harrington Ave, 14 & 14A Reid Street)**, we have been notified the applications have passed “*programmatic review at FEMA and are now in the environmental/historic preservation review phase*”. The applications continue to advance and we continue to be cautiously optimistic we will receive Notice of Grant Awards in June.

Also, due to the City's demonstrated commitment and proactive flood mitigation initiatives, we were notified by the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) in February of a very limited pool of remaining HMGP Program funding for additional buy-outs consistent with the VERI Project Report recommendations and the City's Gunners Brook Flood Mitigation initiative. This funding pool is very limited...so much so that Barre City was approached first to determine interest. The City Council authorized the City Manager and City Planner to prepare applications for additional **(Phase 2) Buy-outs at 85 and 87 Brook Street**. These applications were prepared and submitted in early April before the deadline. We were notified by DEMHS that "...*the applications for this project were reviewed by the (State) selection committee on 4/15/16 and scored above the threshold for FEMA submittal.*" The applications were then submitted by DEMHS to FEMA during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May. We are also cautiously optimistic (no guarantees) that these will be approved by FEMA, and if so, do not expect notification before 6 +/- months (November, 2016+/-)

Please feel free to contact me at [manager@barrecity.org](mailto:manager@barrecity.org) (or 476-0241) if you have questions/comments /input reading this Update or flood mitigation activities in general. Also, please feel free to encourage any of your neighbors to contact me to add their name to this distribution list. I will also add names to a smaller US mail list for those who do not have computer access as long as I am supplied with names and mailing addresses.

I look forward to seeing you at the information meeting this Wednesday.

Respectfully,  
Steven E. Mackenzie, P.E.  
City Manager