



Town of South Hero, VT
333 US Route 2
South Hero, VT 05486

South Hero Mitigation Plan Outreach Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

South Hero Town Office and virtual

Participants: Sue Arguin, (Town Administrator), Naomi King (Town Clerk), Dave Carter (Selectboard), Martha Varney (Zoning Administrator), Kim Julow (Treasurer (ret. Fire Chief)), and Shaun Coleman, (NRPC)

The meeting began at 11:00 a.m.

Shaun provided a power point presentation on the mitigation planning process, FEMA requirements, community outreach efforts, timeline and roles and responsibilities. He reviewed the draft outreach plan that he and Sue developed. He also reviewed the history of the South Hero Mitigation Plan which was first adopted in 2018. FEMA requires mitigation plans to be updated every five years. FEMA requirements for local hazard mitigation plan approval changed in recent years.

The committee updated the outreach plan and discussed outreach efforts to include more participation from various sectors of the community. Shaun stressed the importance of engaging as much of the community as possible. The group agreed to invite a representative from the Lake Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce, C.I.D.E.R and Vermont Electric Co-op. There is no local business organization.

The group agreed to post hazard mitigation plan meeting notices and related information such as the community survey, agendas, minutes and the draft plan on the village website and at the same sites used for other public meetings. Naomi noted that the food shelf would be a good location for mitigation related information. With virtual meetings, some residents may join future meetings. Information will also be posted on the Town's social media sites and Front Porch Forum to receive public input.

Shaun agreed to create a project web page at the NRPC site. The Town's website is in the process of being updated. Naomi will include a link from the town website to NRPC's South Hero Mitigation Plan update web page as well as a link to the community survey.

The group agreed to post information about the mitigation plan and the survey during Town Meeting in March.

Shaun provided an overview of how mitigation fits into the 4 stages of emergency management and discussed integrating information from existing programs, policies and plans into the mitigation plan such as local ordinance, the Local EOP and municipal plan. He also discussed how information from the mitigation plan can be used to supplement updates of the municipal plan and capital planning efforts.

The group agreed to meet on February 13th at the Town Office and via Zoom.

Shaun agreed to:

- Send the committee the final draft of the Outreach Plan.
- Send the committee the draft on-line survey for any recommendations or changes.
- Create a Mitigation Plan Update page for South Hero on NRPC's website and send the group a link.
- Provide Sue and Naomi a link to the survey and a copy of the survey flyer.
- Draft minutes and prepare materials and an agenda for the next meeting.
- Check with VEM on the volunteer hourly rate under BRIC for match.

The Town agreed to:

- Track match
- Review the Outreach Plan and survey and send Shaun any changes.
- Contact the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce and Vermont Electric Co-Op.

The meeting ended at approximately 12:05 p.m.