



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

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Bryan C. Haughey- Chief of Police/EMD
Date: January 27, 2022
Subj: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program – Planning Grant Award

Greetings,

I am pleased to inform you that the Town of Holland has been awarded the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program MVP Planning Grant in the amount of \$27,000. This funding is provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, EEA, FY22 Round 2 MVP Planning Grant that we applied for on November 5, 2021.

As you are aware, on October 19, 2021, your Board voted to accept and approve the Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project proposal that I submitted to you in my role as Emergency Management Director. The purpose of this proposal is to establish a multi-phase project consisting of an environmental hazard vulnerability assessment followed by implementing mitigation strategies and physical protective measures that will protect the health and safety of persons and property.

With the focal point of our town being the Hamilton Reservoir and with the vast amount of ponds, rivers, streams, trails, and other unique ecological systems within our community we must take a proactive approach in prioritizing the preservation of our environment.

In order to protect and foster the natural, scenic, and aesthetic qualities of our community it is necessary that we focus on:

- defending our 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 now and in the future.

Our overall goal is to adopt procedures that center on the protection, restoration, and management of our ecological systems to safeguard public health, provide clean air and water, increase natural hazard resilience, and sequester toxic and carbon emissions.

In previous correspondence that I provided to your office, I explained that the purpose of the MVP program, and specifically, the MVP planning grant, is to provide support for cities and towns to identify climate hazards, assess vulnerabilities, and develop action plans to improve resilience to climate change.

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This funding is an integral part of our overall hazard mitigation project and will allow us to engage with a state-certified MVP provider that will assist us in gathering available background information on climate change impacts, hazards, vulnerabilities, and strengths. By identifying infrastructural, societal, and environmental vulnerabilities, and by evaluating strengths that help make the community more resilient to climate change and natural hazards, we can explore nature-based solutions to address identified vulnerabilities, develop and prioritize actions, and delineate subsequent steps for the protection of our municipality.

Furthermore, after completing the planning phase, we will become certified as an MVP community, and in turn, this allows us to be eligible for MVP Action Grant funding opportunities. The Action Grant program provides assistance in the way of funding and technical support to invest in priorities that build resilience by physically implementing the priority actions that we identified during the planning process.

I have attached the Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project document that was previously sent to your office. Please note that this document has been modified from its original. As you may remember from my correspondence to you on October 15, 2021, the document was formatted with the expectation of revisions being made. I have also attached several other documents that we received. In addition to the approval letter, I have attached a standard contract and a CASL form that need to be signed and returned to EEA. The EEA has asked that we do not formally announce the grant award to the public until the Commonwealth has the opportunity to make a formal announcement in the coming weeks.

I would like to recognize Town Administrator Stout for her work in assisting with this process and would like to thank the Conservation Commission, Finance Board, Lake Oversight Committee, and Highway Superintendent for their letters of support. I would also like to thank the Friends of Hamilton Reservoir Association and the Last Green Valley, Inc for their letter of support.

I look forward to the opportunity of working with your office and the other stakeholders on this project.

Respectfully,



Bryan C. Haughey
Chief of Police

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