



MEMORANDUM

Town of Nags Head

Planning & Development Department

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Holly B. White, Principal Planner
Date: June 23, 2020
Subject: Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

BACKGROUND

Dare County and Currituck County, and the towns of Manteo, Nags Head, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Southern Shores, and Duck, joined efforts on updating their Hazard Mitigation Plans. This effort has been referred to as the *Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan*. The Town's previous Hazard Mitigation Plan was part of the *Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* ("Albemarle RHMP") that expires in June 2020 and can be viewed at www.nagsheadnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2097/Albemarle-Regional-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan. While good practice, especially given the Town's susceptibility to hazards, local governments are required to prepare and update hazard mitigation plans in order to be eligible for FEMA Disaster Assistance and Mitigation Grants.

In addition to FEMA Disaster Assistance, the Hazard Mitigation Plan is an important component of the Town's participation in the Community Rating System ("CRS") program. The CRS program recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards to enhance public safety, reduce damages to property and public infrastructure, avoid economic disruption and losses, reduce human suffering, and protect the environment. Through participation in the CRS program, all Town property owners receive a 20% discount on flood insurance.

While Dare County has acted as lead on this Hazard Mitigation Plan update process, Planning Staff has been responsible for reviewing and providing feedback on the draft Plan, as well as vetting any information that was needed specifically for the Town. Public involvement has been an important part of this planning process. A Planning Team was developed to assist in gaining community feedback and participation as well as meet the criteria of the CRS program for Hazard Mitigation Plans. The Dare County Team included representatives from the County, each of the towns, and representatives of the public from each community; Nags Head's team members included staff members Shane Hite, Deputy Fire Chief; Michael Zehner, Director of Planning & Development, and Holly White, Principal Planner, as well as two citizen representatives, Meade Gwinn and Megan Lambert.

PLAN

The draft Hazard Mitigation Plan was made available to the public in January 2020 for feedback. Following this, a final draft Plan was produced and sent to the State for review. After review by the State, the draft Plan was submitted to FEMA for review.

FEMA approved the Plan as of June 10, 2020. Formal notification from FEMA will be sent upon approval of the Plan by all of the jurisdictions involved. The approval process requires that the State review and FEMA approval occur prior to the individual jurisdictional adoption. A draft resolution of adoption is attached.

The Outer Banks Hazard Mitigation Plan can be viewed at www.obx-hmp.com under the "Review Draft Documents" tab.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The following 2017 Comprehensive Plan policies support the development and adoption of a hazard mitigation plan:

- NR-10 Protect the public health and safety of the town from natural and manmade hazards through proactive planning and mitigation efforts.
- NR-11 Ensure that the town is a disaster resilient community that can survive, recover from, and thrive after a natural or man-made disaster event.
- NR-12 Support mitigation projects that reduce the potential damaging effects of hazards on the town.

STAFF & PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners consider adoption of the *Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan*. At the June 16, 2020 Planning Board Meeting, the Planning Board recommended approval of the *Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan*.