



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2020

**Town of Townsend Seeks Public Input for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) and Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Project**

Townsend's responses to previous extreme weather events, as well as the community's current response to the COVID-19 crisis, illustrate the Town's resilience. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) and Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Project seeks to document historic successes and challenges related to emergency preparedness, to help develop better solutions for tomorrow's risks. The community's input on this process is essential.

The Town of Townsend is identifying projects that could reduce the impacts from flooding, extreme temperatures, and severe weather events. The Town is also considering the likelihood of experiencing more severe natural hazards more frequently due to projected climate change. This planning process explores three topic areas; including infrastructure assets, community resilience, and environmental resources.

Until we can meet in person, we will connect as a community online. The Town is preparing to host a virtual Public Listening Session on **Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM**. For residents without internet connections, Wi-Fi will be available at the Townsend Public Library parking lot. Registration is on Eventbrite and, you can register using the following link [tinyurl.com/TownsendMVPWebinar](https://tinyurl.com/TownsendMVPWebinar)

A recording of the webinar will be posted on the Town's website, along with a link to an online survey to capture additional public input.

This MVP-HMP project is funded through a \$22,000 grant award from the Commonwealth's [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Planning Grant program](#), which provides technical and financial support for cities and towns to plan for climate change and implement the results. As part of this process, Townsend will also fulfill the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's \(FEMA\) requirements](#) to update the Town's regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) from 2015. This HMP update will maintain the Town's eligibility for federal grant funding from FEMA.

If you would like to receive updates on this project, please email your contact information to Beth Faxon, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Administrator for the Town of Townsend ([bfaxon@townsend.ma.us](mailto:bfaxon@townsend.ma.us)).