

APPENDIX 5 Local Capability

The following is an overview of the departments found within the Town of Phillipston that affect hazard mitigation planning.

Function	Description	Effect on Loss Reduction	Opportunities
Building Department and local building inspectors	The Building inspector implements and enforces the Massachusetts State Building Code (specifically Section 3107, "Flood Restraint Construction"), which incorporates the NFIP construction standards. The building inspector also enforces locally adopted by-laws, especially to prevent floods. The state building code includes sections on wind, snow, structural loads and seismic retrofitting.	Insures that the NFIP standards and other mitigation standards uniformly applied statewide. For instance, the building inspector is responsible for administering municipal zoning ordinances, including those addressing floodplains.	Building inspectors may often find potential problems and/or violations of the State Building Code.
Public works department and/or town engineer	The Department of Public Works and the Water and Sewer departments, which are primarily responsible for municipal drainage and stormwater management systems, take the lead in insuring the communities' compliance with the EPA's Phase II Storm Water Regulations.	Because storm water flooding is one the major flood hazards in Phillipston, ongoing maintenance and upgrading of local public works departments is crucial to reducing floor risks.	Public works staffs are integral in implementing local hazard mitigation plans, especially in identifying and implementing local hazard mitigation projects.
Conservation Commissions	The Phillipston Conservation Commission has primary responsibility for implementing the MA Rivers Protection Act of 1996 (MGL Ch. 258, 310 CMR 10.58), MA Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Ch. 131, Section 40), (310 CMR 10.00). The conservation Commission reviews, approves or denies application for any project in the regulatory 100 year floodplain of a small water body not covered by a FEMA study within 100 feet of any wetland or 200 feet of any river or stream.	These regulations contain performance standards which address flood control and storm damage prevention. For instance, the Wetlands Protection Act restricts development in wetlands and within a 10 foot buffer zone. Since most wetlands are within the 100 year floodplain, this adds an extra layer of protection to promote flood loss protection.	All new development with potential impacts to any type of river, stream, ponds or wetlands must be reviewed by local Conservation Commission. The commission plays an important role in enforcing regulations that minimize flood impacts.
Planning boards, planning department, and/or town planner	This board has the general planning authority under the MGL Ch. 41 Zoning Act, implements local subdivision regulations. The Planning Board's responsibilities include recommending land use regulations to protect the public health, safety and welfare. The Planning Board is the primary vehicle at the town level that ensures that new development incorporates federal and state storm water management "best management practices".	Often coordinates the hazard mitigation planning process and the implementation of hazard mitigation plans. Provides professional expertise in plan development, bylaw drafting and grant application preparation.	The Planning Board can often bring in a regional planning perspective as well as information concerning new developments.
Function	Description	Effect on Loss Reduction	Opportunities

Board of Health

Floodplain issues updating them to ensure Compliance with state and federal regulation
This local board implements the State Environmental Code, Title 5, and 310 CMR 15: Minimum Requirements for the Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Sewage. The community may adopt local board of health requirements that are more restrictive than the state requirements.

Title 5 protects public health and mitigates losses due to adverse effects of improper sewage treatment in high hazard areas. Also, this board becomes involved in issues related to water quality, and infectious diseases following disasters.

By involvement of this board, additional public health issues may be included within the mitigation planning process.

Board of Selectmen

Phillipston is governed by an elected Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen is the chief elected official of Phillipston and provides leadership and approval for hazard mitigation grant applications, plans and potential projects.

Educates the residents concerning the benefits of hazard mitigation planning and projects.

Emergency Management

Phillipston has an emergency manager who is primarily responsible for local response and recovery as well as mutual aid for natural and man-made hazards.

The emergency manager plays a primary role in developing local comprehensive emergency management (CEM) plans, required by Ma state law, as well as other plans required by MEMA and FEMA such as the PDM plan.

Helps to provide the education needed concerning the benefits of hazard mitigation planning and projects.