

Memo

To: Berlin City Council
From: Jim Wheeler, City Manager
Date: 7/19/2021
Re: City Manager's Report

1. Attached is a press release regarding the Berlin Hazard Mitigation planning effort. The release will be posted on City boards and the City website. The next planning meeting is scheduled for August 12th at 10:00 AM via Zoom.
2. The contract signing for the Mason St. Bridge repairs is scheduled for tomorrow at 1:00 PM.
3. We are conducting interviews for construction engineering services for the Riverwalk Project on Tuesday July 20th.
4. As of the end of June, the Phase 2 Contract 1 I&I project is approximately 40% completed.
5. Attached, please find information from Eversource regarding upcoming improvement work to the Goebel Street Sub-station. Representatives from Eversouce will be meeting with us on Thursday of this week to update us on the project.
6. The City Tax Deeded Property Sale is listed at:

<https://www.berlinnh.gov/home/news/tax-deeded-property-sale-august-2021>

*Mapping and Planning Solutions
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Updated: July 16, 2021

Contact: June Garneau
603-991-9664

THE CITY OF BERLIN COMMENCES HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

The Emergency Management Director of the City of Berlin will meet with June Garneau of Mapping and Planning Solutions and other team members from Berlin to continue work on the required five-year update to the **2016 Berlin Hazard Mitigation Plan**. As a result of this meeting, Mapping and Planning Solutions is conducting a series of meetings on the Hazard Mitigation Plan over the next few months.

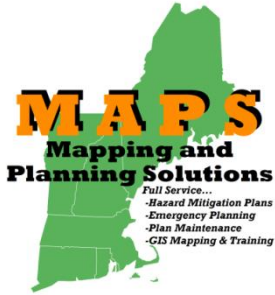
Through this series of public meetings, the planning team will address issues such as flooding, hurricanes, drought, landslides, and wildfires and determine efforts the city can undertake to mitigate the effects of both natural and human-caused hazards. The team will also examine potential shelter sites and the need for generators at those sites.

By examining critical infrastructure and key resources, along with past hazards, the team will establish priorities for future mitigation projects and steps that can be taken to increase public awareness of hazards in general.

As mandated by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, all municipalities are required to complete a local Hazard Mitigation Plan to qualify for Federal Emergency Management Administration funding should a natural disaster occur. The planning processes are made possible by grants from FEMA.

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team is currently being formed. Berlin citizens and any interested stakeholders are invited to participate. The second meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 12, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM** via "Zoom". The public is encouraged to attend all meetings. All interested parties should contact Fire Chief & EMD, James Watkins, by email, jwatkins@berlinnh.gov if they wish to be included in the process; you will be added to the Zoom meeting invitation list.

More information on the hazard mitigation planning process is available from June Garneau at Mapping and Planning Solutions, jgarneau@mappingandplanning.com.



JUNE GARNEAU

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Hazard Mitigation Goals

Before identifying new mitigation action items, the team reviewed and agreed to the goals in the State of New Hampshire Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Update 2018. These goals are detailed below.

Overarching Goals

The following are the five overarching goals of this plan:

- *Minimize loss and disruption of human life, property, the environment and the economy due to natural, technological and human-caused hazards through a coordinated and collaborative effort between federal, state and local authorities to implement appropriate hazard mitigation measures.*
- *Enhance protection of the general population, citizens and guests of the community before, during and after a hazard event through public education about disaster preparedness and resilience and expanded awareness of the threats and hazards which face the community.*
- *Promote continued comprehensive hazard mitigation planning at local levels to identify, introduce and implement cost effective hazard mitigation measures.*
- *Address the challenges posed by climate change as they pertain to increasing the risk and impacts of the hazards identified within this plan.*
- *Strengthen Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government across at the local level to ensure continuation of essential services*

Natural Hazard Objectives

- *Reduce long-term flood risks through assessment, identification and strategic mitigation of at risk/vulnerable infrastructure (dams, stream crossings, roadways, coastal levees, etc.).*
- *Minimize illnesses and deaths related to events that present a threat to human and animal health.*
- *Assist communities with plan development, outreach and public education in order to reduce the impact from natural disasters.*
- *Ensure mitigation strategies consider the protection and resiliency of natural, historical and cultural resources.*

Technological Hazard Objectives

- *Ensure technological hazards are responded to appropriately and to mitigate the effect on citizens.*
- *Build upon state and local capabilities to identify and respond to emerging contaminants.*
- *Effectively collaborate between federal, state and local agencies as well as private partners, NGOs and VOADs.*
- *Enhance public education of technological hazards to assist in the prevention and mitigation of hazard impacts on the population.*
- *Ensure HazMat teams are properly equipped and trained to respond, contain and mitigate incidents involving technological hazards.*
- *Reduce the possibility of long-term utility outages by planning, training and exercising on utility failure events.*
- *Lessen the effects of technological hazards on communications infrastructure by building more resilient voice and data systems.*

Human-caused Hazard Objectives

- *Ensure that grant related funding processes allow for expedient and effective actions to take place at the community and state-level.*
- *Identify Critical Infrastructure & Key Resources (CIKR) risks or vulnerabilities and protect or harden infrastructure against hazards.*
- *Improve the ability to respond and mitigate Cyber Events through increased training, exercising, improved equipment and utilizing the latest technologies.*
- *Foster collaboration between federal, state and local agencies on training, exercising and preparing for mass casualty incidents and terrorism.*
- *Ensure that state and community assets (i.e. hospitals, state agencies, non-profits, universities, nursing homes, prisons, etc.) are prepared for all phases of emergency management including training and exercising on reunification.*

July 14, 2021

Dear Neighbor,

As part of our everyday effort to deliver reliable energy to our customers and communities, we are improving the Berlin Substation located at Goebel St. in Berlin, N.H. Maintaining the infrastructure is one of the many ways Eversource supports the safe and secure transmission and distribution of electricity throughout the region.

We're Always Working to Serve You Better

We are in the process of identifying any local, state and federal permits necessary in support of this work and will work to obtain those permits prior to construction.

In the coming weeks, Eversource, through its contractors, will be performing field work in the vicinity of the substation. This work may include soil and other inspections, and engineering and environmental surveying. All people working on this project carry identification.

Construction is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2021. Please keep in mind that the schedule may change due to weather or other unexpected circumstances. We will keep in touch throughout the proposed project and will provide you with updates on the project schedule.

For More Information

Keeping the lines of communication open is important to us. We would like to connect with you to discuss the proposed project, as well as obtain the best contact phone number and/or e-mail address to reach you moving forward.

Please contact Stephanie Gardner at 603-341-4373 or email stephanie.gardner@eversource.com to provide that information or to discuss the proposed project. You can also contact our projects hotline at 1-888-926-5334 or send an email to NHProjectsInfo@eversource.com.

Eversource is committed to being a good neighbor and doing our work with respect for you and your property. We will provide regular project notifications via mailings, phone calls and/or emails. Thank you for your patience as this important proposed project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Gardner

Stephanie Gardner
Eversource
Project Services Specialist

Project Information Sheet

Reliability Improvements in Your Neighborhood

As part of our everyday effort to deliver reliable energy to our customers and communities, Eversource will be replacing aging equipment and installing new equipment at the Berlin Substation in Berlin, New Hampshire. Maintaining and updating the infrastructure that supports the electric system is one of the many ways Eversource ensures the safe, secure distribution of electricity in the Berlin area.

This work will be taking place at the Berlin Substation on Goebel Street (see map, below). The scope of this work includes replacing aging equipment, improving substation security, and increasing system reliability in the Berlin area. These improvements will strengthen our system and ensure that our customers have reliable power to meet their energy needs. All of this work will take place within the existing substation fence; the footprint of the facility will remain the same.

What You Can Expect

The work at this facility will not interrupt electric service to homes or businesses. All personnel working at the site will carry proper identification.

Once all required local and state permits are obtained, construction will take approximately six months. Eversource's construction team typically works between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and (if necessary) Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If longer work hours are needed to meet the schedule, we will request permission from municipal officials as applicable.

Anticipated Project Schedule:*

- Local and State Permitting: 3rd Quarter 2021
- Construction: 3rd Quarter 2021
- Site Restoration: 4th Quarter 2021

**The schedule is subject to change due to weather or other unexpected circumstances*

If residents or other stakeholders have questions about this project, they can contact the Eversource Project Information Line at 1-888-926-5334 or email us at NHProjectsInfo@eversource.com.



Construction will take place inside the red line, the existing fence of the Berlin Substation