

Waterbury Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) Steering Committee Report

On November 15, 2011 the Town of Waterbury Select Board and the Waterbury Village Trustees held a joint meeting and voted unanimously to accept FEMA Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) planning assistance. Following that resolution a Community Visioning session was held on November 30 to develop community goals and a vision for the 5 to 10 year recovery effort. Seventy-five Waterbury residents participated in the session. During this session the Waterbury community discussed needs and opportunities in the six sectors identified by the FEMA LTCR Planning Process: 1) Community Planning and Capacity Building; 2) Economic Development; 3) Energy, Efficiency, and Transportation; 4) Housing and Human Services; 5) Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation; and 6) Parks and Recreation.

A second public meeting, on December 14, 2011 hosted 120 participants and served as a “project brainstorming session” during which the community identified individual recovery projects within each sector. A project “champion” was selected to spearhead each of the chosen projects. Project champions worked independently and with their sector groups to further develop recovery projects and presented their ideas at a Project Champions meeting on January 18.

After a month of project development work, project champions presented 22 projects at the Community Recovery Fair on February 16, 2012 to gather citizen input and endorsement. Over 400 community members attended this event and voted by Australian ballot for their top five project choices.

The following week, the Town Select Board and Village Trustees utilized the community feedback to help prioritize projects according to their importance to Waterbury’s recovery. The Waterbury LTCR Plan incorporates all of the projects and provides possible funding source information that serves as a roadmap for the community’s long-term recovery efforts, which will be executed over the next several years. The long-term community recovery process culminated with a Community Partners Meeting, on May 3, 2012, during which the Waterbury LTCR Plan was presented to federal, state, regional, and local government representatives as well as foundation/non-profit representatives in an effort to increase project funding opportunities.

In the summer of 2012, the Select Board and Trustees appointed members to the Waterbury Long-Term Community Recovery Steering Group. The members are: Rebecca Ellis (chair), Natalie Howell (vice chair), Margaret Luce, Jeanne Kirby, Monica Callan, and Rebecca Washburn. The steering committee has met weekly since then. The LTCR Steering Committee is supported by municipal staff Bill Shepeluk and Steve Lotspeich, as well as by LTCR Director Barbara Farr and AmeriCorps VISTA Eva Loomis.

The following is a summary of the status of each of the LTCR projects.

Community Planning and Capacity Building

Construct New Municipal Complex

A tri-board consisting of the Select Board, Trustees and Library Commissioners selected the architectural firm Black River Design to assist with the design of a new municipal complex and to assess the feasibility of Stanley and Wasson Halls at the Waterbury State Office Complex for this project. Black River Design has been working with library, police, municipal staff, and the historical society to determine space and programming needs. They are also determining feasibility of the Stanley and Wasson Halls sites on the Waterbury State Office Complex property.

- Town of Waterbury was awarded \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) planning funds from the state in November 2012.
- Public meetings on findings are proposed for March 2013.

Utilization Study for 51 South Main Street

51 South Main Street has been stabilized from flood damage and fuel oil contamination and the Trustees have made the decision to not repair or restore the building at this time because it does not offer adequate space for present or future municipal functions.

- Project champion Skip Flanders and Trustees have accepted an insurance settlement of \$348,675.20, which is 80% of the depreciated value and is paying to heat 51 S. Main St. and pay rent for the relocated Police Department.
- The Village is planning to submit a Project Worksheet to FEMA for 51 South Main Street, which may result in additional funds being available for an alternative site.

Village Police Facilities

The Police are currently located at 46 South Main Street with a 2-year lease on the space through June 1, 2014. The police department is involved in conversations with Black River Design to ensure that their space and programming needs are met at the new Municipal Civic Complex.

Assistant Municipal Planner

Tropical Storm Irene placed new demands on the Waterbury Planning and Zoning Department. In addition to managing flood-hazard permits for flood-impacted buildings, the department must also consider zoning changes to the State Office Complex. The town and village would also like to take this opportunity to explore questions such as: “How can the growth center for Waterbury Village expand and re-develop, avoid the hazard areas that are prone to flooding and other natural disasters, while maintaining a compact growth area surrounded by more rural areas.” The corollary to this is: “How can we maintain the historic buildings and other public resources, such as public greens and parks that are located in flood prone areas of the Village Waterbury, and sustain our downtown over time.”

- Several part time positions assisting with the flood recovery are helping reduce the demands on the town planner, project champion Steve Lotspeich.

Economic Development

Business Resource Center

Waterbury Area Development Corporation (WADC) Darren Winham of Darwin Dynamic Solutions has been hired through an RFP and interview process to retain and strengthen existing businesses in Waterbury and attract new businesses to the area.

- The Town has contributed \$100,000 and the Village \$56,000 in Village UDAG funds, to cover this 18-month contract.
- The Economic Development Director will report to the LTCR Steering Committee and to the Select Board and Trustees monthly for duration of his contract (18 to 24 months).

LTCR Director Barbara Farr of ARMADA LTD has been hired to manage the LTCR projects, with the Municipal Civic Complex being a top priority.

- This is funded by a U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant of \$122,000 and \$18,000 in Village UDAG funds. Her contract is for an average of 20 hours a week for 18 months. She reports to the Municipal Manager.

AmeriCorps VISTA member Eva Loomis joined the LTCR efforts in September. Her year-long position, funded with \$7,000 from the Town's budget, is to support the 22 LTCR projects through grant writing and community relations. She reports to the Community Planner.

The Business Case Manager position has been filled by Lucinda Newman through an RFP process. She will work a total of 10 hours per week: 4 in Waterbury and 6 in the Mad River Valley, consulting with small businesses in the area.

- This position is managed through an agreement with the Central Vermont Community Action Council (CVCAC). The payment for services is \$28,000, of which \$18,000 is from the EDA grant and \$10,000 is from the Town's CDBG revolving loan fund.
- The agreement is for up to 18 months.

Retail Market Study and Community Image Building

Project champions Jeanne Kirby, Laura Parette, and Cindy Lyons along with Revitalizing Waterbury have worked tirelessly on an ongoing economic development project with Arnett, Muldrow & Associates. This project culminated in a Retail Market Analysis and a branding and marketing strategy, which will contribute greatly to the success of the LTCR project.

- RW secured \$14,000 in grants from Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Northfield Savings Bank, Ben & Jerry's Community Action Team and the Waterbury Tourism Council. RW has contributed staff, consultant and volunteer time and supporting funds to project coordination.
- A successful Waterbury Community Branding Reveal was held on January 24, 2013.

Food Systems Development

Project Champion Erica Campbell and Revitalizing Waterbury's Jeanne Kirby have been discussing the potential of applying jointly for U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) funds, but decided to wait until after Arnett Muldrow's brand reveal for further discussion. Currently, Erica is working with the Mad River Food Hub on a USDA grant within the Washington West Supervisory Union to increase the amount of local food served in area schools. Erica also plans to meet with Darren Winham to discuss food systems development.

Across Roads Center for the Arts

- A request to the state in November 2012 for \$60,000 of CDBG-DR funds was unsuccessful. Project champion Monica Callan is currently revising and strengthening her application for resubmission.

- ARCA is working to obtain other funding sources including in-kind and cash funds from the town and village.
- Potential project partners are Jeff Larkin and the Wesley Methodist Church. The Old Laundry Building at the State Office Complex has also been offered, if it can be moved.

Energy, Efficiency, and Transportation

Bicycle/Pedestrian System, Welcome Center, and Wayfinding

Project champions Jane Brown, Bill Minter, and Duncan McDougal have separated out the Welcome Center, & Wayfinding from the Bicycle and Pedestrian System project following the FEMA and community summit meeting in Spring, 2012 because the projects have a different focus.

- Waterbury in Motion has continued with the bike and pedestrian project, including efforts to provide a bike connection to Crossett Brook Middle School. The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission assisted Waterbury, Duxbury and Moretown in hiring a transportation consultant to analyze the intersection at Route 2 and Route 100 near Juniper's Fare in Moretown. Waterbury in Motion participated in this study.
- Waterbury in Motion also provided input in Fall 2012 to the Vermont Agency of Transportation during the design phase of the Main Street Reconstruction Project.
- Planning for a Wayfinding signage system was part of a Rockefeller grant application RW submitted in Fall 2012 for the Welcome Center & Wayfinding portion of this LTCR project. RW is still waiting to hear back regarding this grant.
- Wayfinding will likely be integrated with the community branding recommendations from Arnett Muldrow and Associates.

Center for Resilient Technology and Development

The Resilient Vermont Project, as it's called, now has a home with champion Liz Schlegel at the Institute for Sustainable Communities. This 18-month project aims to increase Vermont's ability adapt and become more resilient to disasters and changes in the state. For more information, please visit <http://www.iscvt.org/news/toward-a-more-resilient-vermont/>.

Waterbury Community Energy

A proposal for CDBG-DR funds for a feasibility study submitted by champions Luke Shullenberger and Katherine Vose to heat the State Office Complex in November 2012 was unsuccessful. Luke's company, Green Lantern Development, recently submitted a proposal in response to the state's RFP regarding a private development of a new heating plant at the State Office Complex with a letter of intent signed by Municipal Manager Bill Shepeluk.

Create Sustainable Transportation System

- No update at this time.

Housing and Human Services

Hunger Mountain Children's Center (HMCC)

Currently located in temporary space in Waterbury Center, HMCC plans to acquire 121 and 123 South Main Street properties from the State and renovate them for operation in early 2014.

- Project Champion Lisa Scagliotti is preparing an application for CDBG-DR funds, with a target submission date of February or March 2013.

Affordable Housing Development

Champion Alison Friedkin and Central Vermont Community Land Trust (CVCLT) are planning a 27-unit affordable housing facility at Ladd Hall at the State Office Complex.

- Vermont Housing and Conservation Board committed \$650,000 in funding.
- In December, the Select Board committed \$100,000 of CDBG funds as a cash surplus note at an interest rate of 0% for a 25 year period.
- Trustees committed \$74,000 of CDBG funds at an interest rate of 0% for a 25 year period and to \$200,000 for the same project from UDAG funds at an interest rate of 2% over 20 years.
- CVCLT has requested \$950,000 from the state in CDBG-DR implementation funds.
- Their purchase & sales agreement and subdivision details will follow. CVCLT is also expecting assistance from low income tax credits and Neighbor Works.

ReBuild Waterbury

Theresa Wood, Mame McKee, and Dave Kerr have closed down ReBuild Waterbury (RBW) approximately 16 months after it was created. The group assisted 104 homeowners (with half of these cases involving construction projects) and tallied more than 10,000 volunteer hours put in on Waterbury and Duxbury's behalf since November 1, 2011.

- RBW raised \$994,463 thanks to donations, large and small, and their success was celebrated on January 26, 2013. For more information on RBW please visit <http://rebuildwaterbury.org>.
- Project completed as of 1/2013

Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation

Emergency Power Program

Project Champion Alec Tuscany is working on two emergency power generators, one for the emergency shelter at Thatcher Brook Primary School, the other for the well fields on Sweet Road.

- The emergency generator for Thatcher Brook Primary School (TBPS) will cost approximately \$95,000. Vermont Emergency Management contributed half of this (\$47,500) and the Town will contribute the other half.
- Water and Sewer budget is paying for the well field generator. Both TBPS and well field generator projects expect to be completed this summer.

Flood-Proof Main Wastewater Pump Station

- In December the Village was awarded \$115,000 in CDBG-DR funds to flood-proof the Main Wastewater Pump Station.
- Village Water & Sewer Commissioners contributed \$34,270 from the Wastewater Funds and the Village contributed \$4,069 of in-kind match.
- The award conditions are in progress and a bid package is expected to go out in mid-March. Alec Tuscany is the champion for this project.

Waterbury Village Flood Study

The flood study, championed by John Grenier and Daniel Currier, consists of two phases: a phase-one “choke study” and a phase-two “LiDar” study.

- The Town and Village issued an RFP for the phase-one “choke study” in the summer of 2012, and hired Milone and MacBroom of Waterbury to conduct the scope of work. The extent of the project is along the Winooski River from the Ice Center to the Bolton Falls dam in Duxbury and Waterbury. The project includes hydraulic modeling alternatives and possible options for reducing flood levels along U.S. Route 2 and within the Village of Waterbury. Funding is \$11,250 from the Town; \$11,250 from Vermont Buildings and General Services; and \$7,500 from Green Mountain Power. Total cost of phase-one study is \$30,000.
- The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission has developed a phase-two study to gather detailed elevation data of Waterbury and the Mad River Valley. For this project, the Town is contributing \$2,500 towards the Regional Planning Commission’s cash match for its \$100,000 grant request.

Dac Rowe Flood-Proofing and Recreation Enhancement

This project, championed by Alec Tuscany and Kane Smart, received \$63,800 from FEMA to remove debris from the recreational fields and repair fencing. This project is currently waiting on the findings of the choke study, which will determine if the fields should be connected to other floodplains and if action needs to be taken on fencing.

Parks and Recreation

Director of Recreation for Waterbury

In the past, recreational offerings in Waterbury have been managed by volunteers and town officials. A need has been identified for a recreation director to facilitate recreation planning efforts, develop Waterbury’s recreational resources, actively promote Waterbury as a recreation destination, and to provide a post-flood economic boost. This project, championed by Peg O’Neill, will help the Town continue to provide recreational opportunities for residents as well as explore more income-generating recreational programs for both locals and visitors alike.

- Town has set aside \$10,000 for a part time director.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

A parks and recreation master plan will assess and plan for Waterbury’s current and future recreational needs and establish specific goals and policies to guide improvements to existing recreational resources. A master plan will include an analysis of the supply, demand, and needs for park and recreation facilities and services within the Town, and include a comprehensive assessment of existing public and private facilities in and around the Waterbury area. The Master Plan will also outline implementation strategies to help meet the challenges of providing high quality parks and recreational facilities. Peg O’Neill is this project’s champion.

Little River-Village Connector Trail Feasibility Study

This project, championed by Becca Washburn, proposes to connect the Village and its bike trails with Little River State Park and its network of bike trails in order to provide an economic boost to the Waterbury area.

- In December, 2012 the Town was awarded \$30,000 in CDBG-DR funds for a feasibility study for the Little River-Village Connector Trail LTRC project.
- The Town is providing a \$3,000 in kind match.

WATERBURY LONG TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY PROJECTS
2/21/2012

	Low Flood Recovery Value	Medium Flood Recovery Value	High Flood Recovery Value
High Community Interest	Little River Connector Trail (76)	Bike/Ped Wayfinding Trail (111) Arts Center (77)	New muni offices & library (162) Housing (140) Business Resource Ctr (90) Flood study (83) Sewer pump station (77) 51 So. Main Street Village police hqtrs.
Medium Community Interest	Food System Dvlp (68) Dac Rowe Field (54)	Image Building (60) Distributed Energy (58) Ctr for Resilient Tech (54)	Emergency Generators (56)
Low Community Interest	Transportation (45) Recreation Director (34) Recreation Master Plan (24)	Municipal Staff/Econ Dvlp (28)	Human Servs. & Childcare (44)

Sources: Community Recovery Fair 2/16/2012 (Community Interest)
Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board and Trustees 2/21/2012 (Flood Recovery)