

*Mapping and Planning Solutions
P.O. Box 283
Twin Mountain, NH 03595*

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: June Garneau
603.846.5720

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM COMMENCES HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING UPDATE

On June 11 and July 9, the Bethlehem Hazard Mitigation Team met with June Garneau, Mapping and Planning Solutions and Paul Hatch, Homeland Security and Emergency Management to begin the planning process to develop the required five-year update to the 2009 Bethlehem Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Town of Bethlehem will hold a series of additional Hazard Mitigation Planning meetings over the next few months.

As mandated by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, all communities are required to complete a local hazard mitigation plan in order to qualify for FEMA funding should a natural disaster occur. The hazard mitigation plan format will cover a variety of natural hazards and also address the history and likelihood of wildfire disasters, man-made hazards and the risks of building in flood zones.

Bethlehem's Planning Team is still being formed; all interested parties should contact Jack Anderson, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director **by phone, 603-448-8331**, if they wish to be included in the process. Through a series of public meetings, the Planning Team will establish priorities, collaborate on activities, and increase public awareness and participation to reduce the impact of hazards. Discussion will address issues such as flooding, hurricanes, drought, landslides and wildfires; the planning processes are made possible through grants from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

The next scheduled meeting of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team will be held on Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 9:00 AM at the Bethlehem Fire Station; the general public is encouraged to attend all meetings and to assist the Team with first hand knowledge of historic hazard events.

Hazard mitigation planning is a preparedness tool. In an effort to reduce the costs of suppression and the incidence of potential losses, FEMA and New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management award local communities funding to assist in developing these plans. If you wish to have your community participate in this process please contact June Garneau at Mapping and Planning Solutions, 603-846-5720.