

*Mapping and Planning Solutions
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOWN OF ASHLAND COMMENCES HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

The Emergency Management Director of the Town of Ashland recently met with June Garneau, of Mapping and Planning Solutions and other Team members from Ashland, to begin work on the required five-year update to the 2013 **Ashland 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 Team will address issues such as flooding, hurricanes, drought, landslides and wildfires, and determine efforts the Town 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 in order 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; Ashland citizens and any interested stakeholders are invited to participate. All interested parties should contact Chief Heath, the Ashland Fire Chief / Emergency Management Director, at 359-1130 if they wish to be included in the process.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 6** from **9:00 AM to 11:00 AM** at the Ashland Fire Station. The general public is encouraged to attend all meetings, regardless of whether they are a part of the Planning Team.

More information on the hazard mitigation planning process is available from June Garneau at Mapping and Planning Solutions, 603-837-7122.