

Town of Carrabassett Valley Public Notice

Seeking Public Input Regarding Community Resilience Partnership

The Town of Carrabassett Valley Select Board is considering the Town becoming part of the Community Resilience Partnership which is a State-wide collaboration of State Government, Municipalities and Tribal Governments with the goal of, “working to help Maine communities reduce emissions and prepare for climate change”. A requirement of the program is to complete a Community Resilience self-evaluation which a committee has been working on. Copies of a draft of this self-evaluation can be found on the Town’s website at carrabassettvalley.org or picked up at the Town Office during normal business hours. The Select Board will be holding a workshop on February 28th, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. to review the draft document and solicit public input. Citizens may attend in person, via zoom or may email comments to the Town Manager at towncvtm@roadrunner.com.

Community Resilience Self-Evaluation

Instructions: This tool is intended to help organize your community's approach to increasing resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts. Answer the questions to the best of your knowledge and seek information from your colleagues in municipal and county government and organizations in your community. Provide any relevant information in the explanation field. If it is difficult to give a clear yes or no response to a question, use the explanation field to explain why. **There are no wrong answers and the responses here will not affect your community's eligibility to receive grants.** Where the response to a question is no, that may indicate an area of opportunity to address through a Community Action Grant.

Community name:	Carrabassett Valley
Self-Evaluation responses provided by: Please include contact info	Mark Green - Interim Town Manager Deborah Bowker - Recreation Director Dave Cota - Town Manager Zoe Zeerip - Sugarloaf Sustainability Director Tom Butler - Sugarloaf Operations Director Karen Campbell - Selectperson Courtney Knapp - Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Chris Parks - Code Enforcement Officer
Date:	
Was this evaluation discussed during a community workshop? Include the date of the workshop.	

Once the questions on the following pages are complete, use these prompts to identify potential next steps for your community:

What are two things your community is doing well?	<p>The Town of Carrabassett Valley has taken numerous steps to improve its sustainability practices. Throughout the years the Town has worked to maintain access to recycling for community members, made a number of LED retrofits, developed a surface water management plan, worked to become a Fire Wise Community and taken a number of steps to implement these plans.</p> <p>The Town works hard to collaborate with other Towns and the regions employers. We participate in Sugarloaf's green team/sustainability meetings, providing input and opportunities for collaboration on future regional projects. We also work closely with our neighboring municipalities on a variety of issues.</p>
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	<p>Over the years the Town has dedicated resources to developing a Surface Water Management Plan that helps the area improve its resiliency in the face of climate change. This plan allows The Town's to manage flooding throughout the valley and enforce building codes for future development.</p> <p>We have also worked with neighboring municipalities and the Maine Forest service to prepare for wildfires and have a plan in place to both reduce the chance of wildfire and to pool resources in the event of fire.</p>
What are two areas that could be improved in the short-term?	<p>Lighting at the library and the Outdoor Center and providing EV charging stations.</p> <p>The Town has identified two immediate projects that need addressing including installing LED lights at the Outdoor Center and Library and providing EV charging stations at the golf course and outdoor center. Currently there are very few charging stations on the northern portion of the Route 27 corridor. This corridor provides access to our region for recreational opportunities, which is our economic lifeblood, and serves as a major entry point for Canadian tourists.</p>
What is important for your community to address in the long-term?	<p>The Town believes it is important to preserve the long-term viability of the many recreational opportunities in our region since recreation is a primary driver of the regional economy. We also know that climate change is impacting our winters and that we need to take measures to adapt to these changes. These include strengthening/supporting winter sports, golfing and mountain biking and expanding them while also developing new opportunities. Making these opportunities easy to access for people from other regions of Maine, other States and Canada is also key to our region's success.</p> <p>Currently the lack of EV charging in our region makes it difficult for visitors with EV's to travel here or through here to other parts of the State. Efficiency Maine has identified the Route 27 corridor as deficient in charging opportunities for EV owners</p> <p>Additionally, the Town believes it's important to continue our work in managing surface water run off through revisions to our land use regulations and by continuing our practice of upgrading our many stream/river crossings, drainage ways and nearby trails/roads to better accommodate the higher flows.</p>

What specific 3 to 5 actions are priorities for your community?

- 1) Continue to monitor and develop flood mitigation projects
- 2) Continue collaborate with and support the sustainability efforts of local employers such as Sugarloaf and our neighboring municipalities.
- 3) Install EV chargers in several locations in the community.
- 4) Update and revise the comprehensive plan including sections on climate change and sustainability.
- 5) Work with the State Forest Service, large land owners and neighboring communities to mitigate the risk of wild fires.

Minimizing Risk and Exposure to Hazards

1) Has your community assessed the likelihood of various types of hazards or disruptive events?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Your local or county hazard mitigation plan is a good starting place to find this information. Hazards can include storms, floods, wind, fire, extreme temperatures, drought, etc. Likelihood could be indicated either numerically or qualitatively as low, medium, or high.

The Town of Carrabassett's biggest threat is flooding of the Carrabassett River and Brackett Brook. Plans for mitigation are in place as well as emergency plans should flooding cause widespread damage.

A second threat is that of wildfire which the Town has developed a plan for. The plan includes a risk reduction component as well as a regional response component in the event of fire.

2) Has your community assessed how the likelihood of each hazard has changed over time and may change in the future?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If your community has not tracked trends historically, you might infer past trends by determining if current priorities have shifted compared to past hazard mitigation plans. For example, drought or wildfire might be an emerging concern.

In the past twenty years we have experienced several floods of the Carrabassett River, Brackett Brook and their tributaries. We have depended on the models developed by the USGS and other State and Federal agencies to size drainage structures. These models are constantly being revised and improved. We have made improvements to many of our drainage structures over this period of time using the most current information. We will continue this practice in the future while also keeping our own records.

Drought and wildfire are also emerging threats for the region but have not been analyzed like a flood scenario has. We are working with the Maine Forest Service and our regional neighbors to prepare.

3) Has your community assessed the impacts or consequences of each type of hazard for the community?

☒ Yes

☐ No

For example, flooding on Main Street impedes emergency services or affects local businesses.

The Town of Carrabassett Valley is ready to deal with the impacts of various hazards as described elsewhere in this needs assessment. In addition, the Town has installed a

	generator for the Outdoor Center to act as an emergency shelter or center. Additionally, the fire station has a fully powered back up system and would be able to distribute water.
4) Is your community taking steps to reduce exposure to multiple risk types?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan probably contains this information.	<p>In terms of fire, the Town of Carrabassett Valley has made revisions to our building codes to reduce the risk of structure and wildfires. The Town has taken the first steps to be a Fire Wise community through the Maine Forest Service and will continue with that plan this spring. This project aims to reduce the risk of wildfires on both the vegetation and built environment. One step the Town of Carrabassett Valley took was to provide a large chipper to the landowners in the Carrabassett Village so they could clear around their homes. This was done with help from the Maine Forest Service.</p> <p>In term of flooding, The Town has repaired the shoreland of the Narrow-Gauge trail with rip rap to prevent erosion damage in future highwater events. Additionally, The Town developed the surface water management plan after the flood of 2018. Furthermore, The Town adopted a flood plain ordinance, working with a land surveyor to make sure the house is 1ft above flood level.</p> <p>Lastly, all of the bridges at the Outdoor Center are being assessed and culverts are being added to prevent erosion and to help maintain the structural integrity of the trails.</p>
6) Is your community preparing for low-probability-but-high-consequence events?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
These events could be, for example, a 1-in-100 year flood, or a prolonged electricity outage or heating fuel shortage. What events might the community need to consider?	<p>Our Fire Chief serves as our Emergency Management Director and is responsible for preparing the Town for such events. In the case of an emergency there are back up generators and bottled water at the outdoor center and fire station.</p> <p>In the case of a severe drought, the fire station would open its facilities for laundry, showering, etc. Furthermore, Sugarloaf Resort is working diligently to reduce the amount of water is consumes to make snow and is considering investing in an infiltration collection process for sugarloaf's pump house.</p>
7) Has your community assessed the consequences of multiple events or different types of hazards occurring in geographic or temporal proximity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Examples could include back-to-back flooding events or a power outage during a heat wave.	The Town of Carrabassett has considered individual events but not multiple events at the same time.

	We only have one power source and one road in and out of the valley.
8) Is your community assessing emerging risks (e.g. drought, wildfire) and identifying blind spots?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
In addition to natural hazards, consider public health threats that might be worsened by climate change, such as contamination of drinking water sources and vector-borne diseases from ticks and mosquitos.	While future risks are likely to increase, the Town of Carrabassett has spent its resources working to mitigate flooding in the valley.

Understanding Sensitivity and Building Resilience	
9) Is your community tracking underlying societal characteristics and trends that increase vulnerability?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
This information might be found in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan. Examples of characteristics and trends might include older or low-income populations, low housing availability, reliance on a single economic driver, aging infrastructure, environmental degradation, etc.	We are now beginning the process of revising our comprehensive plan and the impacts of climate change will be topic area we plan to work on.
10) Is your community proactively addressing vulnerabilities associated with these underlying characteristics?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Look in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan for strategies that might address these trends.	<p>The Town of Carrabassett Valley partners with regional organizations to address the needs of vulnerable populations. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the Christian Ministry's committee that checks in on the elderly • Supporting the food pantry in Stratton that is open to Carrabassett Valley residents. <p>It is also important to note how rigorously we are working to strengthen the local economy and provide employment and business opportunities.</p>
10) Does your community have financial resources in reserve to cope with or absorb shocks?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, a rainy-day fund.	Carrabassett Valley maintains a strong municipal fund balance in part so we can be resilient during economic downturns.
12) Is your community building flexible human capacity that can be drawn on in emergencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, community emergency response teams (CERT) or mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.	We are fortunate in our region to have strong working relationships with our neighboring municipalities and local businesses. The Carrabassett Fire Department in particular has close relations with surrounding fire

	<p>departments. The mutual support helps the departments aid each other in the event of emergencies.</p> <p>Additionally, The Town has strong relations with local contractors and Sugarloaf that can be utilized in the event of an emergency. Examples include sanding roads, clearing roads, and back country rescues.</p>
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Improving Long-term Adaptive Capacity	
13) Does your community have plans or policies that anticipate future climate risks and community sensitivity trends?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Examples might include a comprehensive plan chapter that describes how the community is planning for climate change impacts, or a capital improvement plan that requires construction projects to consider future conditions like sea level rise, extreme rain, or drought.	<p>We have made some progress in that area including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations near flood ways must be able to withstand future flooding. • We now have the ability to protect structures with class A foam when threatened by wildfire. • Annual trainings for the local fire department to be prepared for wildfires • We have keys to the Penobscot Tribal land roads and good relations with their Forestry Department
14) Are there resources to sustain new capacity when needed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
This is different from Question 10 in that these resources would need to sustain a new long-term commitment rather than a one-time, short-term response. For example, if flooding emerges as an issue, a revenue source such as a stormwater utility fee could sustain a new community stormwater management program.	The Town of Carrabassett Valley emphasizes building capital reserves. The Town has been very aggressive in obtaining F.E.M.A. funding after a flooding event that is used to make drainage improvements helping with future resiliency.
15) Does the community have policies in place to build back smarter or recover with resilience after a disruptive event?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Examples might include a flood ordinance that requires compliance with the current building codes after substantial damage, or a communitywide post-disaster recovery plan.	<p>We have made changes to our building codes and zoning ordinances to address flooding as discussed elsewhere in this needs assessment..</p> <p>All the bridges and culverts that have been replaced in recent years have been sized to meet expected increases in runoff.</p>
16) Does the community stress test to ensure plausible risks are manageable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

This might be a table-top exercise with emergency management and community stakeholders, or a financial health analysis.	Every few years the town conducts either a tabletop exercise or a field exercise based on a risk such as flooding, wildfire, or a transportation accident since Route 27 serves as a major corridor for the transportation of goods including chemicals from Canada. These exercises are conducted with help from the Franklin County EMA and our neighboring municipalities.
17) Does the community have a policy or process for managing uncertainty?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the community have a way of making important decisions when information is incomplete or unavailable?	This is something that will be discussed when we revise the Comprehensive plan.