Summary of MVP Listening Session

Upon completion of the Community Resilience Building (CRB) *Summary of Findings* report, the Town of Fairhaven continued its public outreach and stakeholder engagement efforts by publicizing and making the report available to community residents and other members of the public using a variety of methods. In order to comply with the State's emergency orders and guidance for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, and per approval from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, these methods relied on "virtual" public engagement methods versus an inperson listening session. As with a traditional public listening session, these alternative outreach and engagement measures provided an opportunity for any member of the community to learn, submit questions, and provide feedback on the findings and recommended actions included in the report. This document summarizes the steps taken and the additional input and feedback obtained through these efforts.

Sharing the Summary of Findings

On April 27, 2020, the final Summary of Findings report was posted to a dedicated MVP webpage on the Town of Fairhaven's website (see Figure 1). This webpage was launched to promote public awareness of the report and host a variety of virtual engagement efforts. Shortly thereafter, the Town also recorded and posted a narrated video presentation of the report through a "Listening Session Webinar" which was made accessible to the public via a link on the MVP webpage. Through June 5th this video presentation was viewed 75 times on YouTube. The video presentation was also broadcast repeatedly between meetings that aired on Fairhaven TV (Cable Access Channels 18 and 95) between May 12th and June 5th. A copy of the presentation slides is provided in Attachment A

The availability of the Summary of Findings Report and Listening Session Webinar was publicized through a variety of methods, including:

- Advertising flyer (see Figure 2). This flyer was distributed via email by the Town's MVP Project
 Manager with the MVP Steering Committee, Town department staff, and all stakeholders who
 were invited to the January CRB Workshop (including those unable to attend) with the
 suggestion that they help share and further distribute the flyer as much as possible.
- Full page advertisement in the community newspaper, Fairhaven Neighborhood News, that ran in the May 21st and May 28th weekly editions (see Figure 3).
- Social media multiple advertising and outreach communications were shared through the Town's Twitter and Facebook accounts beginning on May 11th. Messages included the following:
 - Twitter "Climate change preparedness & adaptation. Fairhaven is ready! Participate in this stakeholder-driven effort www.fairhaven-ma.gov/mvp-program"
 - Facebook "Fairhaven is on the front lines of climate change. After receiving a grant from MA EEA, the Town identified and prioritized a number of community actions to reduce risk and build resilience to climate change. Learn about the process and contribute your ideas at www.fairhaven-ma.gov/mvp-program."

Soliciting Additional Input and Feedback on the Summary of Findings

On May 11th, the Town also launched an online survey to solicit questions and capture additional community input on the Summary of Findings report. The survey was made accessible to the public via a link on the MVP webpage and advertised using the same methods listed above. The MVP survey was open from May 11th to June 5th and resulted in 26 completed responses (see Attachment B for a summary report). Based on a review of this additional input and feedback, the Town determined there was no need to modify or amend the Summary of Findings report; however the summary of survey responses will be maintained as a supplement to the report to help inform the Town's future MVP and related planning and project activities.



Summary of MVP Listening Session

June 2020

Figure 2: Advertising Flyer



Town of Fairhaven
Community Resilience Building



CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS & ADAPTATION

WEBINAR, REPORT, AND SURVEY

AVAILABLE THROUGH MAY 31st

Fairhaven is among many towns on the front lines of climate change. With nearly 30 miles of shoreline, our community is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, increased flooding, and more severe storms. Increasing temperatures, extended heat waves, and changing precipitation patterns will bring additional impacts and challenges to Fairhaven.

Last year, the Town of Fairhaven received a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to begin addressing climate change impacts on Fairhaven's infrastructure, residents, and environment. The completion of this process will result in Fairhaven's certification as an MVP Community and provide access to additional state funding for climate preparedness and adaptation.

As part of its ongoing MVP planning process, the Town of Fairhaven is now seeking community input on the *Summary of Findings* resulting from a Community Resilience Building Workshop held in January 2020. This participatory, stakeholder-driven workshop included the identification and prioritization of specific community actions for Fairhaven to pursue in reducing risk and building resilience to climate change.

This web-based engagement effort includes a summary webinar presentation, a copy of the final report, and an online survey to record your comments and feedback.



Watch the webinar, review the report, and take the survey at: <u>www.fairhaven-ma.gov/mvp-program</u>

If you have any questions or difficulty in accessing these materials, please contact Whitney McClees, Town of Fairhaven Conservation Agent and Sustainability Coordinator, at www.wcclees@fairhaven-ma.gov or (508) 979-4023, ext. 128.

Figure 3: Newspaper Advertisement



Town of Fairhaven Community Resilience Building







CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS & ADAPTATION

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Watch the webinar at:

https://bit.ly/MVPWebinar

Review the report at:

https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/mvp-program

Take the survey at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fairhaven-mvp

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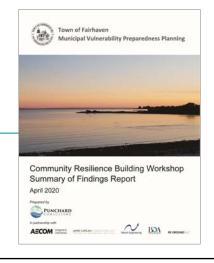
Attachment A: MVP Listening Session Slides

Town of Fairhaven Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning



LISTENING SESSION WEBINAR:

Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings



1

Agenda



- 1. Overview of Fairhaven's MVP Planning Process
- 2. Snapshot of Climate Change Projections for Massachusetts
- 3. Summary of Findings from Fairhaven's Community Resilience Building Workshop
 - Top Hazards
 - Community Vulnerabilities
 - Community Strengths
 - Priority Actions to Improve Community Resilience
- 4. Next Steps

Fairhaven's MVP Planning Process



- The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program provides support for cities and towns with the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects.
- The State awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans.
- Communities that complete the MVP planning process become certified as an MVP Community and are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding to implement their priority projects.



MVP Action Grant Project Types:



3

Fairhaven's MVP Planning Process



MVP helps communities to:

- Define climate-related hazards
- Understand how they may be impacted utilizing the latest science and data
- Identify existing and future climate vulnerabilities and strengths
- Identify opportunities to reduce risk and build resilience
- Implement priority actions identified through the planning process





4

Fairhaven's MVP Planning Process



1. Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop

Completion of a one-day **CRB Workshop** and public listening session as part of the Town's planning process to achieve MVP community designation.

2. Town Policy and Regulatory Review

Conduct a detailed inventory and evaluation of existing Town bylaws that warrant a review through the lens of climate change and its anticipated impacts for Fairhaven.

3. Targeted Vulnerability & Adaptation Assessments for High Risk Assets

Conduct site-specific evaluations of the vulnerability and potential adaptation actions for Fairhaven's Top 5 high risk assets.



5

Snapshot: Climate Change Projections for MA



By end of century:

RISING TEMPERATURES



- 10.8°F increase in avg annual temp.
- Up to 64 fewer days/year with min. temperatures < 32° F
- Up to 64 more > 90°F days/year

CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION



- 18% increase in consecutive dry days
- 57% increase in days with > 1 in. rainfall
- 7.3 inches additional annual rainfall

SEA-LEVEL RISE



4- to 10.5-feet along the MA coast

EXTREME WEATHER



· Increase in frequency and magnitude

Community Resilience Building Workshop



Included 28 Participants

Focused on 4 Hazards

Identified:

- Vulnerabilities
- Strengths
- **Priority Actions**

Across 3 Categories:

- Infrastructure
- Society
- Environment

Community Resilience Building Workshop







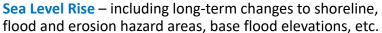




Top Hazards

Top 4 Hazards:







Flooding – including coastal flooding (recurring tidal events, storm surge, wave action, etc.) and inland flooding (heavy rainfall + stormwater/drainage events)



Severe Storms – including hurricanes, nor'easters, winter storms, and other extreme weather events



Heat & Drought - including increasing temperatures, heat waves, consecutive dry days, etc.









Community Vulnerabilities





Infrastructure - Areas of Concern

- Water and wastewater systems including sewer pump stations in coastal flood hazard areas; water pipes along West Island Causeway; wastewater treatment plants; outdated/aging stormwater drainage facilities in older parts of town
- Hurricane barrier and protective dike system (Egypt Lane area)
- Roadways, bridges and culverts including several coastal and/or low-lying areas that are subject to flooding (multiple areas along Route 6 and Sconticut Neck Road, West Island Causeway, etc.); evacuation routes
- Senior housing including Fairhaven Housing Authority complexes and other long-term care facilities
- New public safety complex (proposed)
- Schools / emergency shelters
- · Electric utilities









Community Vulnerabilities



Society - Areas of Concern

- **Vulnerable populations** including seniors; people with disabilities; residents with medical or other special needs; younger/school-aged populations; year-round residents on West Island; low-moderate income residents in North Fairhaven
- Medical facilities including urgent care (in town) and access to hospitals/health centers in neighboring towns
- Flood-prone residential areas/neighborhoods including coastal properties along Sconticut Neck; West Island; Poverty Point; Wilbur's Point
- **The working waterfront** including Fairhaven Shipyard and other marine-based industries in the New Bedford-Fairhaven Designated Port Area (DPA)
- Large employers including but not limited to Acushnet Company, Brahmin, Nye Lubricants, Southcoast Hospital Group, Fairhaven Shipyard Company, and Southcoast Hospital Group
- *Historic/cultural landmarks* including Town Hall, Millicent Library, Fairhaven High School, Unitarian Memorial Church, Fort Phoenix Reservation
- Transient populations including seasonal residents, commuters, and tourists/visitors









Community Vulnerabilities





Environment – Areas of Concern

- Coastal landforms including beaches, dunes, salt marshes, tidal flats, etc.
- *Drinking water supplies* including freshwater resources and 4 groundwater wells in Fairhaven
- Agricultural lands including important agricultural landscapes and working farms
- Trees including street trees/canopy and woodland areas
- Open space including protected/conservation lands and unprotected municipal lands
- Parks and recreation including state and town-owned parks; beaches; Phoenix Bike Trail
- Insects and vector-borne diseases (increasing concern)
- Hazardous materials/contaminants particularly at industrial sites along the waterfront









11

11

Community Strengths

TO THE REAL PROPERTY.

- ✓ Commitment to Resilience
- ✓ Active Citizenry
- ✓ Protective Infrastructure
- ✓ Natural Resources
- ✓ Reliable Utilities
- ✓ Emergency Preparedness
- ✓ Community Networks & Resources













Priority Actions to Improve Community Resilience



- Participants identified more than 50 possible actions to improve resilience
- Recommended actions include:
 - 22 Higher Priority
 - 13 Moderate Priority
 - 14 Lower Priority









13

13

Priority Actions to Improve Community Resilience



Top Recommendations

- Vulnerability & Adaptation Assessments for Sewer Pump Stations
- Resilience Improvements for Critical Roadways
- Salt Marsh Accretion Assessment
- Review and Update Town Bylaws for Resilience
- Route 6 Culvert Upgrade
- Vulnerability & Viability Assessment for New Public Safety Complex

Next Steps



- Complete web-based engagement effort to capture additional community input on the *Summary of Findings* report.
- Achieve State-certified MVP Community designation.
- Complete an evaluation of existing Town bylaws and other local regulations or policies that warrant a review through the lens of climate change.
- Conduct site-specific evaluations of the vulnerability and potential adaptation actions for the Town's highest risk sewer pump stations.
- Complete a joint MVP Action Grant with the City of New Bedford for the harbor and waterfront areas.
- Pursue additional grant funding to help implement priority actions.
- Integrate priority actions into other local planning and decision-making processes.





15

15

Share your feedback!



Please take the **online survey** to provide us with your input and comments:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fairhaven-mvp

(available through **May 31**st)

- √ Share your hazard concerns
- ✓ Tell us what you consider to be Fairhaven's greatest vulnerabilities and strengths
- √ Tell us which priority actions do you feel are most important
- ✓ Provide us with your ideas for improving Fairhaven's resilience
- ✓ Submit additional comments or questions

Thank You



For More Information:

Whitney McClees Town of Fairhaven

Conservation Agent & Sustainability Coordinator

Email: wmcclees@fairhaven-ma.gov

Phone: (508) 837-4427



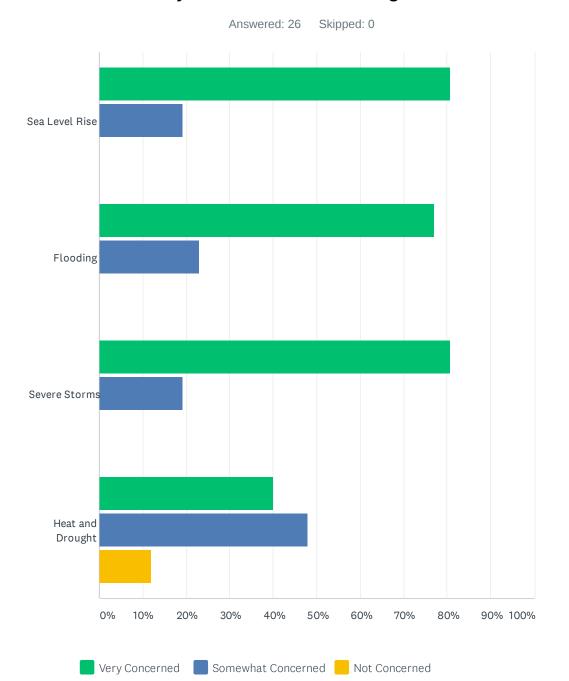
Town of Fairhaven CRB Workshop Participants

Take the Survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fairhaven-mvp

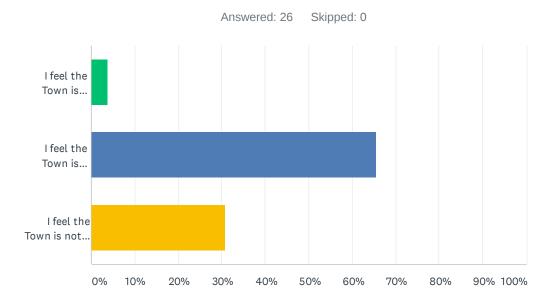
Attachment B: MVP Survey Responses

Q1 How concerned are you about the following climate-related hazards?



	VERY CONCERNED	SOMEWHAT CONCERNED	NOT CONCERNED	TOTAL
Sea Level Rise	80.77%	19.23%	0.00%	
	21	5	0	26
Flooding	76.92%	23.08%	0.00%	
	20	6	0	26
Severe Storms	80.77%	19.23%	0.00%	
	21	5	0	26
Heat and Drought	40.00%	48.00%	12.00%	
	10	12	3	25

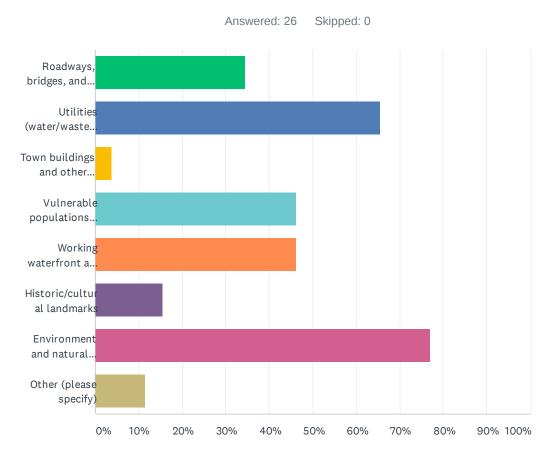
Q2 How prepared do you feel the Town is for your hazards of primary concern?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I feel the Town is completely prepared	3.85%	1
I feel the Town is somewhat prepared	65.38%	17
I feel the Town is not prepared	30.77%	8
TOTAL		26

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?	DATE
1	Thank you for your ongoing planning	5/30/2020 7:55 AM
2	Participating in the MVP Group = Somewhat prepared	5/29/2020 11:58 AM
3	I think the Town, in many ways, deals with the immediate rather than the future. They are making strides by supporting initiatives like the Green Communities designation, but I think more focus needs to be paid to preparing for future conditions. We have regulatory boards who do not pay attention to how their decisions may impact both other boards and residents in the future.	5/27/2020 3:12 PM
4	Too often Fairhaven seems to operate after the fact. The horse has left the barn-oops, why did we not imagine that it was important to shut the door first. Too much has been deferred by the old guard, and now the town is stuck with some significant costs. New blood that will listen instead of dictate	5/20/2020 5:20 PM
5	Let's not end up like we are today with the Pandemica deadly mess of unpreparedness	5/20/2020 1:40 PM

Q3 Which of the following do you consider to be Fairhaven's greatest vulnerabilities? (pick your top 3)

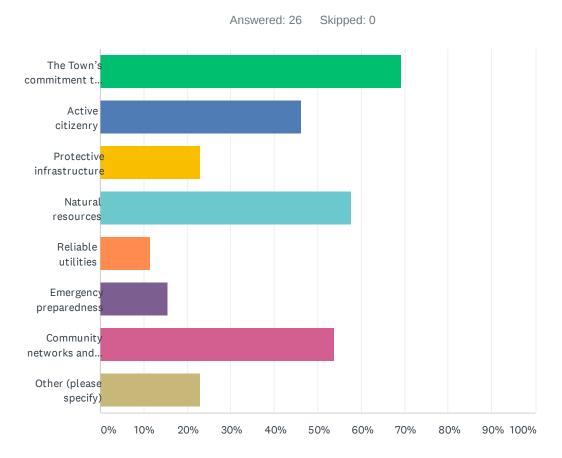


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Roadways, bridges, and culverts	34.62%	9
Utilities (water/wastewater systems, electricity, etc.)	65.38%	17
Town buildings and other public facilities	3.85%	1
Vulnerable populations (seniors, disabled residents, or other groups with special needs)	46.15%	12
Working waterfront and other local businesses	46.15%	12
Historic/cultural landmarks	15.38%	4
Environment and natural resources (beaches, wetlands, open space, trees, etc.)	76.92%	20
Other (please specify)	11.54%	3
Total Respondents: 26		

Fairhaven MVP Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Housing, in general- it's literally where people live, and so much of it is already federal flood zone. I am concerned about literally every one of the things you listed above, so I am selecting in order of immediate threat to life and community survival.	5/29/2020 1:07 PM
2	often gray and black water in homes, every couple years water main breaks resulting in water shut off to homes, every 2-4 weeks BPW mowing on streets results in clippings clogging street drains BPW should clean up after mowing, BPW should remove the trash they find in the culverts, Con Com to improve lax enforcement of coastal bylaws for homeowner building projects	5/29/2020 11:58 AM
3	Residential property/dwellings along the 30 miles of coastline	5/19/2020 3:34 PM

Q4 Which of the following do you consider to be Fairhaven's greatest strengths? (pick your top 3)

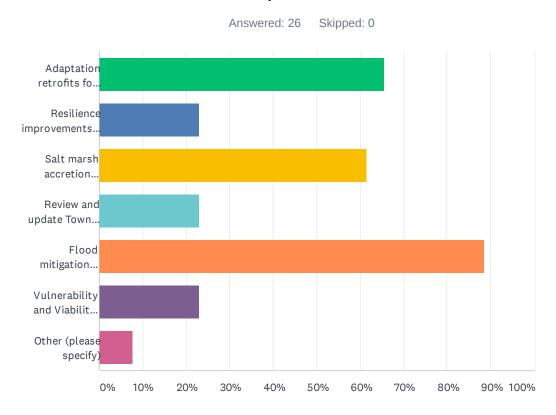


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The Town's commitment to resilience	69.23%	18
Active citizenry	46.15%	12
Protective infrastructure	23.08%	6
Natural resources	57.69%	15
Reliable utilities	11.54%	3
Emergency preparedness	15.38%	4
Community networks and resources	53.85%	14
Other (please specify)	23.08%	6
Total Respondents: 26		

Fairhaven MVP Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I am not sure	5/29/2020 1:07 PM
2	Time will tell, when tested, what preparededness and actual assistence residents can rely on and will receive. The Report is encouraging, please move into action mode because words are cheap when the Town is floating away	5/29/2020 11:58 AM
3	Hard pressed to come up with strengths. There are pros, but I wouldn't call them strengths perse. apparently I HAD to answer with three, so these are random.	5/20/2020 5:20 PM
4	fire, police, etc good	5/20/2020 1:40 PM
5	Working waterfront	5/18/2020 3:31 PM
6	Related to vulnerability, none other than we are just starting to talk about it.	5/15/2020 12:50 PM

Q5 The Summary of Findings Report identifies a number of community actions to improve Fairhaven's resilience to natural hazards and climate change. Which of the following top recommendations do you feel are most important?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSE	S
Adaptation retrofits for sewer pump stations	65.38%	17
Resilience improvements for critical roadways	23.08%	6
Salt marsh accretion assessment	61.54%	16
Review and update Town bylaws for resilience	23.08%	6
Flood mitigation projects (including coastal and inland/stormwater management improvements)	88.46%	23
Vulnerability and Viability Assessment for the New Public Safety Complex	23.08%	6
Other (please specify)	7.69%	2
Total Respondents: 26		

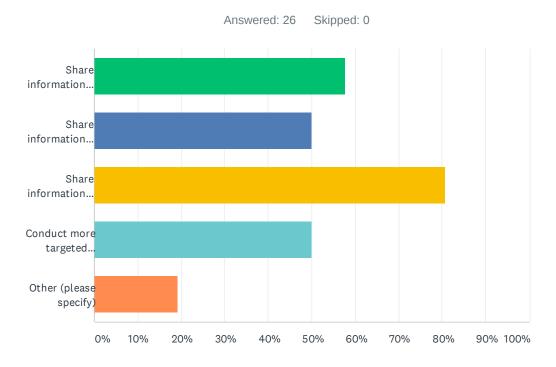
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Do Not put a new Public Safety Complex anywhere close to a flood prone areaReally!! isn't that the opposite of what all the MVP meetings with experts(?) and professionals(?) has been based upon? Use that money to implement the aforementioned climate change critical needs of the Town. Police and Fire do an awesome job from right where they are. A new Complex should not change their work ethic.	5/29/2020 11:58 AM
2	Relocating businesses and houses to higher ground	5/15/2020 12:50 PM

Q6 Are there any other specific actions you would like to see the Town pursue to improve Fairhaven's resilience?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 15

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Public education about climate change threat. Increased public awareness	5/30/2020 7:55 AM
2	Education for homeowners, realtors, and inspectors about flood risks. Tax abatement advocacy with state to add flood mitigation to other green incentives	5/29/2020 1:07 PM
3	Use our tax dollars wisely to provide upgrades/repairs etc for The Resilience effort	5/29/2020 11:58 AM
4	the causeway to West Island is probably one of my greatest concerns in town, with regards to climate change	5/28/2020 9:45 AM
5	I would like to see the Town create a permanent Open Space Committee that focuses on acquiring open space for the purposes of climate change resilience as well as managing and protecting our current open space.	5/27/2020 3:12 PM
6	Essential to plant trees indigenous to the N.E. To hold soil, to help mitigate erosion, to house wildlife, to add value to property. Proper Pruning of said trees done by REAL arborists and not some hacks from Eversource.	5/20/2020 5:20 PM
7	Beef up preservation of marshes etc. People are building on and destroying shorelineConservation needs to be stricter re the future of shore health	5/20/2020 1:40 PM
8	Use data and input from scientists.	5/20/2020 9:45 AM
9	Not at this time	5/18/2020 4:33 PM
10	Need to start a plan to move people away from flood prone and future underwater areas.	5/15/2020 12:50 PM
11	We need a better system of communication using the internet. The town of Westminster, MA emails citizens (who sign up) every important item going on in the town. I don't feel that level of communication with Fairhaven. The social media presence has increased but I believe we need more communication.	5/15/2020 10:34 AM

Q7 How can the Town improve its public education and outreach to better share information about existing resiliency projects and actions?



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Share information through public events, including virtual meetings/webinars	57.69%	15	
Share information through printed media, including reports, fact sheets, or brochures	50.00%	13	
Share information online, including through the Town's website and social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook)	80.77%	21	
Conduct more targeted outreach to vulnerable populations	50.00%	13	
Other (please specify)	19.23%	5	
Total Respondents: 26			

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	BPW does a good job of alerting the public about needs, costs and why.	5/20/2020 5:20 PM
2	Phone call programcall town households for a brief updatein view of the fact lots of people do not bother to read	5/20/2020 1:40 PM
3	A combination of all the above.	5/19/2020 1:12 PM
4	Introducing this information to the public schools	5/18/2020 4:33 PM
5	Direct email	5/15/2020 10:34 AM

Q8 Are there any errors or omissions in the Summary of Findings Report that you feel must be corrected?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 21

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	None	5/31/2020 11:50 AM
2	None that I observed.	5/27/2020 3:12 PM
3	na	5/20/2020 5:20 PM
4	I am still not clear about Hurricane Survival Strategy/Plan for citizens, property, town services etc.	5/20/2020 1:40 PM
5	-	5/18/2020 4:33 PM

Q9 Are there any other comments or questions that you would like to share with the Town's MVP Steering Committee?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 18

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Great Job presenting info	6/5/2020 12:56 PM
2	Very thoroughly executed research/compilation!	5/31/2020 11:50 AM
3	Increasing use of green energy in the town and state	5/30/2020 7:55 AM
4	Thank You! to all the participants There is great responsibility here to act in Fairhaven's best interest. People come and go in the circle of life but this beautiful Land needs protectingGod is not making any more of it.	5/29/2020 11:58 AM
5	This is a wonderful document. I'm glad we are talking about this! Besides working on resilience, I would love to see more of a focus on mitigation. We should be taking every available opportunity to reduce our CO2 output as a town.	5/21/2020 1:56 PM
6	Thanks for giving your time and attention.	5/20/2020 5:20 PM
7	Very exciting to see all the smart hard work and the scope of the reportthat being saidlet's not end up like the recent Pandemicwith NO just in case plan or equipment, services, budget	5/20/2020 1:40 PM
8	-	5/18/2020 4:33 PM