

Climate Resilient Carlisle Meeting with
Carlisle Local Emergency Planning Committee (May 6, 2024)
Meeting Notes prepared by Horsley Witten Group

- General
 - LEPC hadn't met for many months (years?), so there was value in reconnecting generally
 - Add in pandemic and vector-borne diseases as concerns
- Wildfire
 - Background/context
 - Risks are significant in Carlisle, and growing
 - Depends on how you assess the risks/vulnerabilities. While the state might not consider the loss of 5-10 homes a large risk, that would be a major disaster for Carlisle
 - Data/planning/community engagement needs:
 - GIS map of where has/doesn't have easy access to water for firefighting
 - Forest management plan to manage fuels, also access to interior of town forest
 - Code changes needs:
 - First, more data on cistern needs, then perhaps more research into how to have more cisterns and if regs can help
- Storms and severe weather
 - Data/planning/community engagement needs:
 - Social resilience is key here: building connections between neighbors! Block parties, PTOs, neighborhood groups, etc.
 - Creating an amateur emergency response network, ideally regionally (ham radios)
 - Communications: there's an opt-in text alert or app program, but it isn't used well
 - Need more education and policies on how to use it
 - Code changes needs:
 - Not at this time, burying power lines is too expensive
- New energy safety and emergency response
 - Background/context
 - Power loss --> flooding (pumps fail)
 - Electric is great, but batteries aren't as effective in the cold
 - Fire risks for batteries, especially home energy storage systems (like those made by Tesla)
 - Data/planning/community engagement needs:
 - Communications re: fire risks and battery systems
 - Info on who has these battery systems (the building dept passes info on to the fire dept, but it's not a perfect system)
 - Code changes needs:

- Info needed: can the town legally regulate the batteries, or is that building codes and needs to be addressed by the state?
- Flooding
 - Background/context
 - Carlisle just completed a roadway condition study to develop a maintenance and repair plan
 - Next step is to map culverts and stormwater infrastructure too
 - Another issue: Bedford Road Bridge - "rotting telephone poles"
 - Data/planning/community engagement needs
 - GIS mapping of culverts and stormwater infrastructure
 - Con Comm is doing watershed analysis (?)
 - Code changes needs
 - Not discussed in depth
- Microgrids
 - Background/context
 - There is a generator for schools, police, and fire
 - There is not for the library or the townhall
 - There have been discussions about joining Concord's power system
 - Data/planning/community engagement/other needs:
 - Generator trailer that could be portable (or hosting one of the MEMA ones)
 - Research into if solar could help, esp. given extreme cold conditions
 - Code change needs
 - Not discussed in depth
- Pandemic and vector-borne illnesses
 - Background/context
 - The Town is very proud of their COVID response, but they felt frustrated by disorganization and mixed messages at the state level. This cost them lots of money (\$100k) and frustration. The Carlisle schools never closed, and they had PCR testing, etc.
 - Data/planning/community engagement/other needs
 - More info on how to mitigate and manage vector-borne diseases
 - Coordination with state
 - Code changes
 - Are there ways to support keeping open spaces open, maintaining public access?
- Other issues
 - Communications within town (town email/newsletter, rave app, etc.), varied options, opt-in
 - Cell towers as a vulnerability
 - Extremely large houses and properties as a challenge for access, especially for fires and emergency services (2000 ft driveways, 12,000 sq ft houses)