

Town of Montague

April 29, 2026

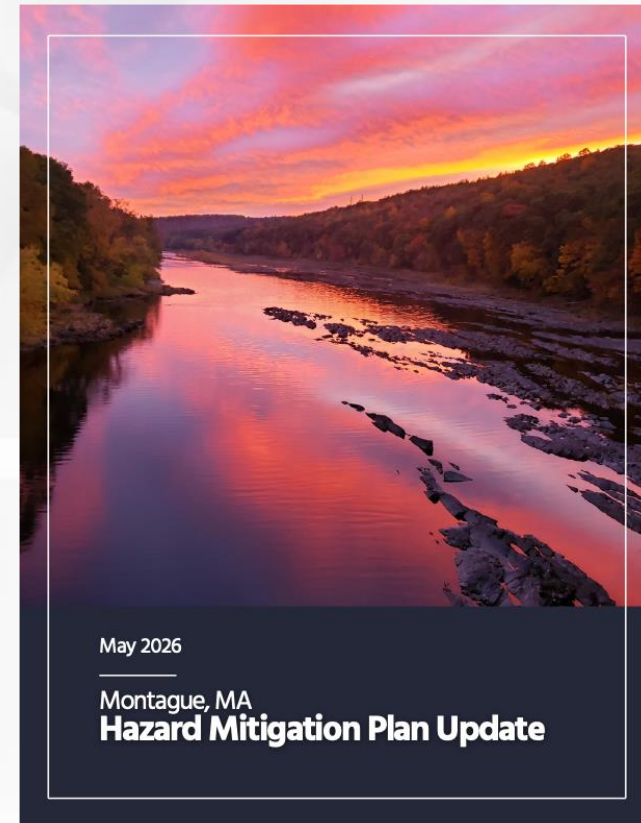
JAMIE CAPLAN CONSULTING LLC  
Emergency Management Services

# PUBLIC MEETING #2

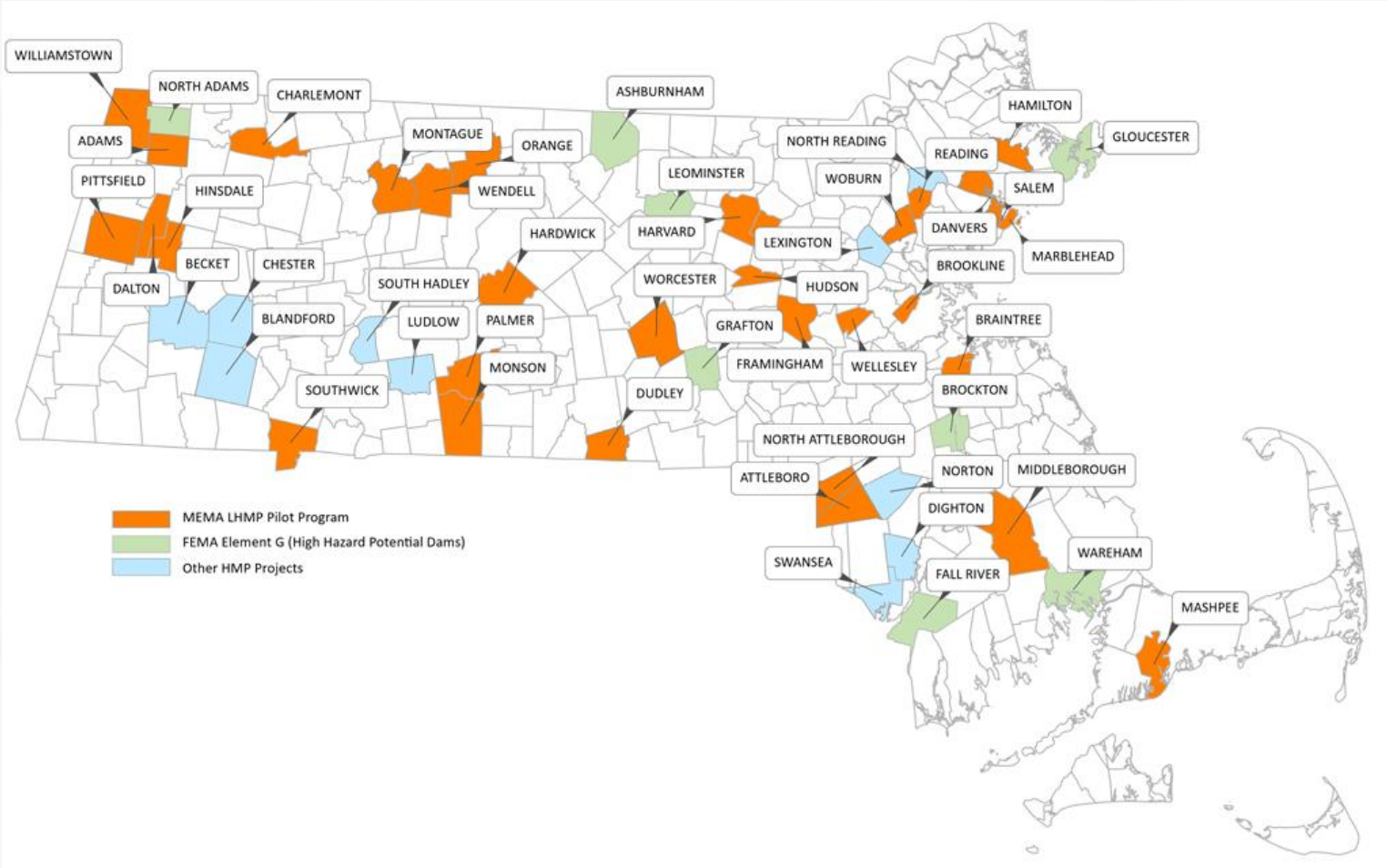
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

# Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Risk Assessment Results
- Hazard Mitigation Strategy  
Goals & Actions
- Public Input
- Next Steps



# Jamie Caplan Consulting LLC



# What is Hazard Mitigation?



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines hazard mitigation as “any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards.”



Flood: culvert upgrades, drainage improvements, elevate structures



Wildfire: defensible space, fuel reduction, ignition-resistant construction



Heat: cooling centers, shade infrastructure, tree canopy expansion



Earthquake: retrofit critical facilities, secure utilities

# Why have a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

## Protecting the Community

The primary purpose is to provide a comprehensive examination of all natural hazards affecting Montague and create a framework for selecting cost-effective actions to reduce loss of life, land, and property.

## Grant Eligibility

Updating this plan every five years is a requirement for the Town to remain eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation project grants.



# Final Hazard List Ranking

Hazards	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	Value	Rank
Flooding from Precipitation	4	3	2	3	2	3	High
Severe Winter Storms	4	2	4	1	3	3	High
Average and Extreme Temperatures	4	2	4	1	2	2.9	High
Other Severe Weather	4	2	4	2	1	2.9	High
Wildfire/Brush fire	2	3	3	3	3	2.7	Mod.
Hurricanes/Tropical Storms	3	2	4	1	2	2.6	Mod.
Drought	2	2	4	1	4	2.5	Mod.
Flooding from Dam Failure	2	3	2	4	2	2.5	Mod.
Tornado	2	4	1	3	1	2.4	Mod.
Hazmat	2	3	1	4	2	2.3	Mod.
Invasive Species	3	1	2	3	4	2.3	Mod.
Landslide	2	2	1	4	3	2.1	Mod.
Earthquake	1	1	4	4	1	1.9	Low

Probability = 30%, Impact = 30%, Spatial Extent = 20%, Warning Time = 10%, Duration = 10%

# Key Vulnerabilities & Problem Statements

- **Vulnerable Populations:** Extreme heat, severe cold, and flooding disproportionately threaten elderly residents, low-income households, and unhoused populations, especially those living in older homes or areas like the Environmental Justice communities in Turners Falls and Millers Falls.
- **Infrastructure Risks:** Bridges and culverts require constant maintenance or replacement to prevent road closures during floods. The electrical grid is highly susceptible to failure during severe winter storms and extreme heat.
- **Dam & Wildfire Risks:** Montague is downstream of multiple High Hazard Potential Dams (like the Cabot Spillways and Turners Falls Dam), and areas like the Montague Plains are highly susceptible to fast-moving, high-intensity wildfires due to pitch pine-scrub oak vegetation.

# Mitigation Strategy: Goals & Actions

## Save Lives and Reduce Losses to Private Property

- Reduce risks to people and property through natural hazard mitigation and climate adaptation.

## High Hazard Potential Dams

- Assess the vulnerabilities of high-hazard dams (including the canal system) and implement strategies to reduce risks.

## Increase Capacity to Mitigate Risk

- Implement plans, land use policies, and development regulations to promote smart growth and low-impact development while prioritizing equity.

## Buildings and Infrastructure

- Strengthen Town-owned facilities, including historic buildings, and infrastructure to improve community resiliency throughout the five villages while prioritizing green infrastructure and other nature-based solutions.

## Natural Resources

- Prioritize the protection of open spaces, farmland, and natural resources such as waterways.

## Education and Awareness

- Improve community-wide resilience to natural hazards and climate change through public education and engagement.

## Key Mitigation Actions

*Infrastructure:* Establishing a solar micro-grid for emergency backup power at the High School and Public Safety Complex (Action 3) and evaluating repairs to the Center Street bridge to accommodate higher flood flows (Action 31).

*Community Support:* Starting a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to assist isolated, elderly, and disabled residents (Action 8), and conducting targeted outreach to unhoused populations in flood-prone areas (Action 4).

*Wildfire/Hazmat:* Implementing safety infrastructure improvements on the Montague Plains (Action 42) and securing funding to demolish abandoned mill properties (Action 43).

# Draft Plan Chapters

Chapter Title	Content
Introduction	Changes Since the Previous Plan
Planning Area Profile	Infrastructure and Development Trends Land Use Critical Facilities
Planning Process	Who was Involved? How was the HMP Developed?
Risk Assessment	Hazard Profiles Summary of Risk Problem Statements
Capability Assessment	Plans, Administration, Finances, Education National Flood Insurance Program
Mitigation Strategy	Goals Mitigation Actions
Plan Maintenance and Implementation	Method and Schedule for Implementation

## Next Steps: How to Review the Plan

### Public Review Period

- May 12 - May 26

### Where to Find the Plan

- Online: Montague Town Website
- Hard Copy: Available at the Planning Department Office and in each Public Library

**Thank You**