9.20 Town of Somers

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the Town of Somers.

9.20.1 Hazard Mitigation Plan Point of Contact

The following individuals have been identified as the hazard mitigation plan's primary and alternate points of contact.

Primary Point of Contact	Alternate Point of Contact
Rick Morrissey, Supervisor 355 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589 914-277-3637 rmorrissey@somersny.com	Michael Driscoll, Police Chief 100 Primrose Street, Route 139, Somers, NY 10589 914-232-9622 police@somersny.com

9.20.2 Municipal Profile

This section provides a summary of the community.

Population

According to the U.S. Census, the 2010 population for the Town of Somers was 20,434 with a population density of 630 persons per square mile. The population significantly increased from the 2000 census (18,346).

Location

The Town of Somers is situated in the northern Westchester County, New York approximately 40 minutes to the north of Grand Central Station in New York City by train. The town is approximately 32.3 square miles in area and is located primarily within the Croton River watershed. The town is bordered by the towns of North Salem and Lewisboro to the east, the towns of Bedford and New Castle to the south, and the town of Yorktown to the west. Somers is bordered to the north by the Town of Carmel in Putnam County, New York.

The Town of Somers includes the communities of Amawalk, Baldwin Place, Granite Springs, Lake Lincolndale, Lincolndale, Lake Purdys, Shenorock, Lake Shenorock, Somers, and Whitehall Corners.[i]

Brief History

Somers was first settled as part of the Manor of Cortlandt in the late 17th century. European settlement continued throughout the 18th century, with the town was officially incorporated as Somers in 1808 in in honor of Richard Somers, a naval captain from New Jersey who died in combat during the First Barbary War.[i]

Somers was primarily an agricultural community in the 18th and 19th centuries, although some industry including hat factories, carriage factories, a milk factory, and an iron mine were located in the town. The railroad installed in nearby communities in the 1840's shifted agricultural emphasis towards dairy production and fruit growing since products could be shipped to urban markets. Between 1890 and 1910 the Croton and Muscoot Rivers were dammed to create the New York City reservoir system for drinking water supply, greatly changing the local landscape. Lake communities began to grow as vacation havens for summer visitors and guests, eventually converting to year-round neighborhoods.[i]

Like many communities in Westchester County, Somers has experienced rapid growth since the 1950s as part of the New York City metropolitan area. Today, Somers is primarily a community of single-family homes of various densities, with a small business center in the hamlet of Somers, commercial and multi-family housing along the Route 6 corridor, and other industries and open space spread throughout the town (1994

Comprehensive Master Plan). Large corporations such as Pepsi-Cola and IBM are also significant presences in the community.

Governing Body Format

The Town of Somers operates under the Mayor-council form of municipal government. The Town Board is comprised of the Supervisor and four council members who represent the governing and legislative body of the town, with the Supervisor functioning as chief executive officer. Members of the Board are elected for four-year terms, with the Supervisor being elected every two years.[ii]

Growth/Development Trends

The following table summarizes recent residential/commercial development since 2005 and any known or anticipated major development that has been identified in the next five years within the municipality.

Table 9.20-1. Growth and Development

Property or Development Name	Type (e.g. Res., Comm.)	Number of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or Parcel IDs)	Known Hazard Zones*	Description / Status
Recent Development					
The Mews	Res (affordable housing)	~150 total units	Clayton Boulevard	None	Phase II (75 units) Under Construction
St. Joseph's Church	-	800 seat, 20,000 sf	Plumbrook Road	None	Completed
Various subdivisions	Res	15-30 lots	Varies	None	Completed
Known or Anticipated Development					
Hidden Meadow at Somers	Res	53 units	16 Route 6; 15.07-1-6	None	Proposed
Merrit Park Estates Subdivision	Res	15 lots	60 Lovell Street; 5.20-1-1	None	Proposed
Somers Crossing	Res	Mixed Use	307 Route 100; 17.15-1-15.1	None	Proposed
Granite Pointe Subdivision	Res	23 lots	132 & 144 Route 118; 27.05-3-2 & 5	None	Proposed
Somers Realty Planned Hamlet	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

** Only location-specific hazard zones or vulnerabilities identified.*

9.20.3 Natural Hazard Event History Specific to the Municipality

Westchester County has a history of natural and non-natural hazard events as detailed in Volume I, Section 5.0 of this plan. A summary of historical events is provided in each of the hazard profiles and includes a chronology of events that have affected the County and its municipalities. For the purpose of this plan, events that have occurred in the County from 2005 to present were summarized to indicate the range and impact of hazard events in the community. Information regarding specific damages is included, if available, based on reference material or local sources. This information is presented in the table below. For details of these and additional events, refer to Volume I, Section 5.0 of this plan.

Table 9.20-2. Hazard Event History

Dates of Event	Event Type	FEMA Declaration # (If Applicable)	County Designated?	Summary of Damages/Losses
October 27-November 8, 2012	Hurricane Sandy	DR-4085	Yes	Approximately10 structures experienced flooding during Sandy. Significant tree damage. Shelters were opened. Several road closures and damage to utilities were reported.
August 26 - September 5, 2011	Hurricane Irene	DR-4020	Yes	Significant tree damage.
December 26-27, 2010	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm	DR-1957	Yes	Significant tree damage.

Notes:
EM Emergency Declaration (FEMA)
FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency
DR Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA)
IA Individual Assistance
N/A Not applicable
PA Public Assistance

9.20.4 Hazard Vulnerabilities and Ranking

The hazard profiles in Section 5.0 of this plan have detailed information regarding each plan participant's vulnerability to the identified hazards. The following summarizes the hazard vulnerabilities and their ranking in the Town of Somers. For additional vulnerability information relevant to this jurisdiction, refer to Section 5.0.

Natural Hazard Risk/Vulnerability Risk Ranking

The table below summarizes the natural hazard risk/vulnerability rankings of potential hazards for the Town of Somers.

Table 9.20-3. Natural Hazard Risk/Vulnerability Risk Ranking

Hazard type	Estimate of Potential Dollar Losses to Structures Vulnerable to the Hazard [a, c]	Probability of Occurrence	Risk Ranking Score (Probability x Impact)	Hazard Ranking [b]
Earthquake	100-Year GBS: $0 500-Year GBS: $3,334,043 2,500-Year GBS: $69,288,389	Occasional	24	Medium
Extreme Temperature	Damage estimate not available	Frequent	30	Medium
Flood	1% Annual Chance: $157,296,586	Frequent	36	High
Severe Storm	100-Year MRP: $4,958,345 500-year MRP: $42,943,301 Annualized: $376,753	Frequent	48	High
Winter Storm	1% GBS: $27,830,309 5% GBS: $139,151,546	Frequent	51	High
Wildfire	Estimated Value in the WUI: $119,344,227	Frequent	18	Medium

a. Building damage ratio estimates based on FEMA 386-2 (August 2001)
b. The valuation of general building stock and loss estimates was based on the custom inventory developed for Westchester County and probabilistic modeling results and exposure analysis as discussed in Section 5.
c. The earthquake and hurricane wind hazards were evaluated by Census tract. The Census tracts do not exactly align with municipal boundaries; therefore, a total is reported for each Town inclusive of the Villages.

d. Frequent = Hazard event that is likely to occur within 25 years;
Occasional = Hazard event that is likely to occur within 100 years; and
Rare = Hazard event that is not likely to occur within 100 years
e. The estimated potential losses for Severe Storm are from the HAZUS-MH probabilistic hurricane wind model results. See footnote c.
GBS = General building stock
MRP = Mean return period
RCV = Replacement cost value

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Summary

The following table summarizes the NFIP statistics for the municipality.

Table 9.20-4. NFIP Summary

Municipality	# Policies (1)	# Claims (Losses) (1)	Total Loss Payments (2)	# Rep. Loss Prop. (1)	# Severe Rep. Loss Prop. (1)	# Policies in 1% Flood Boundary (3)
Somers (T)	70	25	$305,255.88	1	0	3

Source: FEMA Region 2, 2014
(1): Policies, claims, repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss statistics provided by FEMA Region 2, and are current as of March 31, 2014. Please note the total number of repetitive loss properties excludes the severe repetitive loss properties. The number of claims represents the number of claims closed by March 31, 2014.
(2): Information regarding total building and content losses was gathered from the claims file provided by FEMA Region 2.
(3): The policies inside and outside of the flood zones is based on the latitude and longitude provided by FEMA Region 2 in the policy file. FEMA noted that where there is more than one entry for a property, there may be more than one policy in force or more than one GIS possibility.

Critical Facilities

The table below presents HAZUS-MH estimates of the damage and loss of use to critical facilities in the community as a result of a 1- and 0.2-percent annual chance flood events.

Table 9.20-5. Potential Flood Losses to Critical Facilities

Name	Municipality	Type	Exposure		Potential Loss from 1% Flood Event		
			1% Event	0.2% Event	Percent Structure Damage	Percent Content Damage	Days to 100-Percent(1)
Activated Carbon	Somers (T)	Potable Water Facility		X	-	-	-
Heritage Hills	Somers (T)	Wastewater Treatment Plant		X	6.0	-	-
Treatment Plant	Somers (T)	Potable Water Facility	X	X	22.5	-	-
UV Disinfection	Somers (T)	Potable Water Facility		X	-	-	-
Well	Somers (T)	Well		X	-	-	-
Well	Somers (T)	Well		X	-	-	-
Well # 1	Somers (T)	Well		X	-	-	-
Well # 3	Somers (T)	Well	X	X	-	-	-
Well # 4	Somers (T)	Well	X	X	-	-	-
Well # 6	Somers (T)	Well	X	X	-	-	-

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.1
Note: x = Facility located within the 0.2-percent annual chance flood boundary.
Please note it is assumed that wells have electrical equipment and openings are three-feet above grade.
(1) HAZUS-MH 2.1 provides a general indication of the maximum restoration time for 100% operations. Clearly, a great deal of effort is needed to quickly restore essential facilities to full functionality; therefore this will be an indication of the maximum downtime (HAZUS-MH 2.1 User Manual).
(2) In some cases, a facility may be located in the DFIRM flood hazard boundary; however HAZUS did not calculate potential loss. This may be because the depth of flooding does not amount to any damages to the structure according to the depth damage function used in HAZUS for that facility type.

Other Vulnerabilities Identified by Municipality

The Town of Somers is vulnerable to a variety of hazards. Town staff believe that the effects of flooding or transportation accidents present the highest relative risk to the community. The effects of dam failure, extreme cold, extreme heat, fixed-facility hazardous materials accidents, hurricanes / tropical storms / nor'easters, ice storms, lightning, severe storms, severe winter storms, tornadoes, wildfires, and windstorms are believed to be of moderate risk to the community. Other hazards present a low or negligible risk to the community.

Flooding

The following flood-prone areas have been identified by the Town of Somers through the Westchester County Stormwater Reconnaissance Plan process (see Section 6 – Capability Assessment for a description of the program; see map at the end of this annex for location of these problem areas):

- Flooding occurs due to severe rain events. The dams in the lake communities (Lincolndale, Shenorock) have been damaged by flooding in recent years. Failure of the Shenorock dam (Class B, town-owned) could potentially flood homes along Bridge Lane and Tompkins Road among other areas. Floodwaters would drain south into Amawalk Reservoir.
- The Town has performed several culvert and drainage pipe upgrades over the past several years, and have also performed detention basin installations and porous pavement projects. Drainage is still a problem in some areas such that detention basins and maintenance is needed. The drainage systems are undersized and need replacement on Brick Hill Road, Pines Bridge Road near Route 35, and Annarock Drive. Backwater flooding occurs in rear yards of single family residences along Annarock Drive within a 1% annual chance flood zone.
- Moseman Avenue floods near North Lane at a tributary to the Croton River. This area needs evaluation to determine potential mitigation actions. This area is not within a 1% annual chance flood zone.
- Flooding impacts a bridge on Mahopac Avenue over the Muscoot River. This area needs evaluation to determine potential mitigation actions. This area is within a 1% annual chance flood zone.

Wind, Snow, and Ice

- Somers staff are concerned by the potential for downed power lines due to rain, snow, or wind events. Such events typically bring down trees and can cause loss of electricity to portions of the community. Several traffic lights have been damaged during storms over the past few years, creating additional response and repair work for local and state personnel. There are also several large developments that have only one mode of egress that are set far back from main roads. These are areas of concern as they have been cut off by falling trees in the past. Many private homeowners have been cutting trees because of the severe windstorms that occurred over the past several years.
- Icing is a problem along Route 6.

Wildfires

- The Town would like to extend water mains into outlying areas to provide water supply for firefighting.

9.20.5 Capability Assessment

This section identifies the following capabilities of the local jurisdiction:

- Planning and regulatory capability
- Administrative and technical capability
- Fiscal capability
- Community classification
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Integration of Mitigation Planning into Existing and Future Planning Mechanisms

The Town of Somers has indicated that the community's political leadership is "very willing" to enact policies and programs related to hazard mitigation that reduce hazard vulnerabilities. Town staff believe that the Town's capabilities to effectively implement hazard mitigation strategies to reduce hazard vulnerabilities is "high" for planning and regulatory capability, administrative and technical capability, and community political capability. The Town believes its fiscal capability is "moderate". An assessment of community resiliency capability was not provided.

Planning and Regulatory Capability

The table below summarizes the regulatory tools that are available to the municipality.

Table 9.20-6. Planning and Regulatory Tools

Tool / Program (code, ordinance, plan)	Do you have this? (Y/N)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Dept. /Agency Responsible	Code Citation and Comments (Code Chapter, date of adoption, name of plan, explanation of authority, etc.)
Building Code	Y	Local, State	Building Department	NYS Building Code
Zoning Ordinance	Y	Local	Building / Planning/ Engineering	Chapter 170
Subdivision Ordinance	Y	Local	Building / Planning/ Engineering	Chapter 150
NFIP Flood Damage Protection Ordinance	Y	Federal, State, Local	Planning Board / Engineering / Building	Chapter 102
NFIP - Freeboard	Y	Federal, State, Local	Planning Board / Engineering / Building	New residential structures must have the lowest floor at or above the BFE, BFE+2 required for non-residential construction in Zone AE, Grade+3 required in Zone A if no flood elevation available.
NFIP - Cumulative Substantial Damages	Y	Local	Planning Board / Engineering / Building	"Substantial damage" is also defined as flood-related damages sustained by a structure on two separate occasions during a ten-year period for which the cost of repairs at the time of the flood event, on the average, equals or exceeds 25% of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.
Special Purpose Ordinances (e.g. wetlands,	Y	Local	Planning / Engineering	Chapter 167

Table 9.20-6. Planning and Regulatory Tools

Tool / Program (code, ordinance, plan)	Do you have this? (Y/N)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Dept. /Agency Responsible	Code Citation and Comments (Code Chapter, date of adoption, name of plan, explanation of authority, etc.)
critical or sensitive areas)				
Growth Management	N			
Floodplain Management / Basin Plan	Y	Federal, State, Local	Planning / Engineering	Chapter 102
Stormwater Management Plan/Ordinance	Y	Local	Planning / Engineering	Chapter 93
Comprehensive Plan / Master Plan	Y	Local	Planning / Engineering	1994 Comprehensive Master Plan, update ongoing
Capital Improvements Plan	N			
Site Plan Review Requirements	Y	Local	Planning	
Habitat Conservation Plan	N			
Economic Development Plan	N			
Emergency Response Plan	N			
Post Disaster Recovery Plan	N			
Post Disaster Recovery Ordinance	N			
Real Estate Disclosure req.	Y	State		NYS mandate
Other (e.g. steep slope ordinance, local waterfront revitalization plan)	Y	Local	Planning / Engineering	Steep slopes
Coastal Erosion Control Districts	N			
Shoreline Management Plan	N			
Sediment Control	Y	Local	Planning / Engineering	Chapter 93
Mutual Aid Plan	Y	County	Police	Mutual Aid Plan in place for entire County

(1) NYS Subdivision laws provide a general framework, but allow room for local ordinances and interpretation.

Administrative and Technical Capability

The table below summarizes potential staff and personnel resources available to the Town of Somers.

Table 9.20-7. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Staff/ Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	Department/ Agency/Position
Planner(s) or Engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Y	Planning / Engineering / Town consulting engineer
Engineer(s) or Professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Y	Building / Engineering
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural	Y	Town consulting engineer

Staff/ Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	Department/ Agency/Position
hazards		
NFIP Floodplain Administrator	N	Supervisor acts as floodplain administrator, but role is officially shared between the Planning Board, Town Engineer, and Building Inspector
Surveyor(s)	N	
Personnel skilled or trained in "GIS" applications	Y	Planning
Scientist familiar with natural hazards in the County.	N	
Emergency Manager	Y	Supervisor
Grant Writer(s)	Y	Town Planner / Supervisor
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	Y	Director of Finance
Professionals trained in conducting damage assessments	Y	Engineering / Finance

Fiscal Capability

The table below summarizes financial resources available to the Town of Somers.

Table 9.20-8. Fiscal Capabilities

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No/Don't Know)
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	No.
Capital Improvements Project Funding	Yes
Authority to Levy Taxes for specific purposes	Yes
User fees for water, sewer, gas or electric service	Yes
Impact Fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes	Yes, but not likely to use for hazard mitigation purposes
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes
Incur debt through special tax bonds	Yes, but not likely to use for hazard mitigation purposes
Incur debt through private activity bonds	Don't know, unlikely to use for hazard mitigation purposes
Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas	No
Federal and State mitigation grant programs	Yes
Other	No

Community Classifications

The table below summarizes classifications for community programs available to the Town of Somers.

Table 9.20-9. Community Classifications

Program	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System (CRS)	NP[iii]	N/A
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	NP	N/A
Public Protection	NP	N/A
Storm Ready	NP[iv]	N/A
Firewise	NP[v]	N/A

N/A = Not applicable. NP = Not participating. - = Unavailable. TBD = To be determined.

The classifications listed above relate to the community's ability to provide effective services to lessen its vulnerability to the hazards identified. These classifications can be viewed as a gauge of the community's capabilities in all phases of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation) and are used as an underwriting parameter for determining the costs of various forms of insurance. The CRS class applies to flood insurance while the BCEGS and Public Protection classifications apply to standard property insurance. CRS classifications range on a scale of 1 to 10 with class 1 being the best possible classification, and class 10 representing no classification benefit. Firewise classifications include a higher classification when the subject property is located beyond 1000 feet of a creditable fire hydrant and is within 5 road miles of a recognized Fire Station.

Criteria for classification credits are outlined in the following documents:

- The Community Rating System Coordinators Manual
- The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule
- The ISO Mitigation online ISO's Public Protection website at http://www.isomitigation.com/ppc/0000/ppc0001.html
- The National Weather Service Storm Ready website at http://www.weather.gov/stormready/howto.htm
- The National Firewise Communities website at http://firewise.org/

National Flood Insurance Program

The following section provides details on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as implemented within the municipality:

NFIP Floodplain Administrator:

Mr. Rick Morrissey, Supervisor is the Floodplain Administrator for Somers, NY. The floodplain administrator responsibilities are delegated to the Planning Board, Engineering Department, and Building Inspector.

Flood Vulnerability Summary

The Town does not maintain lists/inventories of properties that have been damaged by floods. Basement flooding is the most substantial recurring flood problem to structures. Substantial damage estimates were not made by the Floodplain Administrator during Hurricane Sandy or other events. Currently, there are no residents interested in mitigation (elevation or acquisition) in the Town.

Resources

The Floodplain Administrator is supported by the Planning Board, the Engineering Department, and the Building Inspector in assuming the responsibilities of floodplain administration and they feel that they are adequately supported by trained staff to fulfill their responsibilities. The Fire Department and the Highway Superintendent also provide assistance in floodplain administration. Administration services are primarily comprised of permit review and inspections.

The Floodplain Administrator would consider attending or sending members of the Engineering and Building Departments to continuing education and/or certification training on floodplain management. The Town provides outreach to the community regarding flood hazards/risk, flood risk reduction through NFIP insurance, mitigation, etc. through the form of pamphlets prepared by outside agencies.

Compliance History

The Floodplain Administrator did not provide information regarding compliance history.

Regulatory

The Town's floodplain management regulations/ordinances exceed the FEMA and State minimum requirements in some cases but only meet the minimum NFIP standards in others. For example, all non-residential construction and substantial improvement in Zone AE is required to be elevated to the base flood elevation plus two feet, greater than the plus one foot mandated by the State and the plus zero feet mandated by the NFIP. The Town also has a cumulative substantial damage regulation as described in Table 9-20.6 above. However, for residential construction the floodplain management regulations only require elevation of the lowest floor to the BFE or higher. This is consistent with the NFIP but inconsistent with the State mandate of two feet of freeboard.

There are additional local ordinances, plans and programs that support floodplain management and meet the NFIP requirements. The community has not considered joining the CRS program.

Integration of Hazard Mitigation into Existing and Future Planning Mechanisms

For a community to succeed in reducing long-term risk, hazard mitigation must be integrated into the day-to-day local government operations. As part of this planning effort, each community was surveyed to obtain a better understanding of their community's progress in plan integration. A summary is provided below. In addition, the community identified specific integration activities that will be incorporated into municipal procedures.

Planning

Upon adoption, this hazard mitigation plan will be made available to applicable Town departments as a planning tool to be used in conjunction with existing documents and regulations. It is expected that revisions to other Town plans and regulations such as the Comprehensive Plan, department annual budgets, and the Town code may reference this plan and its updates. The Supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the actions identified in this hazard mitigation plan are incorporated into ongoing Town planning activities, and that the information and requirements of this hazard mitigation plan are incorporated into existing planning documents within five years from the date of adoption or when other plans are updated, whichever is sooner. Refer to Table 9.20.10 for a cross-reference of which plans and regulations may be most important for updating relative to this hazard mitigation plan.

Table 9.20-10. Plans and Regulations to be potentially updated

Regulation or Plan	Status Relative to Hazard Mitigation Plan	Responsible Party
Comprehensive Plan	A major revision of this plan is ongoing and, if possible, will incorporate elements of this hazard mitigation plan	Planning Board

The Supervisor will be responsible for assigning appropriate Town officials to update portions of the Comprehensive Plan and the Town Code to include the provisions from this Plan if it is determined that such updates are appropriate. However, should a general revision be too cumbersome or cost prohibitive, simple addendums to these documents may be added that include the provisions of this hazard mitigation plan.

Regulatory and Enforcement

Local legislation is used to decrease future flooding risk and to mitigate other hazards. As discussed above, Somers's code exceeds the NFIP and State minimum standards in some areas, but does not exceed the State minimum standards in others. The Building Department is in charge of enforcing building codes including the NFIP regulations. The Planning Board and Engineering Department enforce the NFIP regulations during the

planning and site plan development phase of projects. Utilities are required to be underground in certain types of new development.

The Planning Department reviews all subdivision and site-plan (non-residential) applications submitted to the Planning Board. The Planning Department is also responsible for maintaining and updating the Town's Comprehensive Master Plan, coordinating MS4 permit activities, carrying out the Town's SEQRA responsibilities, and managing the Town's GIS system.

Chapter 93 of the Town code regulates drainage in the community. Drainage considerations are addressed prior to construction as part of the site plan review process. The New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual and the New York Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control are the official guides and specifications for stormwater management. The Somers Engineering Department reviews all new subdivision and site plan (non-residential) and environmental permit applications submitted to the Planning Board. The Engineering Department determines if environmental permits are necessary to protect environmentally sensitive lands such as wetlands, wetland buffers, and steep slopes. The Engineering Department also conducts oversight of all projects during the construction phase from the first earth moving to the point of incorporating new infrastructure (roads, drainage facilities) into the jurisdiction of the town. The Engineering Department also oversees the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program.

Operational and Administration

The Somers Emergency Preparedness Committee is in charge of preparedness activities in the town. Somers uses an emergency notification system powered by "CodeRed", and encourages residents to signup via the town website. The Heritage Hills Activity Center is the town shelter. Dry ice and water is made available to residents during extended power outages. The Town website also provides information about preparing for emergencies and mitigating food spoilage during power outages. Information is also broadcast on the local government access cable channel (Channel 12). Somers trains to implement the federal evacuation plan for the Indian Power Plant and the County action plan.

All first responders receive training appropriate to their roles and responsibilities, including appropriate response procedures to respond to events involving hazardous materials. The Building Department staff continually attend training regarding building code updates and floodplain regulations. The State will adopt new building and fire codes in 2014. Other town employees also receive training appropriate to their roles and responsibilities.

The Somers Highway Department conducts maintenance of drainage systems and clears bridges and culverts of debris to ensure proper conveyance of stormwater as needed. Town Engineering staff intermittently review the need to install new drainage systems or upsize existing drainage systems.

Somers staff continuously identifies hazardous/dangerous trees and branches and removes them or encourages the property owner to remove them. Somers staff also coordinate with local utilities regarding tree cutting along utility right-of-ways. Somers staff encourage "power line friendly" tree plantings near power lines that will not grow to interfere with overhead utilities.

The Town of Somers has three water districts and one sewer district that are operated by the Water & Sewer Department. The Water Districts are located in Amawalk-Shenorock, Amawalk Heights, and Windsor Farms.

Fiscal

The Town believes it has a moderate fiscal capability to enact hazard mitigation projects. Projects will be added to the capital improvement plan and funded as possible. Grant funding is believed necessary to cost-justify several capital projects listed in Section 9.20.6.

Education and Outreach

The Somers Fire Department provides regular educational programs to children and adults throughout the community. Many of these programs discuss mitigating the effects of natural hazards.

Somers staff routinely distribute literature and pamphlets developed by outside agencies regarding mitigating the effects of a variety of natural hazards. The information is distributed via public locations such as at the Town Hall, Senior Center, and civic organization centers.

9.20.6 Mitigation Strategy and Prioritization

This section discusses past mitigations actions and status, describes proposed hazard mitigation initiatives, and prioritization.

Past Mitigation Initiative Status

The Town of Somers has no prior mitigation strategy.

Completed Mitigation Initiatives not Identified in the Previous Mitigation Strategy

The Town of Somers has not identified any additional mitigation projects/activities that have been completed, are planned, or on-going within the municipality.

Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives for the Plan Update

The Town of Somers identified mitigation initiatives they would like to pursue in the future. Some of these initiatives may be previous actions carried forward for this plan. These initiatives are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in municipal priorities. Table 9.20-11 identifies the municipality's updated local mitigation strategy.

As discussed in Section 6, 14 evaluation/prioritization criteria are used to complete the prioritization of mitigation initiatives. For each new mitigation action, a numeric rank is assigned (-1, 0, or 1) for each of the 14 evaluation criteria to assist with prioritizing actions as 'High', 'Medium', or 'Low.' Table 9.20-12 below summarizes the evaluation of each mitigation initiative, listed by Action Number.

Table 9.20-10. Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Initiative	Mitigation Initiative	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Goals Met	Lead and Support Agencies	Estimated Benefits	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline	Priority	Mitigation Category	CRS Category
TS-1	Encourage or require the construction of two modes of egress for all new subdivisions	New	All Hazards	1	Planning / Engr.	Medium	Low	N/A	Short	High	LPR	PR
TS-2	Prepare Emergency Action Plan, including dam failure analysis, for Lake Shenorock Dam	Existing	Flooding	1,3	Engr.	Medium	Medium	N/A	Short	Low	EAP	ES
TS-3	Upgrade undersized drainage systems on Brick Hill Road, Pines Bridge Road, and Annarock Drive	Existing	Flooding	2	Highway / Engr.	Low	High	HMA	DOF	Low	SIP	SP
TS-4	Encourage the State to upgrade or install drainage systems on Route 6 to eliminate icing issues	Existing	Winter Storms	2	Town Board / Engr.	Low	Low	N/A	Short	Medium	SIP	SP
TS-5	Determine areas suitable for extension of public water supply for firefighting	Existing	Wildfire	2	Fire Dept., Water & Sewer	Low	Low	N/A	Short	High	EAP	PI
TS-6	Update Chapter 102 of Town Code to require elevation to BFE+2 for all new construction or substantial improvement	New	Flooding	2	Planning Board / Engr.	Medium	Low	N/A	Short	Medium	LPR	PR
TS-7	Identify locations where generators are needed and pursue fixed or portable generators to provide emergency power to these facilities	Existing	All Hazards	1	Emer. Mgmt. / Town Board	Medium	Medium	PDM, HMGP	Short / DOF	Medium	EAP	ES
TS-8	Evaluate potential flood mitigation options at Moseman Avenue near North Lane	Existing	Flooding	2,4	Engr.	Low	Low	N/A	Short	Medium	EAP	PI
TS-9	Evaluate potential flood mitigation options at Mahopac Avenue crossing of Muscoot River	Existing	Flooding	2,4	Engr.	Low	Low	N/A	Short	Medium	EAP	PI
TS-10	Incorporate hazard mitigation plan information into Comprehensive Plan	Existing	All Hazards	3	Super. / Planning Board	Low	Low	N/A	OG	Medium	EAP	PI
TS-11	Purchase a small truck to be used to reduce the risk of further damage and loss of function from flooding and other hazards.	Existing	All Hazards	2	Police	Medium	Medium	N/A	DOF (Short)	High	SIP	PP
TS-12	Install backup generator at Town Hall	Existing	All Hazards	1,5	Supervisor	Medium	Medium	HMA	DOF (Short)	High	SIP	ES
TS-13	Promote and support non-structural flood hazard mitigation alternatives for at risk properties within the floodplain, including those that have been identified as Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL), such as acquisition/relocation or elevation depending on feasibility. The parameters for this initiative would be: funding, benefits versus cost, and willing											

Table 9.20-10. Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Initiative	Mitigation Initiative	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Goals Met	Lead and Support Agencies	Estimated Benefits	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline	Priority	Mitigation Category	CRS Category
	participation of property owners. Specifically identified are properties in the following locations: Watergate Drive											
	See above.	Exiting	Flooding, Severe Storm	G-2, G-3	Municipal NFIP FPA; support from NYS DHSES and FEMA	High - Reduced or eliminated risk to property damage from flooding	High	FEMA or other mitigation grant funding, NFIP flood insurance and ICC; property owner for local match.	Long-term DOF	High	SIP, EAP	PP, ES

Notes:
Not all acronyms and abbreviations defined below are included in the table.
**Does this mitigation initiative reduce the effects of hazards on new and/or existing buildings and/or infrastructure? Not applicable (N/A) is inserted if this does not apply.*

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

CAV	*Community Assistance Visit*
CRS	*Community Rating System*
DPW	*Department of Public Works*
FEMA	*Federal Emergency Management Agency*
FPA	*Floodplain Administrator*
HMA	*Hazard Mitigation Assistance*
N/A	*Not applicable*
NFIP	*National Flood Insurance Program*
OEM	*Office of Emergency Management*

Potential FEMA HMA Funding Sources:

FMA	*Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program*
HMGP	*Hazard Mitigation Grant Program*
PDM	*Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program*
RFC	*Repetitive Flood Claims Grant Program (discontinued in 2015)*
SRL	*Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Program (discontinued in 2015)*

Timeline:

Short	*1 to 5 years*
Long Term	*5 years or greater*
OG	*On-going program*
DOF	*Depending on funding*

Costs:
Where actual project costs have been reasonably estimated:

Low	*< $10,000*
Medium	*$10,000 to $100,000*
High	*> $100,000*

Where actual project costs cannot reasonably be established at this time:

Low	*Possible to fund under existing budget. Project is part of, or can be part of an existing on-going program.*
Medium	*Could budget for under existing work plan, but would require a reapportionment of the budget or a budget amendment, or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.*

Benefits:
Where possible, an estimate of project benefits (per FEMA's benefit calculation methodology) has been evaluated against the project costs, and is presented as:

Low=	*< $10,000*
Medium	*$10,000 to $100,000*
High	*> $100,000*

Where numerical project benefits cannot reasonably be established at this time:

Low	*Long-term benefits of the project are difficult to quantify in the short term.*
Medium	*Project will have a long-term impact on the reduction of risk exposure to life and property, or project will provide an immediate reduction in the risk exposure to property.*

Costs:

High — *Would require an increase in revenue via an alternative source (i.e., bonds, grants, fee increases) to implement. Existing funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project.*

Benefits:

High — *Project will have an immediate impact on the reduction of risk exposure to life and property.*

Mitigation Category:

- *Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) – These actions include government authorities, policies or codes that influence the way land and buildings are being developed and built.*
- *Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP)- These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also involves projects to construct manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards.*
- *Natural Systems Protection (NSP) – These are actions that minimize damage and losses, and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.*
- *Education and Awareness Programs (EAP) – These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. These actions may also include participation in national programs, such as StormReady and Firewise Communities*

CRS Category:

- *Preventative Measures (PR) - Government, administrative or regulatory actions, or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. Examples include planning and zoning, floodplain local laws, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and storm water management regulations.*
- *Property Protection (PP) - These actions include public activities to reduce hazard losses or actions that involve (1) modification of existing buildings or structures to protect them from a hazard or (2) removal of the structures from the hazard area. Examples include acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, storm shutters, and shatter-resistant glass.*
- *Public Information (PI) - Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Such actions include outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and educational programs for school-age children and adults.*
- *Natural Resource Protection (NR) - Actions that minimize hazard loss and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration and preservation.*
- *Structural Flood Control Projects (SP) - Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard. Such structures include dams, setback levees, floodwalls, retaining walls, and safe rooms.*
- *Emergency Services (ES) - Actions that protect people and property during and immediately following a disaster or hazard event. Services include warning systems, emergency response services, and the protection of essential facilities*

Table 9.20-11. Summary of Prioritization of Actions

Mitigation Action/Project Number	Mitigation Action/Initiative	Life Safety	Property Protection	Cost-Effectiveness	Technical	Political	Legal	Fiscal	Environmental	Social	Administrative	Multi-Hazard	Timeline	Agency Champion	Other Community Objectives	Total	High / Medium / Low
TS-1	Encourage or require the construction of two modes of egress for all new subdivisions	1	-1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	8	High
TS-2	Prepare Emergency Action Plan, including dam failure analysis, for Lake Shenorock Dam	1	-1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	-1	-1	1	0	0	2	Low
TS-3*	Upgrade undersized drainage systems on Brick Hill Road, Pines Bridge Road, and Annarock Drive	-1	0	-1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	-1	1	1	0	3	Low
TS-4	Encourage the State to upgrade or install drainage systems on Route 6 to eliminate icing issues	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	-1	1	0	0	4	Medium
TS-5	Determine areas suitable for extension of public water supply for firefighting	0	-1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	-1	1	1	1	7	High
TS-6	Update Chapter 102 of Town Code to require elevation to BFE+2 for all new construction or substantial improvement	0	1	1	1	-1	1	1	0	0	1	-1	1	-1	0	4	Medium
TS-7	Identify locations where generators are needed and pursue fixed or portable generators to provide emergency power to these facilities	0	-1	0	1	0	1	-1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	Medium
TS-8	Evaluate potential flood mitigation options at Moseman Avenue near North Lane	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	-1	1	1	1	4	Medium
TS-9	Evaluate potential flood mitigation options at Mahopac Avenue crossing of Muscoot River	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	-1	1	1	1	4	Medium
TS-10	Incorporate hazard mitigation plan information into Comprehensive Plan	-1	-1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	-1	0	4	Medium
TS-11	Purchase a small truck to be used to reduce the risk of further damage and loss of function from flooding and other hazards.	1	0	-1	1	1	1	-1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	7	High
TS-12*	Install backup generator at Town Hall	0	-1	0	1	1	1	-1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	6	High
TS-13	Promote and support non-structural flood hazard mitigation alternatives for at risk properties within the	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	8	High

Table 9.20-11. Summary of Prioritization of Actions

Mitigation Action/Project Number	Mitigation Action/Initiative	Life Safety	Property Protection	Cost-Effectiveness	Technical	Political	Legal	Fiscal	Environmental	Social	Administrative	Multi-Hazard	Timeline	Agency Champion	Other Community Objectives	Total	High / Medium / Low
	floodplain, including those that have been identified as Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)																

Note: Refer to Section 6 which contains the guidance on conducting the prioritization of mitigation actions.

9.20.7 Future Needs To Better Understand Risk/Vulnerability

None at this time.

9.20.8 Hazard Area Extent and Location

Hazard area extent and location maps have been generated for the Town of Somers that illustrate the probable areas impacted within the municipality. These maps are based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this plan, and are considered to be adequate for planning purposes. Maps have only been generated for those hazards that can be clearly identified using mapping techniques and technologies, and for which the Town of Somers has significant exposure. These maps are illustrated in the hazard profiles within Section 5.4, Volume I of this Plan.

9.20.9 Additional Comments

None at this time.

Figure 9.20-1. Town of Somers Hazard Area Extent and Location Map

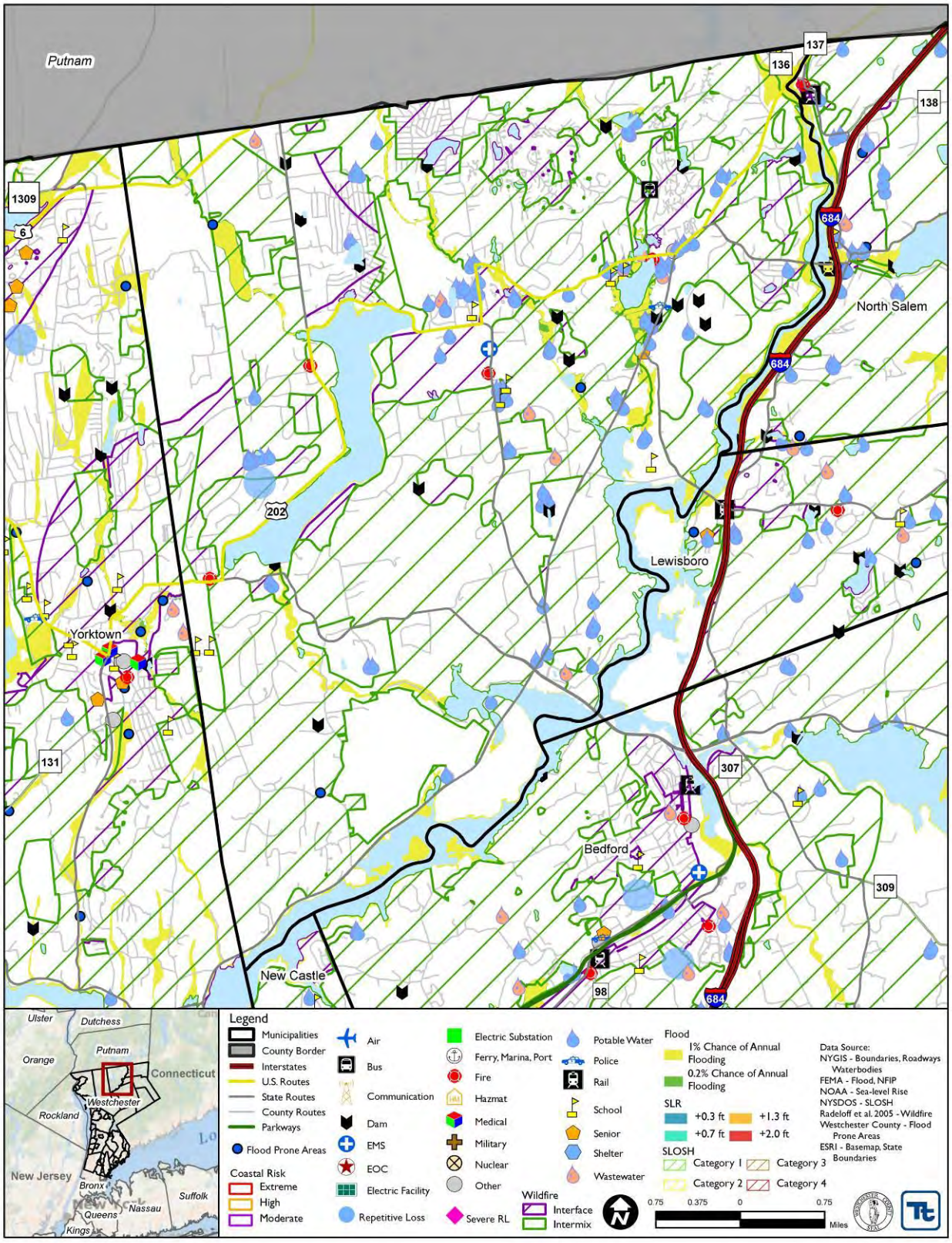
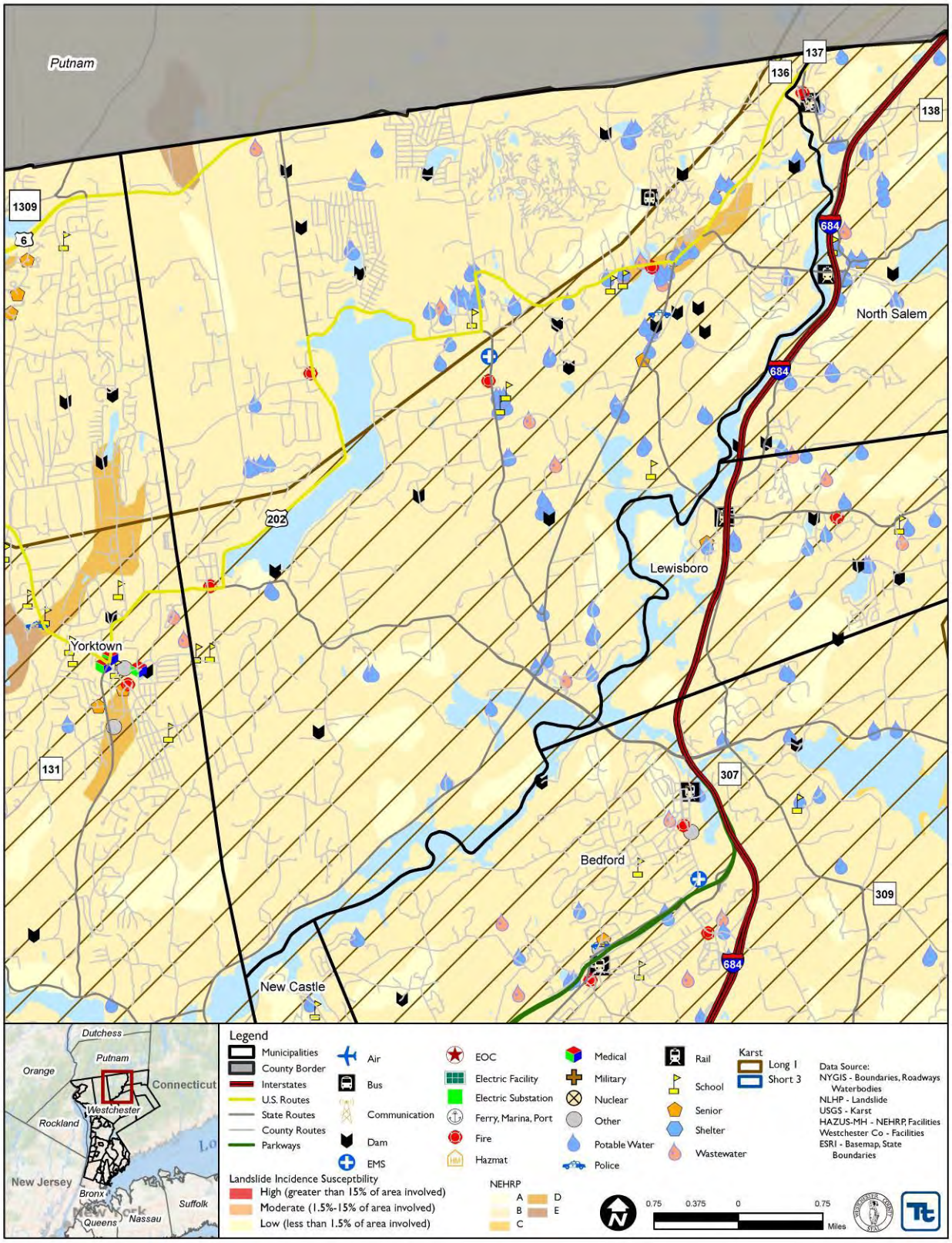


Figure 9.20-2. Town of Somers Hazard Area Extent and Location Map



Name of Jurisdiction: Town of Somers, Somers
Action Number: TS-3
Action Name: Drainage system improvements

Assessing the Risk	
Hazard(s) addressed:	Flooding
Specific problem being mitigated:	Drainage systems are undersized on Brick Hill Road, Pines Bridge Road near Route 35, and Annarock Drive.
Evaluation of Potential Actions/Projects	
Actions/Projects Considered (name of project and reason for not selecting):	1. No action – Drainage systems will continue to be overwhelmed, accumulate damage, and pose risk to roadways and nearby properties – not preferred
	2.
	3.
Action/Project Intended for Implementation	
Description of Selected Action/Project	The Town plans to upgrade the drainage systems at the three locations identified above by upsizing culverts, etc.
Mitigation Action/Project Type	SIP
Objectives Met	2
Applies to existing structures/infrastructure, future, or not applicable	Existing
Benefits (losses avoided)	Low
Estimated Cost	High
Priority*	*Low*
Plan for Implementation	
Responsible Organization	Town of Somers, Highway Department
Local Planning Mechanism	The administration of this action will be added to the Highway Department work plan
Potential Funding Sources	HMGP; Local Match
Timeline for Completion	DOF (Short duration preferred)
Reporting on Progress	
Date of Status Report/ Report of Progress	Date: Progress on Action/Project:

*** Refer to results of Prioritization (page 2)**

Action Number: TS-3
Action Name: Drainage system improvements

Criteria	Numeric Rank (-1, 0, 1)	Provide brief rationale for numeric rank when appropriate
Life Safety	-1	Not identified as a life safety issue
Property Protection	0	Potentially a property protection issue
Cost-Effectiveness	-1	Estimated benefits are less than estimated costs
Technical	1	Project is technically feasible and a long-term solution
Political	1	Political will to implement project (similar recent projects)
Legal	1	Town-owned infrastructure
Fiscal	0	Grant funding necessary to expedite projects
Environmental	0	No significant environmental benefit or impact
Social	0	Benefit to neighborhoods
Administrative	1	Town can administer project
Multi-Hazard	-1	Flooding
Timeline	1	Short duration preferred
Agency Champion	1	The Highway Department is a champion for this project
Other Community Objectives	0	
Total	3	
Priority (High/Med/Low)	Low	Relative to other actions for Somers

Name of Jurisdiction: Town of Somers, Somers
Action Number: TS-12; LOI #1806
Action Name: Backup generator and hook up for Town Hall

Assessing the Risk	
Hazard(s) addressed:	All hazards
Specific problem being mitigated:	The Somers Town hall has been without power at least 3 times in the last two years for extended period of up to six days. The power outages are typically caused by severe weather. The ability of the Town to serve residents during emergency situations is severely hampered by the lack of backup power.
Evaluation of Potential Actions/Projects	
Actions/Projects Considered (name of project and reason for not selecting):	1. No action – Town Hall will continue to operate at minimum efficiency during power outages – not acceptable to Town
	2.
	3.
Action/Project Intended for Implementation	
Description of Selected Action/Project	Installation of a generator hooked up to the Town Hall so that it will automatically go on in the event of a power failure. Electricity will allow the Town offices to function and continue to serve the residents in an emergency.
Mitigation Action/Project Type	SIP
Objectives Met	1,5
Applies to existing structures/infrastructure, future, or not applicable	Existing
Benefits (losses avoided)	Medium
Estimated Cost	$60,000 (Medium)
Priority*	*High*
Plan for Implementation	
Responsible Organization	Town of Somers, Mary Beth Murphy, Town Supervisor
Local Planning Mechanism	The administration of this action will be added to the Supervisor's work plan
Potential Funding Sources	HMGP; Local Match
Timeline for Completion	DOF (Short duration preferred)
Reporting on Progress	
Date of Status Report/ Report of Progress	Date: Progress on Action/Project:

*** Refer to results of Prioritization (page 2)**

Action Number: TS-12; LOI #1806
Action Name: Backup generator and hook up for Town Hall

Criteria	Numeric Rank (-1, 0, 1)	Provide brief rationale for numeric rank when appropriate
Life Safety	0	Indirect benefit to life safety
Property Protection	-1	Not a property protection issue
Cost-Effectiveness	0	Estimated benefits are equivalent to estimated costs
Technical	1	Project is technically feasible and a long-term solution
Political	1	Political will to implement project (letter of interest)
Legal	1	Town-owned facility
Fiscal	-1	Grant funding necessary to implement project
Environmental	0	No significant environmental benefit or impact
Social	1	Benefit to entire community
Administrative	1	Town can administer project
Multi-Hazard	1	All hazards
Timeline	1	Short duration preferred
Agency Champion	1	The Supervisor is a champion for this project
Other Community Objectives	0	
Total	6	
Priority (High/Med/Low)	High	Relative to other actions for Somers

[i] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somers,_New_York

[ii] http://www.somersny.com/Pages/SomersNY_BComm/TownBoard/index

[iii] https://s3-us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/dam-production/uploads/1398878892102-5cbcaa727a635327277d834491210fec/CRS_Communites_May_1_2014.pdf

[iv] http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/com-maps/ny-com.htm

[v] http://submissions.nfpa.org/firewise/fw_communities_list.php