

**Brandon Select Board Meeting**  
**August 22, 2022**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Brandon Select Board will meet Monday, August 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall located at 1 Conant Square expecting to consider the items noted on this agenda. Agendas shall be posted on the community bulletin board located at the Town Office at 49 Center Street and on the community bulletin board located at the Junction Store & Deli at 2265 Forest Dale Road. The Select Board reserves the right to add additional items, if necessary, at the beginning of the meeting.

Interested parties may also attend this meeting electronically:

- Video Conference via ZOOM: Meeting ID (253 279 4161)
- Conference call: Dial (929) 205 6099

- 1) Call to Order
  - a) Agenda Adoption
- 2) Approval of Minutes
  - a) Select Board Minutes – August 8, 2022
- 3) Town Manager's Report
- 4) Public Comment and Participation
- 5) Brandon Energy Committee Report and Brief Presentation
- 6) Consider Joining IDEAL Vermont
- 7) Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft Presentation / Discussion
- 8) Fiscal
  - a) Warrant – August 22, 2022 - \$58,882.51
- 9) Adjournment

**Brandon Select Board Meeting  
August 8, 2022**

**NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent board meeting.**

**Board Members In Attendance:** Seth Hopkins, Brian Coolidge, Tim Guiles, Tracy Wyman

**Others in Attendance:** Dave Atherton, Bernie Carr, Wayne Rausenberger, Marielle Blais, Neil Silins, David Roberts, Mat Clouser, Ralph Ethier, Jeff Haylon, Cecil Reniche-Smith

**Other In Attendance Via Zoom:** Richard Jamros, Keith Whitcomb, Bruce Jenson

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Seth Hopkins, Chair at 7:02PM.

***a) Agenda Adoption***

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to adopt the agenda as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Add Item 4a: Consider Letter of Interest for VLCT Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort

**2. Approval of Minutes**

***a) Select Board Meeting Minutes – July 25, 2022***

**Motion** by Tim Guiles/Tracy Wyman to approve the July 25<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting minutes as submitted. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Town Manager's Report**

Dave Atherton provided the following report:

The Local Hazard Mitigation Team has met on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup> to continue work on the new Hazard Mitigation Plan. It was decided to wait until the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Select Board meeting for a presentation to the Select Board.

The pre-construction meeting for the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades was held on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The contractor has started ordering materials and supplies in anticipation of a September 20<sup>th</sup> start date.

A bid opening meeting was held for the 389 Newton Road demolition on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The project was awarded to Above the Best, LLC in the amount of \$8,945.00 (this is not a typo). The demo will be scheduled once the asbestos survey report is received.

The three FRCF funded Newton Road property buyouts are moving forward. The scheduling of closings for 301 and 337 Newton Road is in process. The 17 Burke Park property appraisal was completed and accepted by the owner.

VLCT completed the rest of the property inspections on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be sending the results/recommendations soon.

Mr. Atherton attended the RRPC Hot Topic meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The Town's new LHO Abigail Spiegelman was the presenter and the topic was planning for hot weather in our communities.

Mr. Atherton attended the July 28<sup>th</sup> Rutland Region Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. There was a VTrans presentation on Transportation Equity, which looks at the need for creating better transportation needs in areas that are currently not well connected due to income limits or voids in public transportation and pedestrian accessibility. Mr. Atherton noted the recent Amtrak route going to Burlington was brought up and the void in Brandon was discussed and there may be consideration in requesting a whistle stop in Brandon again.

#### **Rec. News:**

A fantastic 4-day Carnival was enjoyed by the throngs of folks that made their way to Estabrook Park over the weekend ending July 31. Attendance was so good that our amusement company has already committed for the last week in July of 2023. A huge thanks to our sponsors, RRMC, OMYA, Carter Insurance Agency, and Country Village Campground. Super volunteers include Patty Moore, Sue Danforth, Dallas & Jeff Ladd, and Kas Singh. Special thanks to the volunteer efforts of the Brandon Fire Department in providing a light truck to help create a safe parking area.

Pre-season football and soccer camp registrations have opened. Middle school flag football starts August 22<sup>nd</sup>. More offerings including flag football for grades 1-6 and Youth Soccer for grades PreK-6 will be opening soon as their seasons start after the first day of the new school year.

The Brandon Town Hall is playing host to not one, but two different martial arts classes. Sensei Wade Davis will lead folks through a summer and fall session of Aikido and David Belanger will be teaching Jiu-Jitsu.

Mini Cheering camp for grades 1-6 is firing up the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup> with B-Rec Cheer Commissioner, Sarah Whitney. This 4-day camp will prep these participants for a fall season.

Seth Hopkins asked if the Town is nearing the end of the flood resilience applications. Mr. Atherton advised that people could apply for FEMA anytime as long as it is in the flood plain and the Flood Resilience Community Fund is for people outside the flood plain. There will be applications accepted in the fall and in the spring again.

#### **4. Public Comments and Participation**

Brian Coolidge stated the blinking stop lights are a step in the right direction. Dave Atherton advised that the lights cannot remain blinking due to the crosswalks and the reason it is currently blinking is due to being hit by lightning and the parts will be in soon to repair it.

##### ***a) Consider Letter of Interest for VLCT Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort***

Dave Atherton reported the VLCT is choosing 16 municipalities to participate in this cohort that will include DEI training. The cohort will address diversity and equity as it is recognized that towns need to create items in a fair and equitable fashion. Currently Bill Moore, Sue Gage and he are on the Town's DEI Board and Mr. Atherton recommended Mr. Moore and Ms. Gage be the representatives for the Town in this effort. The Town is allowed two representatives and the VLCT's preference is for the representatives to have continuity in their positions with some distance of service. Tim Guiles was pleased the Town is going to apply to be part of this cohort and noted he has done some training on racial equity and would like to be involved in the cohort. He noted that he is on a three-year election cycle and his term is beyond 2023.

**Motion** by Tracy Wyman/Brian Coolidge to approve the draft letter of interest to be submitted with the application and recommend Bill Moore and Sue Gage to be the Town's representatives to participate in the VLCT's Welcoming and Engaging Cohort. **The motion passed unanimously.**

It was noted that the application, to be signed by municipal officers, is due by the end of August and requires a letter of interest also be submitted by the Select Board. Mr. Guiles noted that he would like to be involved in the cohort but was sure that Mr. Moore and Ms. Gage would do a good job. Mr. Hopkins asked the Town Manager to thank Mr. Moore and Ms. Gage for their participation in this effort.

#### **5. Consider Bond Anticipation Note Approval to Increase Loan from \$1,000,000 to \$3,780,000 per USDA Requirements**

Dave Atherton advised the line of credit needs to be increased by \$2.7 million as it has to reflect what is being borrowed for construction. This is a technical adjustment to fulfill the requirements of the granting agent.

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to approve the increase in the Bond Anticipation Note Loan from \$1,000,000 to \$3,780,000 per USDA requirements. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **6. Consider Letter of Authorization for WWTF Upgrade Invoice Payments**

Seth Hopkins advised a letter to authorize prompt pay has been drafted for the invoices and pay requisitions for the WWTP upgrade. Dave Atherton reported prompt pay has to meet federal guidelines and is similar to what was done during Segment 6. Aldrich and Elliott, the

construction engineers, will be reviewing the invoices that will then be forwarded to the Town Manager for review and to Jackie Savelle for payment, with the invoices ultimately provided to the Select Board for approval. Neil Silins noted rapid payment is usually 30 days. Mr. Atherton advised subcontractors have to be paid promptly and there are federal guidelines that the contractors are audited for, to assure that subcontractors are paid.

**Motion** by Tracy Wyman/Brian Coolidge to approve the letter of authorization for the WWTF upgrade invoice payments. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## **5. Fiscal**

### ***a) Warrant FY 2022/2023 – August 8, 2022 - \$198,425.13***

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to approve the 2022/2023 warrant in the amount of \$198,425.13. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seth Hopkins read the following Notice of Closure for the Arnold District Road: The Arnold District Road will be closed to through traffic starting Monday, September 5, 2022, for the installation of a box culvert over the Arnold Brook. The Road will be closed at the intersection of Adams Road to approximately 500 north of said intersection. Vehicles are to use Cram Road in Leicester as the detour. The anticipated completion date is September 30, 2022, at which time the road will be re-opened for through traffic. Dave Atherton advised the box culvert has to be installed. He has sent notices to all landowners near Adams Road north and to the towns of Leicester and Whiting. This project is funded with a VTrans Class 2 Structures grant and the match will be funded with the Local Options Tax fund and the Town has a paving grant to do the paving next spring.

Seth Hopkins reported Michael Markowski has submitted his resignation from the Select Board. Mr. Hopkins noted the Board appreciates his terms of service and the Board will solicit letters of interest from Brandon citizens to fill this vacancy until March 2023. The letters of interest will be due by the next Select Board meeting and can be submitted to the Town Manager or any of the Select Board members.

Mr. Atherton stated Sue Gage wanted to remind all that the Primary will be held at the Brandon American Legion tomorrow from 10AM to 7PM.

The Select Board recessed at 7:26PM.

The Select Board reconvened at 7:34PM.

**Motion** by Seth Hopkins/Tracy Wyman to find that premature general public knowledge of the proposed modification of the ratified collective bargaining agreement with the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 422 would place the Town, the Select Board, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion** by Tracy Wyman/Seth Hopkins to enter into executive session at 7:35PM to consider a side letter to the Police Union contract under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. 313(3)(a)(1) to include the Town Manager. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **6. Executive Session**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:05PM.

There were no actions required.

#### **11. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:05PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant  
Recording Secretary



## Brandon Energy Committee

### Six Month Report to Select Board

August, 2022

The energy committee met monthly with a focus on accomplishing goals we set at the start of the fiscal year. We had established 20 goals based upon the interests of our five member team. As of the close of the fiscal year we had accomplished eight of these goals, abandon three, and carried nine into our next fiscal year.

Our most notable accomplished goals included supporting SolarFest in selecting Brandon as their home base, supporting a successful Davenport Electric Fest, participation in the July 4th parade, and establishing routine of educational articles in The Reporter.

We were called upon to support the town in evaluating the 2.2 mW solar project that MHG Solar proposed for the town as well as the advisability of securing an electric police cruiser. We believe the due diligence effort we mustered on these projects served the town well.

We put a good deal of effort into learning about options for solar installations for the town and its residents. The regulations affecting these options have been going through frequent changes. At this moment new attractive possibilities have arisen with the new federal Inflation Reduction Act and we will soon see how Brandon and its residents can benefit from this new environment. We are hopeful we can support a community solar program to Brandon in the coming year or two.

We also focussed on establishing a way to evaluate the status of the town, its residents and businesses with respect to the State goals for reducing green house gas emissions and shifting to reliance on renewable energy sources. We are finalizing plans for conducting surveys of the residents and businesses in town that we intend to implement during the course of this year.

We expanded our committee membership to seven, and as of now have developed four working groups to work as teams. Our Conservation, Generation and Transportation teams are comprised of two to three energy committee members and two to three volunteers. Our Education Working Group is comprised of all energy committee members and any of our seven volunteers who can attend our regular committee meetings. We have adopted this approach as working in teams has proven to be more effective and because we have so much we are striving to accomplish.

We appreciate the support of the Select Board in our ongoing efforts and stand ready to support any priorities you may request us to attend to.

Jim Emerson, Chair



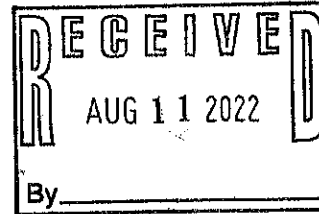


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*Kristin L. Clouser, Secretary*

Monday August 08, 2022



SENT VIA E-MAIL AND POST  
David Atherton  
Brandon Town Manager  
49 Center Street  
Brandon, VT 05733

Dear David,

As we transition from such an eventful and uncertain last few years, the demand for meaningful, lasting change is stronger than ever. To meet that demand and continue moving Vermont forward, the state is launching a new initiative called **IDEAL Vermont** and we are writing to invite Brandon to consider its readiness to join the inaugural cohort.

IDEAL Vermont stands for something—and so do its members. “IDEAL” stands for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, and Leadership. This initiative creates a coalition of Vermont municipalities dedicated to advancing racial and other forms of equity across the state through shared learning and tangible actions. It fosters coordination to multiply, amplify, and build synergy across the state. Brandon has been identified for this opportunity because it has demonstrated a willingness to confront and overcome inequity, including racial/ethnic inequity, through actions such as the adoption of the Declaration of Inclusion.

As you know, the movement for justice is sweeping the globe—natural disasters, justice reform, re-envisioning workplaces, student success in schools, placemaking and community-building... Inequity intensifies all these challenges and creates heightened urgency for collaboration and unified action. Clearly there is no time to lose. Local, state, federal, and community leaders across Vermont have worked hard in recent years to increase awareness and enact policy to make Vermont more equitable for all. In some parts of the state, these efforts have been met with resistance and even violence. In others, leaders and residents have stepped up in recognition of the myriad benefits and moral imperatives of pursuing more equity. This is why we are going all-in on IDEAL Vermont—it holds the promise of unique collaboration across municipalities and counties to harness the transformative energy that is already building throughout our state.

Part of this transformative energy comes is driven by our partners, who have committed to embedding equity and inclusion in their internal policies and their external programs. Those key partners include

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Vermont League of Cities & Towns, Vermont Community Foundation, Abundant Sun, and Vermont Council on Rural Development.

The official launch date for IDEAL Vermont is October 26<sup>th</sup>. On this day, we will hold a convening to bring the member municipalities together. At this convening, we will review the initiative's objectives, identify resources, and develop concrete action steps for municipalities to take. After that, municipalities will engage in regular in-person convenings throughout the year to share progress, troubleshoot issues, learn more about equity work, and offer mutual support. In addition to the regular convenings, municipalities will have access to a resource library to guide their work and technical assistance from relevant state agencies. Member municipalities will also be eligible to apply for small grants of up to \$10,000 each year.

We are hopeful that Brandon will join in this impactful and necessary work. **Please reply to this invitation no later than Monday September 12<sup>th</sup>.** I have enclosed a factsheet with more information about the initiative and will make myself available to discuss the program with you or other Brandon leaders as you consider this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "XR Davis". The "XR" is stylized and the "Davis" is written in a cursive script.

Xusana R. Davis, Esq.  
Executive Director Racial Equity  
State of Vermont  
Xusana.Davis@vermont.gov

Vermont's communities become more diverse every day. As part of this growth, municipalities around the state and the country are recognizing the need to prioritize equity and social justice. Already, dozens of Vermont's communities have taken steps to be more inclusive.



15

municipalities represented on the Equity Committee of the VT League of Cities & Towns

20

VT school districts known to have an Equity Coordinator role as of school year '21-'22

61

municipalities that have adopted a Declaration of Inclusion as of July '22

**IDEAL VERMONT WAS CREATED TO BRIDGE THE EFFORTS OF INDIVIDUAL TOWNS AND COUNTIES ACROSS THE STATE TO BUILD COHESION, MOTIVATION, AND SUCCESS.**

## LEARNING TOPICS WILL INCLUDE

- foundations of racial equity
- tourism
- MWBEs
- housing
- health equity
- anti-bias policy
- school curriculum
- fair and impartial policing
- data, planning, strategy
- environmental justice

Access to grant funding

Convenings + Workshops

Technical assistance from state agencies

Data sharing + coaching

Online Platform + resource library

Guided by a multi-disciplinary team of state agencies, IDEAL Vermont helps local leaders advance equity in their communities through workshops, technical assistance, grant opportunities, and facilitated spaces to share with and learn from peers around the state.

## Join Us

The initiative unifies, educates, and empowers counties and municipalities that are committed to making Vermont more inclusive and more equitable. Member municipalities hold themselves to a high standard of good governance, and are willing to learn and un-learn the practices that can make or break an equitable society.

Your town may be a candidate if it can deliver

- Commitment from the local executive
- Commitment from the local rulemaking body
- Regular, active engagement in IDEAL activities
- Tangible action steps and investment

Brandon, Vermont  
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan



January 2019 Flooding on Newton Road

FEMA Approval Pending Adoption Date:  
Municipal Adoption Date:  
FEMA Formal Approval Date:

**Prepared by the Brandon Hazard Mitigation Planning Team**

David Atherton, Town Manager/Emergency Management Director

Raymond Counter, Fire District No 1 Water Superintendent

Shawn Erickson, Road Foreman

Tim Kingston, Wastewater System Operator

Abigail Spiegelman, Resident/Vermont Department of Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist

**Technical Assistance by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission**



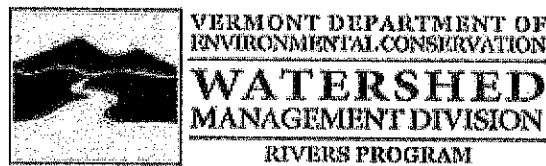
**Other Key Partners**

Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District

Western Vermont Floodplain Manager

Vermont Department of Health

Vermont Agency of Transportation District 3 Program Manager



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

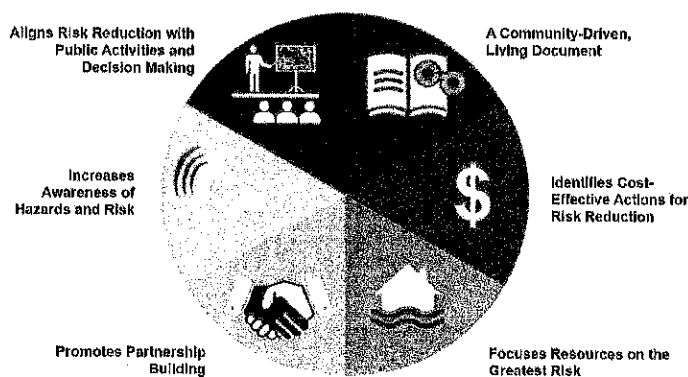
The impact of expected, but unpredictable natural events can be reduced through community planning and action. The goal of this Plan is to provide a natural hazards local mitigation strategy that makes Brandon (the Town) more disaster resistant and more resilient after a disaster.

Hazard Mitigation is any sustained policy or action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. FEMA and state agencies have come to recognize that it is less expensive to prevent disasters than to repeatedly repair damage after a disaster has struck. This Plan recognizes that communities have opportunities to identify mitigation strategies and measures during all the other phases of Emergency Management – Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Hazards cannot be eliminated, but it is possible to determine what the hazards are, where the hazards are most severe, and identify local actions and policies that can be implemented to reduce the severity of the hazard.

## 2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plan is to assist the Town in identifying all natural hazards facing the community, ranking them according to local vulnerabilities, and developing strategies to reduce risks from those hazards. Once adopted, this Plan is not legally binding; instead, it outlines goals and actions to prevent future loss of life and property.

The benefits of mitigation planning include:



Source: FEMA LHMP Skill Share Workshop 2021

***Furthermore, the Town seeks to be in accordance with the strategies, goals, and objectives of the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan.***

## 3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Land Use and Development Patterns

Brandon is located at the north-central border of Rutland County. It is considered a "sub-regional center" between Middlebury to the north and Rutland City to the south.

Brandon contains a distinct, historic downtown or 'village' area that straddles the Neshobe River. In or adjacent to the Designated Downtown, there are four greens, four churches, municipal buildings, a variety of stores, offices, restaurants, and several inns.

Another long-standing cluster of development exists northeast of downtown in Forest Dale. There, businesses, the town's elementary school, two churches, the Senior Citizen's Center, a golf course, and two general stores are interspersed with residential development, much of which is historic.

Northwest of the downtown is Park Village, a campus of mixed business and residential uses. It is adjacent to the Industrial Park.

These clusters of development are surrounded by generally open, rural, and forested land with residential and non-residential uses.

### Land Features

Brandon's landscape is one of extremes. Elevations range from 357 feet at the downstream extent of Otter Creek in the northwest part of town to a 2,345 feet peak in the Green Mountains – the most dominant land feature along the town's eastern border.

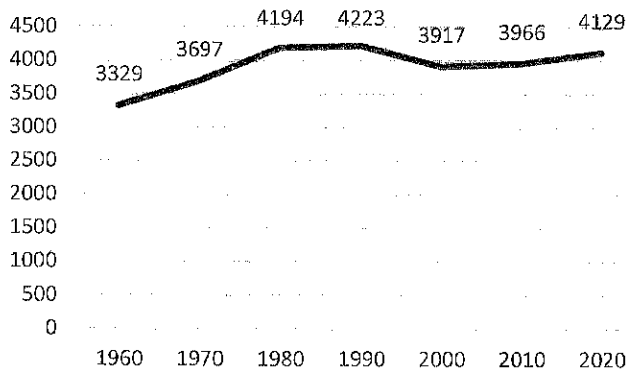


The northeast corner of Brandon is characterized by the distinct Brandon Gap along Route 73, which provides the only paved access from Brandon to Goshen and Rochester.

The south-central and western portions of town are within the Champlain Lowland and dominated by the Otter Creek Valley.

### Demographics and Growth Potential

The 2020 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau shows an estimated population of 4,129 and 1,914 housing units. Brandon has had relatively stable population since 1980.



Between 2010 and 2020, the median age of Brandon residents increased from 41.9 to 49.7; higher than the Vermont median age of 42.8. The portion of the population over 65 is 21%, compared to 19% in Vermont and 16% in the country. The population density of the Town is 100 people per square mile compared to an overall state density of 68.

***On the heels of significant infrastructure improvements, the Town of Brandon is positioned to experience intentional and sustainable growth.***

Improvements to the municipal water supply have helped ensure water quality and capacity for potential residents and businesses. Proactive actions to mitigate climate change impacts related to flooding, such as improvements to stormwater systems and upgrades to the wastewater treatment system, contribute to the Town's potential for growth.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, Brandon's state Downtown Designation, uncomplicated tax stabilization policy, and relatively development-friendly zoning regulations and land use ordinances make it a desirable choice for developers.

As described above (Land Use and Development Patterns), there are four (4) main areas for development - Forest Dale, Park Village, Downtown, and surrounding rural areas.

**Forest Dale:** The largest potential for housing exists adjacent to the last large development - Forestbrook. The pending merger of Brandon Fire District #2 with Brandon Fire District #1 only serves to strengthen potential for more housing along the Route 53 corridor to the Leicester line.

**Park Village:** The site of the shuttered Brandon Training School has become a mixed-used area with residential housing, commercial, and municipal spaces. There is opportunity for rehabilitation of existing buildings in this complex as several are currently underutilized. In addition, there is potential for expansion at the Brandon Industrial lots on Robert Wood Drive in the Deneke Park. Existing three-phase power, water and wastewater services could be extended to future expansions.

**Downtown:** Since Tropical Storm Irene, downtown Brandon has experienced significant change. The Town has aggressively followed the recommendations in the 2015 Vermont Economic Resiliency Initiative report, including FEMA buyouts and development of an overflow structure to divert floodwaters from inundating downtown buildings and US Route 7. Immediate residential housing potential exists in rehabilitation/repurposing of buildings like the former Brandon High School and Brandon Lumber along with a handful of single-family units awaiting landowner investment to bring back online. There are new construction residential opportunities adjacent to the Neshobe House development and on Mill Lane. Expanding out to the greater downtown area (from Nickerson Road to Steinberg) there are a few lots that have potential for residential development.

Downtown commercial space is at a premium. Currently four (4) commercial buildings are for sale. New commercial development would be infill.

**Rural:** Most development potential in the surrounding rural areas is along US Route 7. There are 72 acres for sale on the east side of Route 7 near Otter Valley Union High School that could be used for either commercial or residential. In addition, there is one (1) existing commercial property for sale and redevelopment on Route 7 north and a few properties are for sale on Route 7 south.

### Precipitation and Water Features

Average annual precipitation is 41 inches of rain; with June being the wettest month. Average annual snowfall is 71 inches; with February being the snowiest month.

The Otter Creek, its many tributaries (Arnold Brook, Jones Brook, Breese Mill Brook), and broad floodplain west of US Route 7 is a dominant water feature. As is the Neshobe River and its tributaries (Leicester Hollow Brook), which flows through Brandon's historic downtown. Sugar Hollow Brook lies east of US Route 7.

Several small ponds are sprinkled throughout Brandon – Sugar Hollow Pond, Burnell Pond, Jones Mill Pond, Spring Pond.

Approximately 22% of Brandon's land area (or 5,500 acres) is Class II wetlands, including the 278-acre Brandon Swamp Wildlife Management Area. These play an important function in water absorption and holding capacity that thereby reduces the hazards of flooding and replenishes groundwater supplies.

### Drinking Water and Sanitary Sewer

Municipal drinking water service and fire protection is provided by Brandon Fire District #1. Fire District #1 serves approximately 1,180 service connections in the villages of Forest Dale and Brandon. The gravity-fed system has three (3) wells, three (3) storage tanks, approximately 27 miles of distribution piping, and 192 fire hydrants. There are seven (7) water main river crossings in the system and portions are in FEMA-mapped floodplain, including Well #1 on Newton Road.

Brandon Fire District #2 is a loop system serving 59 residents in the Forestbrook housing development. Brandon residents not served by the municipal water systems rely on individual drilled wells, springs, or private water systems.

Sanitary sewer service in Brandon is provided by the Town. This system serves 915 customers in and around the villages of Forest Dale and Brandon. The system has 22 miles of sewer line and 7 pump stations. The main treatment plant is located at 500 Union Street. There are 12 sewer main river crossings in the system and the treatment plant and two of the pump stations (Newton Road and Champlain Street) lie within FEMA-mapped floodplain. Brandon residents not served by the municipal system dispose of sewage in on-site systems.

### Transportation

Brandon is 41 square miles in size with primary access via US Route 7, a principal north-south arterial highway, and VT Route 73, a major east-west collector. Average Annual Daily Traffic count on Route 7, especially in the urban compact, is 10,000+ compared to 1,300-4,000 on VT Route 73.

The 2020 VTrans Town Highway data indicates that Brandon has a total of 66.8 municipal road miles: 2.2 miles of Class 1; 16.01 miles of Class 2; 40.24 miles of Class 3; 8.3 miles of Class 4 (or functionally Class 4). Of the total municipal road miles, 10.8 miles are in the urban compact and 82% of these are paved. Fifty-six (56) municipal road miles are outside of the urban compact and only 40% of these are paved.

According to the Town's 2017 road erosion inventory, 89% of Brandon's road mileage is hydrologically connected – meaning it is within 100-feet of a water resource (i.e., stream, wetland, lake, or pond). Proximity to water resources can make these sections of road more vulnerable to flooding and fluvial erosion.

According to the Town's bridge inventory, Brandon has a total of 22 municipal bridges – 9 short structures (6'-20' length) and 13 long structures (>20' length). The town's 13 long structures are inspected every two years by VTrans through the Town Highway Bridge Program.

Brandon has a total of 803 culverts within the municipal road right-of-way, all of which were inventoried in 2017 (an inventory update is being conducted by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission in 2022). Several culverts are listed in critical condition and should be considered for replacement and/or upgrade in accordance with Town Road and Bridge Standards. The local road network is maintained by the municipal highway department, whose garage is located on Champlain Street and lies within FEMA-mapped floodplain.

#### Electric Utility Distribution System

Electric service to approximately 2,190 accounts is provided by Green Mountain Power via several circuits. Average annual outage statistics between 2017 and 2021 are summarized in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Power Outage Summary**

<b>Average Annual (2017-2021)</b>	
Avg # of times a customer was without power in a year	0.76
Avg length of each outage in hours	1.63
# of hours the typical customer was without power	1.24
<b>2021 only</b>	
Avg # of times a customer was without power in a year	1.86
Avg length of each outage in hours	1.60
# of hours the typical customer was without power	2.98

The longest power outage affecting the greatest number of accounts between 2017 and 2021 was 4.3 hours and impacted 652 accounts. An outage lasting 11.8 hours occurred in 2021 that affected only 1 account.

#### Public Safety

Fire protection is provided by the Brandon Fire Department, an all-volunteer organization. The Fire Department is a member of both Rutland County and Addison County mutual aid programs. Law enforcement is provided by the Brandon municipal police department, with support from Vermont State Police. The nearest hospital is the Rutland Regional Medical Center. Ambulance service is provided by the Brandon Area Rescue Squad.

#### Emergency Management

Brandon's Town Manager serves as the Emergency Management Director (EMD). They work with others in town to keep the Local Emergency Plan up-to-date as well as to coordinate with nearby towns and regional emergency planning efforts.

## 4 PLANNING PROCESS

#### Plan Developers

Steffanie Bourque, an Emergency Management Planner at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC), assisted the Town with updating its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program funds from FEMA supported this process.

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team members who assisted with the update include the Town Manager/EMD, Road Foreman, Wastewater System Operator, Water Superintendent, and Vermont Department of Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist for the Rutland Region (who happens to be a Brandon resident).

#### Plan Development Process

The 2022 Brandon Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is an update to the 2017 single jurisdiction mitigation plan. A summary of the process taken to develop the 2022 update is provided in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Plan Development Process**

**June 28, 2022:** Kick-off meeting. Discussed what a LHMP is; benefits of hazard mitigation planning; current plan status; planning process; outreach strategy; and plan sections. Planning Team meetings were not open to the public.

**June/July 2022:** Notice posted on RRPC and Town websites/social media and bulletin boards at Junction Store in Forest Dale and Town Office in downtown Brandon that Town is updating the LHMP. Emailed notice to officials (Selectboard and Planning Commission chairs, Town Managers and Clerks, Emergency Management Directors) in neighboring towns of Chittenden, Pittsford, Hubbardton, Sudbury, Goshen, Leicester, Whiting and Key Partners (Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District, Western VT Floodplain Manager, Dept of Health Regional Emergency Preparedness Specialist, VTTrans District 3 Projects Manager). Notice included RRPC contact for information on planning process and opportunities for public input – see **Appendix D**.

**July 12, 2022:** Planning Team meeting – confirmed plan purpose and continued work on community profile. Began work on community hazard risk assessment, storm history, and identifying assets vulnerable to highest risk natural hazards.

**August 2, 2022:** Planning Team meeting – completed work on community profile and hazard identification and risk assessment. This is a critical milestone in the plan development process and draft plan was readied for public meeting.

**August 22, 2022:** Draft LHMP presented at joint meeting of Brandon Selectboard and Planning Commission to encourage public input from local government and public that could affect plan's conclusions and better integrate with Town initiatives. This meeting was recorded and aired on PEGTV. Draft shared with Key Partners for input on vulnerable locations and assets. Draft posted for public comment period with instructions to email comments to Town Manager, David Atherton. Comments were accepted until September 12, 2022 – see **Appendix D**.

**September 12, 2022:** Draft LHMP discussed at Brandon Selectboard meeting with opportunity to share public comments. This meeting was recorded and aired on PEGTV.

**September 15, 2022:** Planning Team meeting – discussed comments received on August draft; completed work on hazard identification and risk assessment. Began work on hazard mitigation strategy – confirmed mitigation goals, discussed community capabilities, and updating status of 2017 actions.

**October TBD, 2022:** Planning Team meeting – continued work on hazard mitigation strategy – completed community capabilities; updated status of 2017 mitigation actions; and evaluated range of possible mitigation actions.

**November TBD, 2022:** Planning Team meeting – completed work on hazard mitigation strategy; plan maintenance; and changes since 2017 plan. Draft LHMP finalized for presentation to local officials and public at joint meeting of Brandon Selectboard and Planning Commission on December 12, 2022.

**December 12, 2022:** Final draft LHMP presented at joint meeting of Brandon Selectboard and Planning Commission. Meeting was recorded and aired on PEGTV. Plan emailed to neighboring towns and Key Partners. Draft posted for public comment period with instructions to email comments to Town Manager, David Atherton. Comments were accepted until December 26, 2022 – see **Appendix D**.

**December 26, 2022:** Draft LHMP discussed at Selectboard meeting with an opportunity to share public comments.

**January TBD, 2023:** Planning Team discussed comments received on December draft and finalized plan for submittal to Vermont Emergency Management for Approval Pending Adoption.

In addition to the local knowledge of Planning Team members and other relevant parties, several existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information were utilized in the preparation of this Plan. A summary of these is provided in **Table 3**.

### **Table 3: Existing Plans, Studies, Reports & Technical Information**

2022 Local Emergency Management Plan  
2021 FEMA NFIP Insurance Reports  
2020 Land Use Ordinance  
2021-2017 Green Mountain Power Outage Data  
2020 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimate  
2020 Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping Project  
2018 State of Vermont Hazard Mitigation Plan  
2017 Road Erosion Inventory  
2017 Brandon Stormwater Master Plan  
2016 Brandon Town Plan  
2015 Vermont Economic Resiliency Initiative  
2021 Brandon Fire District #1 Source Protection Plan  
2021 Brandon Fire District #1 Emergency Response Plan  
VTrans Town Highway Bridge Inspection Reports  
Vermont Statewide Highway Flood Vulnerability and Risk Map  
RRPC Local Liaison Reports of Storm Damage  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center's Storm Events Database  
FEMA Disaster Declarations for Vermont  
OpenFEMA Dataset: Public Assistance Funded Project Summaries for Vermont

## Changes Since the 2017 Plan

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[placeholder for description of land use/development changes since the 2017 plan – has there been new development? Has development made the community more/less vulnerable to natural hazards?]

[placeholder for description of changes in mitigation priorities since the 2017 plan – have community mitigation priorities changed or stayed the same and explain how/why.]

[placeholder for description of any mitigation actions that have been completed – reference Appendix C. Describe specific ways that implemented actions reduced vulnerabilities – how was asset vulnerability reduced and what is the defined benefit?]

## 5 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

### Local Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment

One of the most significant changes from the 2017 Plan is the way hazards are assessed. To be consistent with the approach to hazard assessment in the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team conducted an initial analysis of known natural hazard events<sup>1</sup> to determine their probability of occurring in the future (high probability events are **orange** in Table 4).

The Planning Team then ranked the hazard impacts associated with the known natural hazard events based on the probability of occurrence and potential impact to life, the economy, infrastructure, and the environment. The ranking results are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4: Community Hazard Risk Assessment**

Hazard Event	Hazard Impacts	Probability	Potential Impact					Score
			Life	Economy	Infrastructure	Environment	Average	
<b>Thunderstorm</b>	<b>Flash Flood/Fluvial Erosion</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>11.00</b>
<b>Ice Jam</b>	<b>Inundation Flood</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>
<b>Tropical Storm/Hurricane</b>	<b>High Wind</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>13.00</b>
Tornado	Hail	3	1	2	3	3	2.25	6.75
<b>Landslide</b>	Landslide	2	1	1	1	2	1.25	2.50
<b>Winter Storm</b>	<b>Cold/Snow/Ice</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>10.50</b>
<b>Drought</b>	Heat	3	2	1	1	3	1.75	5.25
	Drought	2	1	2	2	3	2.00	4.00
Wildfire	Wildfire	2	3	3	2	2	2.50	5.00
Earthquake	Earthquake	1	3	3	2	2	2.50	2.50

\*Score = Probability x Average Potential Impact

	Frequency of Occurrence: Probability of a plausibly significant event	Potential Impact: Severity and extent of damage and disruption to population, property, environment, and the economy
1	<b>Unlikely:</b> <1% probability of occurrence per year	<b>Negligible:</b> isolated occurrences of minor property and environmental damage, potential for minor injuries, no to minimal economic disruption
2	<b>Occasionally:</b> 1–10% probability of occurrence per year, or at least one chance in next 100 years	<b>Minor:</b> isolated occurrences of moderate to severe property and environmental damage, potential for injuries, minor economic disruption
3	<b>Likely:</b> >10% but <75% probability per year, at least 1 chance in next 10 years	<b>Moderate:</b> severe property and environmental damage on a community scale, injuries or fatalities, short-term economic impact
4	<b>Highly Likely:</b> >75% probability in a year	<b>Major:</b> severe property and environmental damage on a community or regional scale, - multiple injuries or fatalities, significant economic impact

<sup>1</sup> This Plan defines natural hazards as atmospheric, hydrologic, geologic, and wildfire phenomena. Hazards not necessarily related to the physical environment, such as infectious disease, were excluded from consideration by the Planning Team.

After engaging in discussions, the Town identified the following “highest risk hazards” that they believe their community is most vulnerable to:

- **High winds associated with thunder, tropical, and winter storms**
- **Inundation, flash flooding, and fluvial erosion associated with thunder, tropical, and winter storms**
- **Extreme cold, snow, and ice associated with winter storms**

Each of these “highest risk hazards” (**orange** in Table 4) are further discussed in this section and depicted in the Local Natural Hazards and Vulnerabilities Map in Appendix B.

The “lower risk hazards” that are considered to have a low probability of occurrence and low potential impact are not discussed. For information on these hazards, consult the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

## Invasive Species

The Planning Team did not formally assess the risk associated with invasive species; however, they did discuss the potential hazards and risks associated with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) specifically.

Vermont's EAB infestation was first detected in 2018 in northern Orange County. In October 2020, a new detection of EAB in West Rutland was confirmed making Brandon a town in the High Risk Area. This is the first confirmed detection in Rutland County. An inventory of trees within the road right-of-way is needed to determine how many Ash trees are at risk. The potential risk to public and private woodlots and impacts on the local economy have not been quantified.

### Highest Risk Hazard Profiles

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#### High Wind

Severe thunderstorms can produce high winds, lightning, flooding, rains, large hail, and even tornadoes. Thunderstorm winds are generally short in duration, involving straight-line winds and/or gusts more than 50 mph. Thunderstorm winds can cause power and communication outages, transportation and economic disruptions, significant property damage, and pose a high risk of injuries and loss of life.

From 2004 to 2010, for thunderstorms that caused more than \$200,000 in damage, Rutland County experienced nearly \$2 million in property damage. From 2011 to 2020, thunderstorms resulted in just under \$2.4 million in property damage in Rutland County, with \$525,000 due to a high wind event in May 2017.

***Violent windstorms are possible here; Brandon is susceptible to high directional winds town-wide. Many storms with high winds result in downed trees, damaged phone and power lines, buildings, and other property. Brandon is vulnerable to power outages, and they present a potentially significant risk to many residents.***

Downed trees within the road right-of-way are the root cause of many power outages. There are many roads that pass through dense wooded areas that are prone to downed trees, which can lead to fallen power lines. Areas of particular concern include Birch Hill Road, North Birch Hill Road, Van Cortland Road, Basin Road, High Pond Road, Lover's Lane, Wheeler Road, Town Farm Road, and the Forestbrook development.

When a power outage occurs, communication systems become compromised. Landline phone service that has been converted from copper wire to fiber rely on an in-home battery back-up. The battery life is typically less than eight hours, whether the phone is used or not. Though most residents use cell phones, service in Brandon is spotty, further complicating the problem of contacting emergency services during power outages.

To mitigate the impacts of power outages, the following public buildings/critical facilities have been equipped with back-up power or generator hook-up: Police Station; Town Garage; Neshobe School (primary local shelter); wastewater treatment plant; two main wastewater pump stations (Champlain Street and Newton Road); Fire District #1 office; Well #2; and Well #3.

The Town Office, which lacks back-up power, serves as the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC). During a disaster, municipal response is managed from the EOC, this would include all communications – from phone calls to internet browsing and 2-way radio.

Connectivity is crucial in times of crisis. Telecommunications are needed for warning systems before disaster, as well as for response during and recover after. Power outages are the main reason for stopping communications, leaving the EOC significantly compromised.

In addition to the Town Office, other critical facilities without back-up power include the alternate local shelter – the American Legion – and the Fire District #1 storage tank controls. The battery back-up for the control system provides power for up to 6 hours. After which operations shift from automated to manual.

## High Wind Hazard History

These are the most up to date significant events impacting Brandon. Federal declarations are depicted in **bold**.

6/30/2021: 50 mph wind: \$2,000 local damage  
 3/1/2021: 39 mph wind: \$20,000 regional damage  
 8/4/2020: 45 mph wind: \$35,000 regional damage  
 2/24/2019: 48 mph wind: \$25,000 regional damage  
 4/1/2018: 63 mph wind: \$50,000 regional damage  
 10/30/2017: 40 mph wind: \$100,000 regional damage  
 5/5/2017: 64 mph wind: \$500,000 regional damage  
 7/23/2016: 60 mph wind: \$25,000 local damage  
 5/27/2015: 50 mph wind: \$5,000 local damage  
 7/8/2014: 55 mph wind: \$10,000 local damage  
 5/27/2014: 55 mph wind: \$5,000 local damage  
 12/21/2012: 61 mph wind: \$50,000 regional damage  
 12/1/2010: 52 mph wind: \$100,000 regional damage  
 6/27/2008: 50 mph wind: \$10,000 local damage  
 8/16/2007: 60 mph wind: \$75,000 local damage  
 6/27/2007: 55 mph wind: \$10,000 local damage  
 2/17/2006: 37 mph wind: \$75,000 regional damage  
 9/29/2005: 35 mph wind: \$50,000 regional damage

## Inundation/Flash Flooding/Fluvial Erosion

Floods can damage or destroy property; disable utilities; destroy or make impassable roads and bridges; destroy crops and agricultural lands; cause disruption to emergency services; and result in fatalities. People may be stranded in their homes for a time without power, heat, or communication or they may be unable to reach their homes. Long-term collateral dangers include the outbreak of disease, loss of livestock, broken sewer lines or wash out of septic systems causing water supply pollution, downed power lines, loss of fuel storage tanks, fires, and release of hazardous materials.

As noted in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, "Flooding is the most common recurring hazard event in Vermont" (2018: 55). There are two types of flooding that impact Vermont communities: inundation and flash flooding. Inundation is when water rises onto low lying land. Flash flooding is a sudden, violent flood which often entails fluvial erosion (stream bank erosion).

Inundation flooding of land adjoining the normal course of a stream or river is a natural occurrence. If these floodplain areas are in their natural state, floods likely would not cause significant damage.

While inundation-related flood loss can be a significant component of flood disasters, the more common mode of damage in Vermont is associated with fluvial erosion, often associated with physical adjustment of stream channel dimensions and location during flood events. These dynamic and oftentimes catastrophic adjustments are due to bed and bank erosion of naturally occurring unstable stream banks, debris and ice jams, or structural failure of or flow diversion by human-made structures. An ice jam occurs when the ice layer on top of a river breaks into large chunks which float downstream and cause obstructions (State HMP 2018). Brandon is vulnerable to ice jams on Newton Road, Wheeler Road, and downtown.

Several major flooding events have affected the state in recent years, resulting in multiple Presidential Disaster Declarations. From 2003 to 2010, Rutland County experienced roughly \$2.6 million in property damages due to flood events.

The worst flooding event in recent years came in August of 2011 from Tropical Storm Irene (DR4022), which dropped up to 10-11 inches of rain in some areas of Rutland County. Irene caused 2 deaths and \$55,000,000 in reported property damages and \$2.5 million in crop damages in Rutland County.

Although the storm was technically a tropical storm, the effects of the storms are profiled in this flooding section, since the storm brought only large rainfall and flooding to the Town, not the high winds typically associated with tropical storms. This caused most streams and rivers to flood in addition to widespread and severe fluvial erosion. Brandon experienced \$1.4 million in local damages during Irene - \$116,510 Individual Assistance; \$817,430 Public Assistance; \$122,000 Hazard Mitigation; and \$370,180 National Flood Insurance.

From 2012 to 2020, Rutland County experienced approximately \$3.5 million in property damages; with \$1.9 million due to a flash flood event in July 2017 (DR4330) and \$1 million due to a flash flood event in April 2019 (DR4445).

***In Brandon, flooding is a risk. Damages from Tropical Storm Irene were significant, resulting in approximately \$1.4 million in impacts. A wide range of assets are vulnerable to flooding.***



**Sixty-six structures are in the Special Flood Hazard Area (4% of community structures); including residential dwellings, commercial properties, public water supply well, municipal wastewater treatment plant, and municipal garage.**

**According to FEMA, 14% of these properties have flood insurance. In total, these 13 policies cover \$1,867,300 in value.**

***There are 2 repetitive loss properties.***

Like many other Vermont towns, Brandon was built very close to a river. As described in Section 3, the Neshobe River travels west out of Goshen and meanders throughout the Town. It is the biggest contributor to inundation flooding in many parts of Brandon.

As shown on the Local Natural Hazards and Vulnerabilities Map in **Appendix B**, Brandon is vulnerable to inundation flooding on Newton Road, Stone Mill Dam Road, Wheeler Road, Forestdale Road, Pearl Street, Union Street, and lower Carver Street. The Neshobe Golf Club is also vulnerable to inundation flooding.



July 2017 Flood Event on Newton Road

A wide range of assets are at risk from inundation flooding, including roads, culverts, bridges, homes, commercial property, agricultural lands, water mains/service lines/hydrants, sanitary sewer mains/laterals/pump stations, as well as the access roads to Well #1 on Newton Road and the wastewater treatment plant on lower Carver Road.

Flash flooding can occur any time the area has heavy rain. It can impact areas that are located outside of designated floodplains, including along streams confined by narrow valleys. Sections of several roads are periodically washed out – Grove, Old Brandon, North, Wagner, Basin, Van Cortland, North Birch, Richmond, Town Farm, Lover's Lane, Wheeler, Hollow, Short Swamp, Jack Saw Mill, and Marshall Phillips. All these roads, except for Grove and North streets, are gravel. Impacts to municipal roads and driveways can be exacerbated by undersized culverts and inadequate ditching.

Culvert failures and road washouts can have a significant negative impact on the Town. Especially if they occur on roads considered locally important routes for through-traffic, short-cuts, detours, and/or access to critical facilities – such as Forestdale Road (access to the Brandon Police Department), Wheeler Road, and Carver Street.

When roads are impacted by flooding, the Town coordinates with the Fire Department and State Dispatch to close the roads and set up detours. The road closures create longer commute times for residents and longer emergency service response times.

The inventory of hydrologically-connected roads completed in 2017 for the Municipal Road General Stormwater Discharge Permit also identified areas vulnerable to flash flooding and included recommended corrective actions to make these areas more resilient.

Stream Geomorphic Assessments (SGAs) provide information about the physical condition of streams and factors that influence their stability. Phase 1 and 2 SGAs exist for the Neshobe River. SGA data was used to identify and prioritize river corridor protection and restoration projects within the Neshobe River watershed, primarily in the Town of Brandon.

The Neshobe River Corridor Plan was completed in September 2011. A list of 13 potential restoration and conservation projects was developed. Types of projects include river corridor and wetland protection through easements and conservation efforts, improving riparian buffers, reducing farm field runoff, evaluation of berm removal, mass failure remediation, bridge replacement, and dam removal.

Assets vulnerable to fluvial erosion on the Neshobe River include a bridge on North Street (B8), bridge on Town Farm Road (B24), bridge on Wheeler Road (B1), buildings on north side of Park Street in the downtown, Mill Lane, a bridge on Union Street (B5), as well as various water and sanitary sewer main river crossings, and the wastewater treatment plant.

Assets vulnerable to fluvial erosion on the Otter Creek include a bridge on Pearl Street (B12) and water main river crossing.

***As weather patterns shift and we see larger storms and more frequent freeze-thaw cycles, the Town will monitor for signs that rivers that have historically been stable becoming less stable, with increased erosion, widening, trees falling in from its banks, etc.***

### **Flooding Hazard History**

These are the most up to date significant events impacting Brandon. Federal declarations are depicted in **bold**.

8/24/2020: 2-3" rain; no reported local damage

**4/15/2019: DR4445** 1-2" rain with significant snow melt; no reported local damage; \$1,000,000 regional damage

**7/1/2017: DR4330** 3-4" rain the previous 3-4 days with flash flooding on 7/1/17: \$395,180 local damage; \$700,000 regional damage

**6/25-7/11/2013: DR4140** heavy rain over multiple days: \$13,645 local damage; \$420,000 regional damage

**8/28/2011: DR4022** Tropical Storm Irene with ±5" rain: \$1.4 million local damage (\$116,510 Individual / \$817,430 Public / \$122,000 HMGP / \$370,180 NFIP)

8/6/2008: 3-5" rain: \$100,000 local damage

7/24/2003: heavy rain: \$25,000 local damage

**12/16/2000: DR1358** 2-4" rain: no reported local damage

### **Extreme Cold/Snow/Ice**

In the Rutland Region, most winter weather events occur between the months of December and March. Throughout the season, winter weather events can include snowstorms, mixed precipitation events of sleet and freezing rain, blizzards, glaze, extreme cold, the occasional ice storm, or a combination of any of the above. Events can also be associated with high winds or flooding, increasing the potential hazard.

The costs of these storms come in the form of power outages due to heavy snow or ice accumulations, damaged trees, school closings and traffic accidents.

From 2001 to 2010, Rutland County experienced \$2.7 million in property and crop damages from winter storms. 2011 to 2020 experienced \$1.58 million in property damage, with \$300,000 due to a 10" - 20" heavy, wet snowfall across the county on December 9, 2014.

There have been four winter storm-related federally declared Disasters in the county (the ice storm of January 1998 - DR 1201; severe winter storms in December 2000 and 2014 - DR 1358 and DR 4207, respectively; and severe storm and flooding in April 2007 - DR 1698).

***Typically, towns' vulnerability to snow and ice storms are loss of road accessibility and power outages. The Town is prepared for a power outage during a severe winter storm, except for the local emergency operations center.***

Snow accumulation typically has not made the Town vulnerable to loss of road accessibility. The Town's fleet of snowplows ensures all roads are accessible, even in major accumulation events. Roads adjacent to critical facilities are well maintained.

The change of winter storm events from mostly snow to rain and ice has increased the Town's risk with downed trees and resulting power outages, which are previously discussed in the High Wind hazard profile.

During prolonged cold events, Fire Districts #1 and #2 infrastructure is vulnerable to freezing – the above ground storage tank at 1311 New Road; concrete encased utility mains crossing the Neshobe River; and service lines. January and February 2015 were record cold months in the Rutland Region. Brandon reported temperatures of 12 degrees below zero. Forty-seven water service lines froze resulting in significant disruption in water supply and budget impacts. Several residents were without water for four (4) days.

### Extreme Cold/Snow/Ice Hazard History

These are the most up to date significant events impacting Brandon. Federal declarations are depicted in **bold**.

- 2/3/2022: 8-12" snow mixed with freezing rain: \$50,000 regional damage
- 1/16/2021: 3-6" wet snow: \$50,000 regional damage
- 2/7/2020: 8-12" snow; ¼" ice: \$15,000 regional damage
- 1/19/2019: 16" snow: \$10,000 regional damage
- 11/26/2018: 4-8" heavy snow: \$25,000 regional damage
- 2/7/2018: 10" snow: \$10,000 regional damage
- 12/12/2017: 12" snow: \$10,000 regional damage
- 3/14/2017: 12-22" snow: \$25,000 regional damage
- 2/1-2/2015: Record cold month with 15-20+ days below zero and 10" snow: \$10,000 regional damage
- 1/7/2015: 0-10 degrees with wind of 15-30 mph creating wind chills colder than 20-30 below zero: 12 below zero reported in Brandon: \$28,585 local damages
- 12/9/2014: DR4207** 10-20" snow: \$200,000 regional damage
- 2/23/2010: 6-30" snow: \$100,000 regional damage
- 12/11/2008: 5-9" snow/glaze ice: \$50,000 regional damage
- 4/15-16/2007: DR1698** "Nor'icane" 3" snow and rain, 60-80 mph wind: \$34,040 local / \$1 mil regional damage
- 3/5/2001: EM3167** 2-18" snow: \$4,800 local damage

## Vulnerability Summary

### High Wind

**Location<sup>1</sup>:** Town-wide

**Vulnerable Assets<sup>1</sup>:** Roads, buildings, trees, power lines, telecommunication systems, signalized traffic lights

**Extent:** up to 64 mph winds

**Impact:** \$75,000 local damage / \$500,000 regional damage

**Probability:** >75% chance in a year

### Inundation/Flash Flooding/Fluvial Erosion

**Location<sup>1</sup>:** *Inundation Flooding:* Newton Rd, Stone Mill Dam Rd, Wheeler Rd, Forestdale Rd, Pearl St, Union St, lower Carver St, downtown, Neshobe Golf Club

*Flash Flooding:* Grove St, Old Brandon Rd, North St, Wagner Rd, Basin Rd, Van Cortland Rd, North Birch Hill, Richmond Rd, Town Farm Rd, Lover's Ln, Wheeler Rd, Hollow Rd, Short Swamp Rd, Hack Saw Mill Rd, Marshall Phillips Rd

*Fluvial Erosion:* Neshobe River – North St, Town Farm Rd, Wheeler Rd, Park St (downtown), Mill Ln, Union St, utility river crossings; Otter Creek – Pearl St, utility river crossings

**Vulnerable Assets<sup>1</sup>:** Roads, culverts, bridges, homes, driveways, commercial property, agricultural lands, water mains/service lines/hydrants, sanitary sewer mains/laterals/pump stations, access road to Well #1, access road to wastewater treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant

**Extent:** ±5" rain; extent data for fluvial erosion is unavailable

**Impact:** \$1.4 million local damage

**Probability:** >75% chance in a year (all flooding types)

### Extreme Cold/Snow/Ice

**Location<sup>1</sup>:** Town-wide

**Vulnerable Assets<sup>1</sup>:** Roads, culverts, bridges, trees, power lines, telecommunication systems, signalized traffic lights

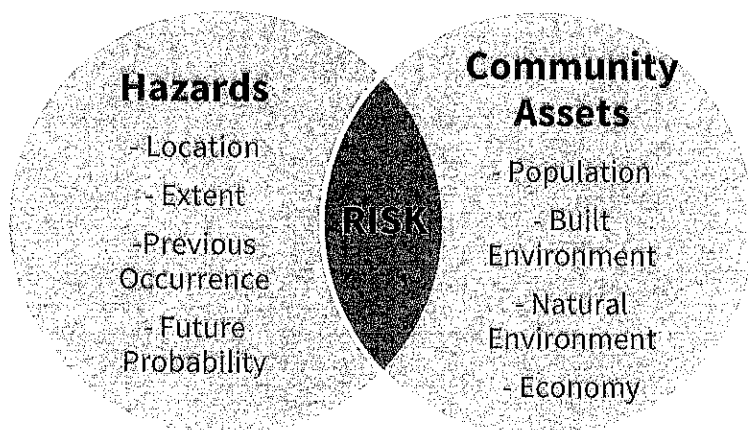
**Extent:** up to 30" snow; ¼" ice; 80 mph winds; 15-20+ days below zero

**Impact:** \$28,585 local damage / \$1 mil regional damage

**Probability:** >10% but <75% probability per year

<sup>1</sup> See **Appendix B:** Local Natural Hazards and Vulnerabilities Map

***The Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment is the foundation for the mitigation strategy to reduce future losses.***



**CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION**  
**TOWN OF Brandon, Vermont Selectboard**  
**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE Brandon, Vermont 2022 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**

WHEREAS, the Town of Brandon has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of the hazards profiled in the **2022 Brandon, Vermont Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**, which result in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Brandon has developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its **2022 Brandon, Vermont Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan)** under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, the **Plan** specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies, and Plan maintenance procedures for the Town of Brandon; and

WHEREAS, the **Plan** recommends several hazard mitigation actions (projects) that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the Town of Brandon with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this **Plan** will make the Town of Brandon eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by Town of Brandon Selectboard:

1. The **2022 Brandon, Vermont Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Brandon;
2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation action plan of the **Plan** are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
3. Future revisions and **Plan** maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution; and
4. An annual report on the process of the implementation elements of the Plan will be presented to the Selectboard by the Emergency Management Director or Coordinator.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have affixed their signature and the corporate seal of the Town of Brandon this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Selectboard Chair

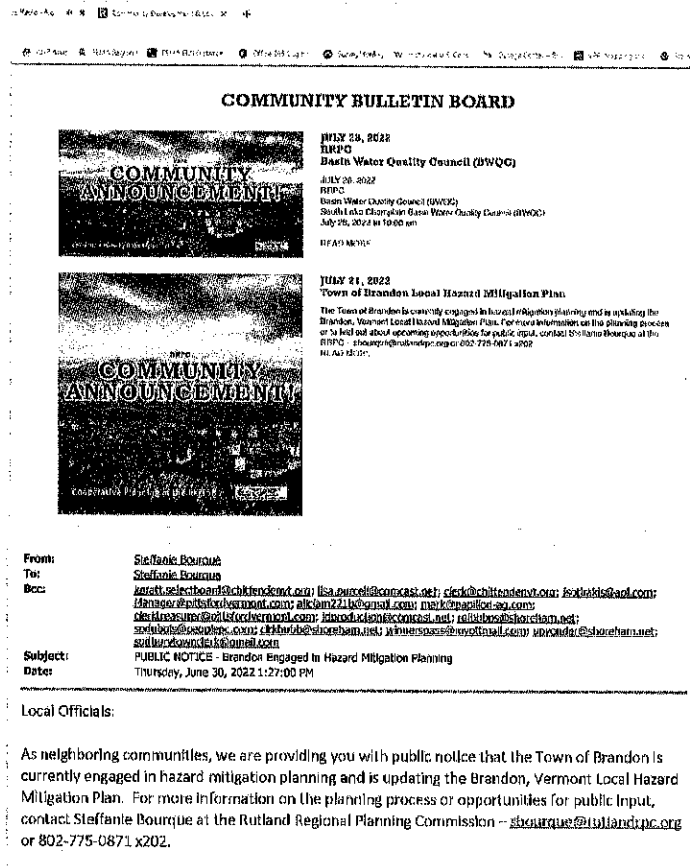
ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk



## **MITIGATION ACTIONS FROM 2017 PLAN**

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT PLAN



Example plan update kick-off public notice from Rutland Regional Planning Commission website.

No inquiries received in response to the kick-off notice.

Email to local officials in neighboring communities announcing LHMP update kick-off – dated June 30, 2022. Similar email sent to Key Partners.

**No inquiries received from neighboring communities or Key Partners.**

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## TOWN OF BRANDON Accounts Payable

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Check Warrant Report # 63577 Current Prior Next FY Invoices

Jacolyn

All Invoices For Check Acct 01(10 General Fund) 08/22/22 To 08/22/22

Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
100406	07/31/22	Carnival ads	10-5-18-10330	1000.00	51354	08/22/22
	7/31/22	Advertising/Recruitment				
100015	08/16/22	chlorine	20-5-55-50120	890.00	51355	08/22/22
	11250234501	Sodium Hypochlorite				
311119	08/16/22	reimburse BRAVO materials	10-5-10-30110	203.44	51356	08/22/22
	08/16/22	Office Supplies				
100190	08/06/22	dog food	10-5-14-40440	49.99	51357	08/22/22
	329-4768	Police Dog Expenses				
310699	09/01/22	solar electric	10-5-22-42130	2365.00	51358	08/22/22
	188	Bldgs & Grounds Electric				
310699	09/01/22	solar electric	20-5-55-42130	1935.00	51358	08/22/22
	188	Electric				
100280	08/02/22	stain, thinner	10-5-22-43160	315.89	51359	08/22/22
	944283/3	Parks Maint.				
100280	08/05/22	trash bags	10-5-22-43170	33.98	51359	08/22/22
	946697/3	Trash costs-Transfer Stat				
100280	08/06/22	painting supplies	10-5-18-60070	62.14	51359	08/22/22
	946851/3	Estabrook Fundraising				
100280	08/10/22	brush	10-5-22-43160	2.99	51359	08/22/22
	947421/3	Parks Maint.				
100280	08/13/22	trimmer string	20-5-55-43160	15.99	51359	08/22/22
	947850/3	Maint. Supplies - General				
100280	08/17/22	wire brads	10-5-22-43180	5.18	51359	08/22/22
	948531/3	Maint. Supplies Bldgs.				
200218	07/31/22	Board Vacancies, Carnival	10-5-10-30310	48.75	51360	08/22/22
	7/31/22	Legal Advertising				
200218	07/31/22	Board Vacancies, Carnival	10-5-18-10330	670.00	51360	08/22/22
	7/31/22	Advertising/Recruitment				
200265	08/18/22	reimburse - hut materials	10-5-18-43120	2144.21	51361	08/22/22
	08/18/22	Parks Maintenance				
300286	08/09/22	repairs to roadside mower	10-5-15-44120	234.33	51362	08/22/22
	006048	Roadside Mower- Maint				
100462	08/01/22	July trucking of sludge	20-5-55-50170	1980.00	51363	08/22/22
	2730826	Trucking				
301503	08/09/22	diesel fuel	10-5-15-41130	1852.67	51364	08/22/22
	691801	Fuel - Vehicles HW				
310703	07/31/22	July online credit card	10-5-18-30000	11.87	51365	08/22/22
	18669	Swim Lesson Expense				
310097	08/02/22	service: 08/09 - 09/08	10-5-18-42100	111.34	51366	08/22/22
	EST 08/02/22	Recreation Telephone				
310097	07/27/22	service: 08/04 - 09/03	10-5-14-42100	426.64	51367	08/22/22
	PD 07/27/22	PD Telephone Service				
310097	08/09/22	service 08/16 - 09/15	10-5-10-42100	93.04	51368	08/22/22
	TH 08/09/22	Telephone Exp. Admin.				
310097	07/27/22	service: 08/04 - 09/03	10-5-10-42100	611.79	51369	08/22/22
	TO 07/27/22	Telephone Exp. Admin.				
310037	08/06/22	service: Jul 6 - Aug 5	10-5-15-42100	137.16	51370	08/22/22
	HWY 08/06/22	HW Telephone				
310037	08/06/22	service: Jul 06 to Aug 05	10-5-14-42100	51.10	51370	08/22/22
	PD 08/06/22	PD Telephone Service				



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TOWN OF BRANDON Accounts Payable  
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Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
100456	DUBOIS & KING INC	07/08/21 Park & Ride - Design 721041	56-5-19-20120 Park & Ride-Engineering	750.00	51371	08/22/22
100456	DUBOIS & KING INC	08/31/21 Park & Ride design/const. 821191	56-5-19-20120 Park & Ride-Engineering	1163.07	51372	08/22/22
300466	DUNDON PLUMBING & HEATING	08/10/22 portable toilet fee 73377	10-5-18-43130 Estabrook	130.00	51373	08/22/22
300466	DUNDON PLUMBING & HEATING	08/10/22 portable toilet fee 73377	10-5-18-60100 Seminary Hill	130.00	51373	08/22/22
300466	DUNDON PLUMBING & HEATING	08/10/22 portable toilet fee 73382	10-5-18-30070 Little League Expenses	135.00	51373	08/22/22
300984	EASTMAN, THERESA & STEVEN	08/08/22 1st quarter tax overpaid AUG 2022	10-2-00-03000 Tax Posting Variance	1038.13	51374	08/22/22
311071	ELEMENTAL PARTNERS LLC	08/10/22 0016-0074 sold Jan 2022 AUG 2022	10-2-00-02120 Anticipated Tax Credits	1796.86	51375	08/22/22
100494	ENDYNE INC	08/17/22 testing 419336	20-5-55-22120 Testing	270.00	51376	08/22/22
100756	F.W. WEBB COMPANY	08/03/22 culvert 77042024	10-5-15-46130 Culverts	7986.40	51377	08/22/22
310760	FUSS & O'NEILL INC	08/12/22 S6 Design-Final Invoice. 24338	46-5-50-61100 RT 7 Engineering-Construc	3151.42	51378	08/22/22
100725	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE	08/05/22 fuses 186703	20-5-55-43160 Maint. Supplies - General	2.25	51379	08/22/22
100725	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE	08/09/22 clamp 186797	10-5-15-41160 HW Maint. Supplies-Vehicl	5.33	51379	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/03/22 7 Conant Sq - lighting 08/22 047828	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	31.76	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/04/22 Central Park, lights 08/22 170028	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	550.49	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/04/22 Estabrook Park 08/22 240302	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	49.58	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/04/22 Carver St pump station 08/22 290502	20-5-55-42130 Electric	41.00	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/04/22 Green Park 08/22 317702	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	20.65	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/04/22 Country Club pump station 08/22 338602	20-5-55-42130 Electric	23.89	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/03/22 car chargers 08/22 339840	10-5-22-42500 Electric EV Car Stations	88.08	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/05/22 Town Hall 08/22 451302	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	103.07	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/04/22 Brookdale pump station 08/22 467702	20-5-55-42130 Electric	26.01	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/03/22 Crescent Park 08/22 737937	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	193.81	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/05/22 Police Station 08/22 822212	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	251.38	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/04/22 street lights 08/22 851302	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	2766.90	51380	08/22/22
310233	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER	08/04/22 WWTP security light 08/22 860302	20-5-55-42130 Electric	24.63	51380	08/22/22

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All Invoices For Check Acct 01(10 General Fund) 08/22/22 To 08/22/22

Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
310233	08/05/22	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Champlain St pump station	20-5-55-42130	90.33	51380	08/22/22
	08/22	867202	Electric			
311062	08/17/22	HEFLEY, CHRISTOPHER overpaid taxes	10-2-00-03000	751.84	51382	08/22/22
		AUG 2022	Tax Posting Variance			
300600	08/11/22	HOLLAND COMPANY INC sodium bisulfite	20-5-55-50140	2585.52	51383	08/22/22
		16805	Sodium Bisulfite			
310335	08/15/22	KAS, INC Asbestos Insp. 389 Newton	56-5-06-20200	995.65	51384	08/22/22
		307220389-1	Newton Rd Flood-Legal			
310630	07/25/22	MASTERCARD MC helmet, gloves	10-5-14-41110	254.90	51385	08/22/22
		44715	New Equipment - Vehicles			
310630	07/25/22	MASTERCARD MC Breeches	10-5-14-10320	49.99	51385	08/22/22
		44716	Clothing Allowance			
310630	07/01/22	MASTERCARD Uniform Patch	10-5-14-10320	29.00	51385	08/22/22
		44717	Clothing Allowance			
310630	07/27/22	MASTERCARD 50 gal tank, fuel pump	10-5-15-41110	1022.97	51385	08/22/22
		44918	New Equipment-Misc. Tools			
310630	07/01/22	MASTERCARD tally counter	10-5-18-40040	12.99	51385	08/22/22
		44919	After School Activity			
310630	07/25/22	MASTERCARD security camera	10-5-18-43120	399.00	51385	08/22/22
		44920	Parks Maintenance			
310630	07/25/22	MASTERCARD lights-returned in Aug.	10-5-18-61050	135.92	51385	08/22/22
		44921	Brandon Carnival			
301033	08/04/22	MOMAR INC heavy duty degreaser	20-5-55-51230	4093.44	51386	08/22/22
		PSI459618	Outside Equip. - Pump St.			
301083	08/05/22	MVP SELECT CARE INC July 2022 HRA	10-5-10-10218	5.00	51387	08/22/22
		2022-07	HRA Admin			
301083	08/05/22	MVP SELECT CARE INC July 2022 HRA	20-5-55-10218	5.00	51387	08/22/22
		2022-07	HRA WW			
301083	08/05/22	MVP SELECT CARE INC July 2022 HRA	10-5-18-10218	2.50	51387	08/22/22
		2022-07	HRA			
301083	08/05/22	MVP SELECT CARE INC July 2022 HRA	10-5-22-10218	2.50	51387	08/22/22
		2022-07	HRA			
301083	08/05/22	MVP SELECT CARE INC July 2022 HRA	10-5-13-10218	5.00	51387	08/22/22
		2022-07	HRA			
301083	08/05/22	MVP SELECT CARE INC July 2022 HRA	10-5-14-10218	5.00	51387	08/22/22
		2022-07	HRA PD			
301083	08/05/22	MVP SELECT CARE INC July 2022 HRA	10-5-15-10218	5.00	51387	08/22/22
		2022-07	HRA HW			
310796	08/17/22	NATIONAL BUSINESS LEASING lease: 9/1/22 - 09/30/22	10-5-10-30130	102.00	51388	08/22/22
		77309136	Service Contracts			
310795	08/15/22	NATIONAL BUSINESS TECHNOL service contract printers	10-5-10-30130	48.02	51389	08/22/22
		IN499911	Service Contracts			
100788	08/01/22	NEW ENGLAND MUNICIPAL RES Annual Support Agreement	10-5-10-30134	5000.00	51390	08/22/22
		51085	Technical Support			
100256	08/09/22	OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF repaired door @ HWY	10-5-22-43080	1225.35	51391	08/22/22
		41715	Highway Bldg Maint			
301507	08/08/22	PARAMOUNT ASSESSMENT GROU polygraph examination	10-5-14-30130	350.00	51392	08/22/22
		75	Service Contracts			
310736	08/17/22	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL pest control @ Town Hall	10-5-22-43150	40.00	51393	08/22/22
		19461	Town Hall Repair/Maint.			

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Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
310736	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL	08/17/22 pest control: Town Office	10-5-22-43100	70.00	51393	08/22/22
		19462	Town Office			
310736	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL	08/17/22 pest control: Police Dept	10-5-22-43090	65.00	51393	08/22/22
		19463	PD Bldg Maint.			
310736	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL	08/17/22 pest control: storage	10-5-18-20500	50.00	51393	08/22/22
		19475	Storage Unit Supply/Maint			
300440	RUTLAND COUNTY GIRLS SOFT	08/11/22 2022 fee Majors team	10-5-18-30070	575.00	51394	08/22/22
		08/11/22	Little League Expenses			
310921	STEARNS SERVICES LLC	08/10/22 consulting fee	10-5-10-30130	360.00	51395	08/22/22
		1145	Service Contracts			
100712	THOMAS, KIRK	08/17/22 0086-0017 overpaid	10-2-00-03000	18.00	51396	08/22/22
		AUG 2022	Tax Posting Variance			
200277	THUNDER TOWING & AUTO REC	07/28/22 headlight bulb	10-5-14-41180	37.04	51397	08/22/22
		70312	PD Vehicle Maintenance			
200277	THUNDER TOWING & AUTO REC	07/31/22 repairs to lights	10-5-14-41180	66.80	51397	08/22/22
		70313	PD Vehicle Maintenance			
200277	THUNDER TOWING & AUTO REC	07/27/22 repairs	10-5-14-41180	491.89	51397	08/22/22
		70323	PD Vehicle Maintenance			
310045	VERMONT DEPT OF HEALTH	08/09/22 engraved paper	10-5-13-30110	158.00	51398	08/22/22
		961	Office Supplies			
100676	VERMONT DEPT OF MOTOR VEH	08/10/22 registration- motorcycle	10-5-14-97000	10.00	51353	08/10/22
		8/10/22	Capital Improvements			
200284	VMCTA	08/08/22 annual conference	10-5-13-10340	280.00	51399	08/22/22
		AUG 2022	Professional Development			
300416	VT COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMENT	06/29/22 conference	10-5-21-75000	40.00	51400	08/22/22
		019	Economic Development			
310046	W.B. MASON CO INC	08/10/22 rack, tape	10-5-14-30110	11.68	51401	08/22/22
		231829413	Office Supplies			
311070	WEX BANK	07/31/22 Gas - July 2022	10-5-14-41130	2261.21	51402	08/22/22
		82752318	Fuel - Vehicles			
311070	WEX BANK	07/31/22 Gas - July 2022	10-5-22-43120	178.94	51402	08/22/22
		82752318	Municipal Mowing-maint			
311070	WEX BANK	07/31/22 Gas - July 2022	20-5-55-41130	22.07	51402	08/22/22
		82752318	Fuel - Vehicles			
311070	WEX BANK	07/31/22 Gas - July 2022	10-5-15-41130	306.08	51402	08/22/22
		82752318	Fuel - Vehicles HW			
330427	WINNING IMAGE GRAPHIX	08/15/22 wrestling signs	10-5-18-61050	209.25	51403	08/22/22
		19695	Brandon Carnival			
311118	WP ENGINE INC	07/30/22	10-5-10-30134	238.07	51404	08/22/22
		INV04818097	Technical Support			
310186	WYMAN'S TIMBER HARVESTING	08/05/22 container / disposal	10-5-18-61050	234.35	51405	08/22/22
		08052201-CO	Brandon Carnival			

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Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
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Report Total

58882.51

Selectboard

To the Treasurer of TOWN OF BRANDON, We Hereby certify  
that there is due to the several persons whose names are  
listed hereon the sum against each name and that there  
are good and sufficient vouchers supporting the payments  
aggregating \$ \*\*\*\*58,882.51  
Let this be your order for the payments of these amounts.