



TOWN OF DRYDEN • DRYDEN, NEW YORK

65 EAST MAIN STREET, DRYDEN, NEW YORK 13053

In the Heart of the Finger Lakes Region

July 1, 2004

Re: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Dear Dryden Town Board Members and Staff,

At the upcoming board meeting, I would like to briefly discuss the need for an update to Dryden's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was adopted in the year 2000. This plan was developed as a collaborative effort involving the Town and both Villages, a 10 person steering committee, and extensive work by Henry Slater. Dryden was on the cutting edge of emergency planning in developing this plan.

Just as Dryden was completing this plan, the Federal Government enacted the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), which "requires all local governments to have an approved All-Hazard Mitigation Plan in place by November 1, 2004 to be eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding in the future" (from FEMA documentation). While Dryden's current plan almost meets the requirements of DMA 2000, a few additional details are needed to fully comply. In addition, after four years, it is a good idea to begin a review and update of the current plan.

Meanwhile, the Tompkins County Planning Department is currently working on a Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan, in collaboration with all of the municipalities in the county, except for the City of Ithaca and the Towns of Newfield and Dryden. My understanding is that Dryden chose not to participate in this process because Dryden already had a recently developed plan. However, now that I find that Dryden needs to go through an update process, this is a good opportunity to take advantage of the work already begun by the county, and to seek opportunities for cooperation. I have met with Kate Hackett at Tompkins County Planning, and she tells me that although it is too late for Dryden to officially join the countywide effort, she can provide some assistance from her experience, and they are interested in coordinating future emergency management efforts.

I would like to propose that I will look over Dryden's existing plan, the requirements of DMA 2000, and the Draft County Plan, and begin to draft an update for Dryden's Plan. DMA 2000 also requires that plan development be a public process. I would like to discuss putting together a steering committee for this process, with a public meeting to be held sometime in August.

(see reverse)

The previous planning effort had the following steering committee members:

Supervisor Mark Varvayanis, Town of Dryden
Mayor Reba Taylor, Village of Dryden
Mayor Thomas Lyson, Village of Freeville
Michael Raffe, Tompkins County American Red Cross
Ann Margaret Esnard, Cornell Professor of City and Regional Planning
Linda Szeliga, Resource Conservationist, NRCS
Kate Hackett, Tompkins County Planning Department
Gary Rumsey, Citizen Representative
James Schug, Business Representative
Radworth Anderson, New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO)

Fire dept.
Neptune Hose

Today a memo came in from an AmeriCorps member working with Mike Raffe at American Red Cross about an effort to prepare for emergencies by creating a "Disaster Partnership Group". They are setting up a meeting in Dryden on July 14th. I will attach this letter. Perhaps this will be a good opportunity to collaborate as well.

In summary, my purpose in writing is to inform you of the upcoming need for Hazard Mitigation Plan update, and to seek your input on the idea of forming a steering committee for the update.

Sincerely,



Debbie Gross
Town of Dryden, Environmental Planner

CC:

Town Board Members
Henry Slater
Kevin Ezell
Bambi Hollenbeck



drydentown@hotmail.com

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From : <eswanger@tompkins-redcross.org>
Reply-To : eswanger@tompkins-redcross.org
Sent : Wednesday, June 30, 2004 2:07 PM
To : drydentown@hotmail.com
Subject : Dryden Disaster Partnership Group

Dear Sir or Madam:

I'm a new Americorps member at the Tompkins County chapter of the American Red Cross. Part of my service here involves helping set up "Disaster Partnership Groups" in the towns surrounding Ithaca. These would be groups of trained volunteers, first responders, vendors, clergy, and town officials who would be prepared to respond as a cohesive unit in a disaster.

For instance, should a disaster occur in Dryden, a Disaster Partnership Group would help assure that responses are coordinated. While first responders are on-site, local facilities can be opening up to act as shelters, trained volunteers can be setting up registration, and the kitchens can start operating to feed victims - all before our Red Cross chapter's staff even gets there (and with winter road conditions in this area, that could be a considerable delay!). By the time the "regulars" arrive, things are already in full swing.

This sort of idea would help build a much more disaster-resistant and independent Town of Dryden.

To that end, we are setting up a meeting with local stakeholders: the Dryden Central School district, Neptune Hose Co., Salvation Army, Dryden Kitchen Cupboard, and local clergy. We'd like town government representation at this meeting as well, if you can attend or recommend someone who can.

The meeting is scheduled for July 14th, from 12:00 noon until 1:30 pm, at the Dryden United Methodist Church. Please let me know, either by email or by phone (listed below), if you can attend.

Thanks for your consideration and support! I hope to hear from you soon.

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Eric W. Swanger
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*who else to
write*