



SECTION 3. PLANNING PROCESS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to update the 2015 *Putnam County All Hazard Mitigation Plan* (HMP, also referred herein as the *Hazard Mitigation Plan* or *the plan*), including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.

To ensure that the plan meets requirements of the DMA 2000 and that the planning process would have the broad and effective support of the participating jurisdictions, regional and local stakeholders, and the public, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following:

- The plan will be multi-jurisdictional, with the intention of including all municipalities in the County. Putnam County invited all jurisdictions to join with them in the planning process. To date, eight local municipal governments in the county participated in the 2021 planning process as indicated in Table 3-1. Jurisdictions that have not met participation requirements during this process will not be able to seek FEMA or NYS DHSES approval at the time of plan submittal nor will they be eligible to obtain FEMA mitigation grant funding. Those jurisdictions can choose to complete their annex and adopt at a later time, working with Putnam County and NYS DHSES to ensure completeness. Any non-participating local government within the Putnam County planning area can “dock” to this plan in the future following the linkage procedures defined in Appendix K (Linkage Procedures).

Table 3-1. Participating Putnam County Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions	
Putnam County	
Town of Carmel	Town of Southeast
Town of Kent	Town of Putnam Valley
Town of Patterson	Village of Brewster
Town of Philipstown	Village of Nelsonville

- The plan will consider all-natural hazards of concern facing the area, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000.
- The plan will be developed following the process outlined by the DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, prevailing FEMA guidance and the 2017 NYS DHSES hazard mitigation planning standard. Following this process ensures that all the requirements are met and support HMP review.

The Putnam County HMP update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, a concerted effort was made to gather information from municipal and regional agencies and staff, as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the county. The HMP Steering Committee solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain natural hazards and past historical events. In addition, the Steering and Planning Committees took into consideration planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and recent land use planning decisions. The hazard mitigation strategies identified in this HMP update were developed through an extensive planning process involving local, county and regional agencies, residents, and stakeholders.

This section of the plan describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Organization of the Planning Process; (2) Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement; (3) Integration of Existing Data, Plans, and Technical



Information; (4) Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs; and (5) Continued Public Involvement.

3.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

This section of the plan identifies how the planning process was organized with the many planning partners involved and outlines the major activities that were conducted in the development of this HMP update.

3.2.1 Organization of Planning Partnership

Putnam County applied for and was awarded a multi-jurisdictional planning grant under the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation program (PDMC-PL-02-NY-2017-013), which supported the development of this update of this multi-jurisdictional HMP.

Project management and grant administration has been the responsibility of the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services. A contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech, Inc. referred herein as *Tetra Tech*) was selected to guide the county and participating jurisdictions through the HMP update process. A contract between Tetra Tech and Putnam County was executed on February 4, 2020. Specifically, Tetra Tech, the *contract consultant*, was tasked with the following:

- Assisting with the organization of a Steering and Planning Committee.
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program.
- Data collection.
- Facilitation and attendance at meetings (Steering Committee, Planning Committee, municipal, stakeholder, public and other).
- Review and update of the hazards of concern, hazard profiling and risk assessment.
- Assistance with the review and update of mitigation planning goals and objectives.
- Assistance with the review of past mitigation strategies progress.
- Assistance with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions.
- Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions.
- Authoring of the draft and final plan documents.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) will support states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC is a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program.

The BRIC program guiding principles are supporting communities through capability- and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency.

Source: FEMA, 2020

On May 1, 2020, the County notified all municipalities within the county of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Jurisdictions were asked to formally notify the county of their intent to participate (via a Letter of Intent to Participate) and to identify planning POCs to facilitate municipal participation and represent the interests of their respective communities. Completed Letters of Intent to Participate are provided as Appendix B (Participation Matrix), as available.

To facilitate plan development, Putnam County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the HMP update effort and to ensure the resulting document will be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area (refer to Table 3-2). All municipalities participating in the plan update authorized the Steering Committee to perform certain activities on their behalf, via the Letter of Intent to



Participate (FEMA mitigation planning *combination model*). Specifically, the Steering Committee was charged with the following:

- Providing guidance and oversight of the planning process on behalf of the general planning partnership.
- Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings.
- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
 - Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern.
 - Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program.
 - Assuring that the data and information used in the plan update process are the best available.
 - Reviewing and updating the hazard mitigation goals.
 - Identifying and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities.
- Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NYS DHSES and FEMA.

The Steering Committee provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and the various interest groups in the planning area.

Table 3-2. Putnam County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee Members

Affiliation	Name	Title
Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services	Ken Clair	Commissioner
	Bob Lipton	Deputy Commissioner
Putnam County Highway and Facilities Department	John O'Connor	Director of Emergency Management
Putnam County Department of Planning, Development & Public Transportation	Vinny Tamagna	Transportation Manager
	Barbara Barosa	Senior Planner
Soil and Water Conservation District	Lauri Taylor	District Manager
Economic Dev./Real property	Lisa Johnson	Director, Real Property Tax Service Agency
Department of Health	Shawn Rogan	Director of Environmental Health Services
Town of Patterson Representative of Towns	Rich Williams	Supervisor

Each municipality received a copy of the *Planning Partner Expectations*, outlining the responsibilities of the participants and the agreement of the partners to authorize the Steering Committee to represent the jurisdiction in the completion of certain planning elements as noted above. Table 3-3 lists the current municipal members of the Planning Committee at the time of this HMP’s publication. Please note that the Steering Committee members also are part of the overall project Planning Committee, fulfilling these responsibilities on behalf of Putnam County. This *planning partnership* (Steering and Planning Committees) were charged with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process.
- Assure participation of all department and functions within their jurisdiction that have a stake in mitigation (e.g., planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, public works).
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP update, including the use of previously developed reports and data.
- Support and promote the public involvement process.
- Report on progress of mitigation actions identified in prior or existing HMPs, as applicable.
- Identify, develop, and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives.



- Report on progress of integration of prior or existing HMPs into other planning processes and municipal operations.
- Develop and author a jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction.
- Review, amend, and approve all sections of the plan update.
- Adopt, implement, and maintain the plan update.

Table 3-3. Putnam County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership Members

Jurisdiction	Primary Point of Contact	Title	Alternate Point of Contact	Title
Putnam County	Bob Lipton	Deputy Commissioner	Kenneth Clair	Commissioner
Village of Brewster	Michelle Chiudina	Clerk and Treasurer	Domenic Consentino	DPW Superintendent
Town of Carmel	Richard Franzetti	Town Engineer	Robert Vara	Engineering Projects Coordinator
Town of Kent	Maureen Fleming	Town Supervisor	William Huestis	Deputy Supervisor
Village of Nelsonville	Mindy Jesek	Village Clerk/Treasurer	Michael Bowman	Mayor
Town of Patterson	Richard Williams, Sr.	Supervisor	Peter Deandreano	Town Board
Town of Philipstown	Greg Wunner	Code Enforcement Officer	Richard Shea	Supervisor
Town of Putnam Valley	Sam Oliverio, Jr.	Supervisor	Larry Cobb, Sr.	Highway Superintendent
Town of Southeast	Laurie Bell	Town Assessor	Chris DuBois	Supervisor Secretary

In addition to the individuals identified in the prior table, numerous individuals assisted with the development of the plan. They are identified in municipalities’ respective annexes. The jurisdictional Letter of Intent to Participate identifies the above *Planning Partner Expectations* as serving to identify those activities comprising overall participation by jurisdictions throughout the planning process. The jurisdictions in Putnam County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the plan update process, and further, have differing exposure and vulnerability to the natural hazard risks being considered in this plan. Putnam County’s intent was to encourage participation by all-inclusive jurisdictions and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intents and purpose of plan update participation. Such accommodations have included the establishment of a Steering Committee, engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the plan update process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and the provision of additional and alternative mechanisms to meet the purposes and intent of mitigation planning.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed municipal annex to the HMP (Section 9) wherein jurisdictions have individually identified their planning POCs; evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern; identified their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community; identified and prioritized an appropriate suite of mitigation initiatives, actions, and projects to mitigate their hazard risk; and eventually, adopted the updated plan via resolution.

Appendix B (Participation Matrix), identifies those individuals who represented the municipalities during this planning effort and indicates how they contributed to the planning process.

All municipalities in the County actively participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and have a designated National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Floodplain Administrator (FPA). All FPAs were informed of the planning process, reviewed the plan documents, and provided direct input to the plan update. Local FPAs are identified in the *Points of Contact* and *Administrative and Technical* portions of the jurisdictional annexes in Section 9.



3.2.2 Planning Activities

Members of the municipal and county planning partnership (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, convened and/or communicated regularly to share information and participate in workshops to identify hazards; assess risks; review existing inventories of and identify new critical facilities; assist in updating and developing new mitigation goals and strategies; and provide continuity through the process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated. All members of the Steering and Planning Committees had the opportunity to review the draft plan and supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts.

A summary of Planning and Steering Committee meetings held, and key milestones met during the development of the HMP update is included in Table 3-4 that also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy. Documentation of meetings (agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, etc.) are in Appendix C (Meeting Documentation). Table 3-4 identifies only the formal meetings held during plan development and does not reflect the planning activities conducted by individuals and groups throughout the planning process. In addition to these meetings, there was a great deal of communication between the county, committee members, and the contract consultant through individual local meetings, electronic mail (email), and by phone.

After completion of the HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the planning partnership (Steering and Planning Committees) as described in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance). The planning partnership is responsible for reviewing the HMP and soliciting and considering public comment as part of the five-year mitigation plan update.

This table summarizes a list of mitigation planning activities and meetings and their respective participants. A more detailed list of participants for each meeting is provided in Appendix C. Refer to DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390) for details on each of the planning requirements (<https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1524-20490-1790/dma2000.pdf>).

Table 3-4. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities / Efforts

Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
May 20, 2020	2	Steering Committee Meeting #1	Putnam County BES; Putnam County Economic Development/Real Property; Putnam County Health Department; NYSDHSES
May 27, 2020	2	Planning Partnership Meeting #1	Town of Carmel; Town of Putnam Valley; Town of Kent; NYS DHSES; Putnam County Economic Development/Real Property; Putnam County Health Department; Putnam County Department of Planning; Town of Patterson
June 24, 2020	2, 3a, 4a	Steering Committee Meeting #2	Putnam County BES; Putnam County Economic Development/Real Property; Putnam County Department of Health; Town of Patterson; Putnam County Soil and Water; Putnam County Planning
July 27, 2020	2, 3a, 3c, 3d	Steering Committee Meeting – Risk Assessment Discussion	Putnam County BES; Putnam County Economic Development/Real Property; Putnam County Department of Health; Town of Patterson; Putnam County Department of Planning; Putnam County Soil and Water
July 29, 2020	2, 3a, 3c, 3d	Planning Partnership Meeting #2 – Risk Assessment Presentation	Putnam County BES; Putnam County Soil and Water; Putnam County Department of Planning; Town of Southeast; Town of Putnam Valley; Village of Brewster; Town of Patterson; Town of Carmel; Village of Nelsonville; Town of Philipstown; NYSDHSES; Town of Kent; Putnam County Department of Health



Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
August 26, 2020	4a, 4b, 4c	Mitigation Strategy Workshop	Putnam County BES; Town of Putnam Valley; Town of Southeast; Village of Brewster; Town of Patterson; Town of Carmel; Village of Nelsonville; NYSDHSES; Town of Philipstown; Town of Kent
October 21, 2020	5a, 5b, 5c	Steering Committee Meeting #4 – Draft Plan Presentation	Putnam County Soil and Water; Putnam County Real Estate; NYS DHSES; Putnam County BES
TBD		Finalize the Plan	

Note: TBD = to be determined.

Each number in column 2 identifies specific DMA 2000 requirements, as follows:

- 1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- 1b – Public Participation
- 2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process
- 3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards
- 3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events
- 3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- 3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- 3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- 4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- 4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- 4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures
- 5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
- 5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs
- 5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement

3.3 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

This section details the outreach to and involvement of the many agencies, departments, organizations, non-profits, districts, authorities, and other entities that have a stake in managing hazard risk and mitigation, commonly referred to as *stakeholders*.

Diligent efforts were made to assure broad regional, county, and local representation in this planning process. To that end, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Steering and Planning Committees. Stakeholder outreach was performed early and throughout the planning process. This HMP update includes information and input provided by these stakeholders where appropriate, as identified in the references.

The following is a list of the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the development of this plan, along with a summary of how these stakeholders participated and contributed. This summary discusses the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the development of this HMP update and how they participated and contributed to the HMP. It should be noted that this summary listing cannot represent the sum total of stakeholders that were aware of and contributed to this HMP update, as outreach efforts were being made, both formally and informally, throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the effort, and documentation of all such efforts is impossible. Instead, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the plan update process.

3.3.1 Federal, State and County Departments

The following describes the various departments and agencies that were involved during the planning process.

Federal Agencies

FEMA Region II: Provided updated planning guidance and summarized and detailed NFIP data for planning area.



Information regarding hazard identification and the risk assessment for this HMP update was requested and received or incorporated by reference from the following agencies and organizations:

- National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Storm Prediction Center (SPC)
- U.S. Census Bureau

State Agencies

NYS DHSES: Headquarters and Region II: Administered planning grant and facilitated FEMA review, provided updated planning guidance, and provided review of draft and final HMP.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC): Provided data and information and supported the identification of mitigation projects.

Putnam County Departments

Several County departments were represented on the Steering Committee and involved in the HMP update planning process. Appendix B (Participation Matrix) provides further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agencies. All responses to the stakeholder surveys are in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).

Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services: Robert Lipton, Deputy Commissioner of the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services, was identified as the ongoing Putnam County Hazard Mitigation Plan Coordinator in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance) and served in this role throughout the planning process. In addition, the Bureau of Emergency Services provided critical data, assisted with the update of events and losses in the county, updated the previous mitigation strategy, facilitated outreach to stakeholders, contributed to the County's capability assessment and updated mitigation strategy, and reviewed draft sections of the HMP.

Putnam County Department of Health: The Department of Health is responsible for preventing the spread of disease, protect against environmental hazard, promote healthy lifestyles, ensure access to quality health services, and respond to disasters in Putnam County. Shawn Rogan, the Director of Environmental Health Services, attended meetings and provided the Planning Team crucial information about public health hazards in the County and mitigation strategies.

Putnam County Department of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation: The Department of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation undertakes a number of activities that assist the County with planning and capital budgeting, delivery of transportation services, the provision of technical assistance, and undertaking plan reviews. Barbara Barosa, the Department's Senior Planner, contributed information about the Department to the Planning Team and attended meetings.

Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District: The Soil and Water Conservation District was created to develop and implement natural resource conservation in the County through technical assistance. Lauri Taylor, the District Manager, attended meetings and contributed information to the Planning Team.

Putnam County Department of Highways & Facilities: The Department is responsible for the administrative duties to ensure that all highway facilities and park divisions daily operations are conducted. The Department is divided into several divisions: Automotive Maintenance, Parks, Planning & Design, Facilities, Fiscal, Road



Maintenance & Construction, and Sign Shop. John O’Connor of the Department provided feedback and updates to the plan.

3.3.2 Regional and Local Stakeholders

Appendix B (Participation Matrix) provides further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agencies. The stakeholders listed below were directly contacted by Putnam County to take a stakeholder survey, which included the identification of specific mitigation actions and projects and/or review of the draft HMP. Results of the surveys are in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach). Feedback was reviewed by the Steering Committee and integrated where appropriate in the plan.

Agency Contacted	Date Contacted	Contact Method
New York Metropolitan Transportation Council NYS DEC – Permits; NYSDEC Division of Water Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety; Hudson Valley Regional Council; NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors NYC DEP; Ridgefield CT Emergency Preparation and Resources; Danbury CT Emergency Preparedness; Danbury CT OEM; Kent VFD; Putnam Lakes FD; Patterson Fire #1 Putnam Hospital; American Red Cross; Metro North Railroad; NYSDOT Region 8; NYSEG CEN-HUD; Putnam County IDA; Svirsky Inc Beecher Funeral Home; Putnam County EDC Verizon Wireless; Windstream Communication Materion Brewster; Carmel Kent Chamber of Commerce; Putnam County Business Council Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce	August 11, 2020	E-Mail
Dutchess County Planning & Development Westchester County Planning Orange County Department of Planning Rockland County Planning Department Dutchess County Emergency Management Westchester County Emergency Management Orange County Emergency Mgt Rockland County Emergency Mgt	August 11, 2020	E-Mail
Dutchess County Planning & Development Westchester County Planning Orange County Department of Planning Rockland County Planning Department Dutchess County Emergency Management Westchester County Emergency Management Orange County Emergency Mgt Rockland County Emergency Mgt New York Metropolitan Transportation Council NYS DEC – Permits; NYSDEC Division of Water Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety; Hudson Valley Regional Council; NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors NYC DEP; Ridgefield CT Emergency Preparation and Resources; Danbury CT Emergency Preparedness; Danbury CT OEM; Kent VFD; Putnam Lakes FD; Patterson Fire #1 Putnam Hospital; American Red Cross; Metro North Railroad; NYSDOT Region 8; NYSEG CEN-HUD; Putnam County IDA; Svirsky Inc Beecher Funeral Home; Putnam County EDC Verizon Wireless; Windstream Communication Materion Brewster; Carmel Kent Chamber of Commerce; Putnam County Business Council Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce	November 9, 2020	E-Mail



Academia

School districts in the county were provided with the stakeholder survey, invited to provide input, and notified of the draft HMP review period. The following have provided input to the planning process via the county online stakeholder survey:

- Carmel Central School District
- Brewster Schools

Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities

Hospitals and healthcare facilities located in Putnam County were invited to take the stakeholder survey and provide input to the planning process. The following have provided input to the planning process via the county online stakeholder survey:

- Putnam Hospital
- Danbury Department of Health and Human Services

Highway and Public Works

State, county, and local highway and public works departments were notified of the Highway and Public Work's stakeholder survey and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. In addition, many of the participating municipalities had representatives from their highway and public works departments representing them on the planning partnership. As of the submittal of this plan, no response has been provided.

Emergency Services

State, county and local emergency service providers (police, fire, and EMS) were notified of the Emergency Services stakeholder survey and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. The following provided input to the planning process via the county online stakeholder survey:

- Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services

Utilities

Utility providers in the county were notified of the Utility Stakeholder survey and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. The following provided input to the planning process via the county online stakeholder survey:

- Central Hudson Gas and Electric

Business and Commercial Interests

Businesses and commercial industries in Putnam County were notified of the stakeholder survey and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. As of the submittal of this plan, no response has been provided.

Additional Stakeholders

The following stakeholders were identified by the Putnam County HMP Steering Committee and notified of the stakeholder survey and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. The following provided input to the planning process via the online stakeholder survey:

- American Red Cross



Adjacent Counties

Putnam County strived to keep surrounding counties and municipalities apprised of the project and allowed the opportunity to provide input to this planning process. Specifically, the following adjoining and nearby county representatives were contacted on August 11, 2020 and September 14, 2020 to inform them about the availability of the project website, draft plan documents, and surveys, and to invite them to provide input to the planning process.

- Dutchess County, New York
- Orange County, New York
- Westchester County, New York
- Town of Sherman, Connecticut
- City of Danbury, Connecticut
- Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut
- Western Connecticut Council of Governments – Fairfield County*
- Town of New Fairfield, Connecticut*

County indicated by an asterisk (*) provided input to the planning process via the county online stakeholder survey.

3.3.3 Stakeholder Survey Summary

The following provides a summary of the results and feedback received by stakeholders who completed the survey. Feedback was reviewed by the Steering Committee and integrated where appropriate in the plan.

Stakeholder Survey

The stakeholder survey was designed to help identify general needs for hazard mitigation and resiliency within Putnam County from your perspective, as well as to identify specific projects that may be included in the mitigation plan. It was distributed to identified stakeholders, including the various county and municipal departments and agencies in the County. As of November 5, 2020, 6 stakeholders completed the survey.

The Stakeholder Survey was broken down into 4 sections: Hazard and Damage Identification, Community Preparedness, Project Identification, and COVID-19, each detailed below. Survey results were shared with the Steering Committee and Planning Partnerships in scheduled meetings for consideration in the development of mitigation strategies.

Hazard and Damage Identification

The majority of survey respondents (83.3%) identified that buildings and facilities belonging to their organization have been impacted by a natural hazard, specifically severe weather events. Of these respondents, all identified lifeline infrastructure services (roads and electricity) as vulnerable during storm events. Damage to roads and power are interrelated, and damage that results from a loss of power, often due to tree interaction, is perpetuated by road closures. Respondents specifically noted strong winds and snowstorms as threats to infrastructure.

Although facilities have been previously impacted by hazard events, the majority (83.3%) of respondents indicated that their facilities and transportation infrastructure are adequately prepared for withstanding natural disasters. 33.3% of respondents noted continuous improvement to resilience and response efforts. Half of the respondents also indicated that their utility infrastructure and service were adequately equipped to withstand disasters and can provide uninterrupted service to the facilities. One of these respondents noted that emergency



backup is recommended if uninterrupted service is required. 66.7% respondents indicated that they were aware of the number and location of vulnerable populations in their community, but half of those respondents aware indicated a desire for additional information about these populations or a reliance on County guidance.

Community Preparedness

Half of the respondents believe that local public education and awareness programs are effective at informing residents about disasters and preparedness and reducing personal risk, while the other half are not sure. The majority of respondents (83.3%) do not know if the public, particularly vulnerable populations, are aware of, understand, and take advantage of emergency warning systems.

Less than half (33.3%) of respondents believe that local government understand, support, and possesses adequate resources for hazard risk reduction efforts in their community, while 50% of respondents are unsure. All respondents believe that private businesses in their community play a direct role in daily operations. All respondents' organizations are part of, or have their own, Emergency Response Plan, with each organization having a direct role or responsibility within the plan.

All responding organizations are part of an Emergency Operations Plan, with half also a part of a Continuity of Operations Plan. Most (66.7%) are part of an Evacuation Plan. One responding organization is part of a Continuity of Government Plan. Half of respondents also indicated that additional evacuation planning is necessary to address hazard impacts. One respondent noted concerns with power within their buildings, deterring the site from functioning as an emergency shelter.

Project Identification

Respondents identified the following projects or programs that could reduce their organization's vulnerability to damages, including operation of service:

- Increased maintenance, specifically tree trimming.
- Traffic circle plan for the Stoneleigh/Drewville intersection.
- Enhanced construction standards (i.e. increased pole diameter)
- Providing whole-building generators.
- Additional system automation to increase the speed of system restoration.
- Internal readiness initiative programs.

The following were identified as recently implemented projects that reduced vulnerabilities to hazard events:

- Free community preparedness education programs (Home Fire Campaign, Citizen Preparedness Corps, Prepare with Pedro, Pillowcase Project).
- Pandemic response, specifically providing large quantities of PPE supplies housed in every school.
- Improving construction standards by expanding pole diameter.
- System automation updates to increase the speed of system restoration.

COVID-19

Respondents were also asked to detail how their organization has been involved in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents detailed the following:

- We are the only hospital in Putnam County.
- Collecting convalescent plasma and keeping a safe blood supply for local hospitals.



- Continuing to respond to fires and other disasters and have updated our Standard Operating Procedures to ensure safety of clients and workforce.
- Providing disaster mental health videos and resources to health care providers.
- Virtual Family Assistance Center - providing emotional support for families who've lost loved ones due to COVID-19.
- Offering CPR/First Aid courses with a 90 provisional certification (online option with required skills test in-person) and Psychological First Aid for COVID-19 course for general public (online only)
- Offering Returning to Work During COVID-19 course for general public (online only).
- As the public health agency for our community, HHS has been involved with the response to this pandemic. HHS has coordinated Danbury's response on a daily basis.
- As a critical service to the community we never closed; but we have taken substantial measures to protect the community and our employees, including sequestering the most critical functions, separating my employees reporting locations, and having a high percentage of employees work from home. Many of these activities continue.
- We changed how we do business. Safety is considered in each decision.

Respondents also answered with the following about how they believed the COVID-19 pandemic will reshape their organization's practices and business framework:

- Already has. Visitor restrictions, access control and surveillance upgrades, reconfiguration of service lines in hospital, opening new bed spaces, etc.
- At this time, all staff members are working remotely whenever possible. If a member goes to a facility they are required to wear a mask and social distance.
- COVID-19 will have long reaching implications for how the City of Danbury will conduct business. A greater emphasis will be placed on all aspects of public health moving forward.
- Remote work is now a proven technology and it will likely continue in a reduced fashion for some employees.
- Alternate (COVID-safe) plans for cleaning, transportation and teaching.
- PPE and enhanced cleaning will be a part of operation going forward.

The following services and infrastructure needs were identified by respondents as needing to be built or improved upon within their communities in order to mitigate damages experienced by the pandemic:

- Cut the trees around the power lines servicing the hospital.
- Increased community outreach and awareness.
- Improve housing of the most vulnerable populations and provide better coordination between private and governmental agencies.
- Expansion of outdoor facilities.
- Improvement of remote learning and teaching.

Respondents also identified the following challenges and obstacles their organization is facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Contingency Plan or Back-up Plan for Staffing (66.7%)
- Availability of PPE (66.7%)
- Availability of cleaning supplies (50%)
- Clear messaging (16.7%)
- Tracking Information (16.7%)



- Receiving accurate information regarding the current situation and available resources (16.7%)

Neighboring County Survey

The neighbor survey was sent to the surrounding jurisdictions and counties of Putnam County due to their proximity to the County and due to the fact that effects of hazard events that impact Putnam County would be similar to that of their neighbors. As of November 5, 2020, two jurisdictions completed the survey.

The Neighboring County Survey was broken down into 5 sections: Emergency Operations and Continuity of Operations Planning, Risk and Vulnerability, Evacuation and Sheltering, Information Sharing, and Projects, Grants, Education and Outreach, each detailed below.

Emergency Operations and Continuity of Operations Planning

One jurisdiction noted that Putnam County is involved in their own jurisdiction's comprehensive emergency operations and that their jurisdiction is also involved in Putnam County's comprehensive emergency operations planning. Both jurisdictions indicated that Putnam County is not involved in either of their continuity of operations planning, nor are they involved in Putnam County's continuity of operations planning.

Risk and Vulnerability

Both respondents indicated that their respective jurisdiction does not share risk and vulnerability assessments, including flood mapping, and HAZUS data, with Putnam County.

Evacuation and Sheltering

Neither jurisdiction collaborates with Putnam County on establishing evacuation routes and alternative evacuation routes. Further, there is no consultation between Putnam and either jurisdiction before making evacuation decisions. Neither jurisdiction collaborates with Putnam County when establishing shelters, sheltering decisions, or temporary housing locations.

Information Sharing

Respondents indicated that they do not have access to contact information for Putnam County's Emergency Operations Centers at the county or local level. There is also no mitigation information sharing between either jurisdiction with Putnam.

Projects, Grants, Education and Outreach

One respondent identified stormwater projects as requiring cross-collaboration between county boundaries. This respondent noted that municipalities are required by the MS4 permit to understand where all the stormwater interconnections occur across boundaries, and that their jurisdiction, WestCOG, assists some towns with this mapping requirement.

Both respondents indicated that they have not previously collaborated with Putnam County on grant applications. They both are also unaware of any organizations that carry out education and outreach regarding natural hazards in both their own jurisdiction and Putnam County.

One respondent identified the Fire Department and potentially Emergency Medical Services as having mutual aid agreements between their jurisdiction and Putnam County.

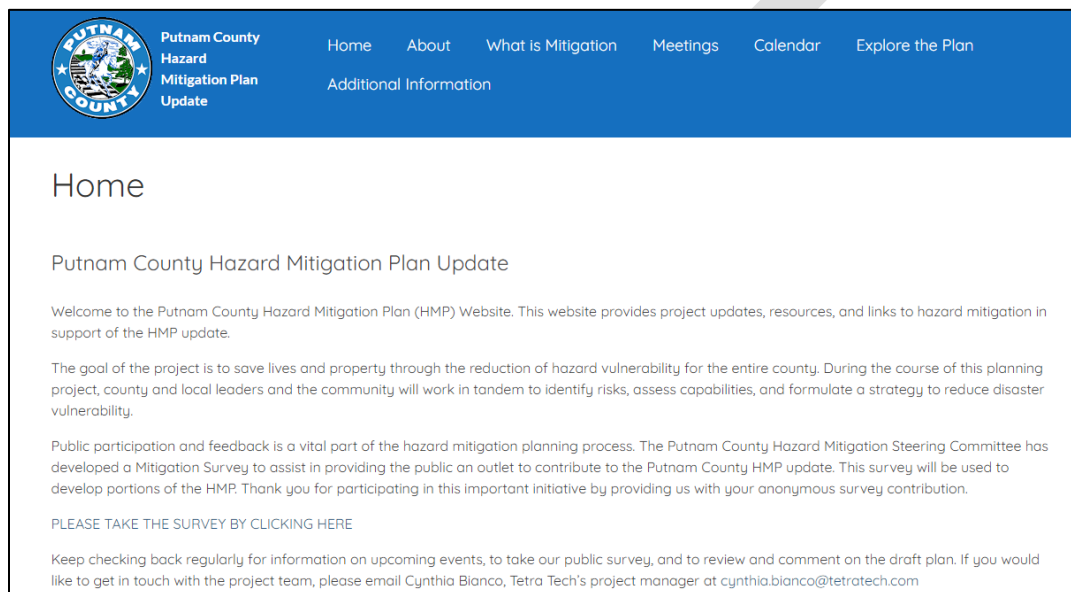


3.3.4 Public Outreach

The Steering Committee and Planning Committee have made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the HMP:

- A public project website was developed and is being maintained to facilitate communication between the Steering Committee, planning partnership, public and stakeholders (<https://www.putnamcountynyhmp.com/>). The public website contains a project overview, county and local contact information, access to the citizen's survey and various stakeholder surveys, and sections of the HMP for public review and comment (see Figure 3-1).

Figure 3-1. Putnam County HMP Webpage



- All hazard mitigation planning meetings that were open to the public were advertised on the Putnam County HMP website.
- An on-line natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was developed to gauge household preparedness relevant to hazards in Putnam County and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards. The questionnaire asks quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. The questionnaire also asks several demographic questions to help analyze trends. The questionnaire was posted on the county public website on July 27, 2020 and available for over three months to facilitate public input garnering 128 responses. The survey results were sorted by municipality and provided to the Steering and Planning Committee members to use to identify vulnerabilities and develop mitigation strategies. A summary of survey results is provided in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach) of this plan.
- All participating municipalities were encouraged to distribute the project brochure and post the links to the project webpage and citizen and stakeholder surveys. In addition, all participating municipalities were requested to advertise the availability of the project website via local homepage links, and other

Over 125 responses and 10 agencies provided feedback and input via the citizen and agency surveys.



available public announcement methods (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, email blasts). The following are examples of outreach provided:

- The Village of Brewster added an HMP page to their municipal website. They provided information on the HMP, a link to the citizen survey, and a link to the County website. On July 29, 2020, the Village posted on their Facebook page about the HMP update.

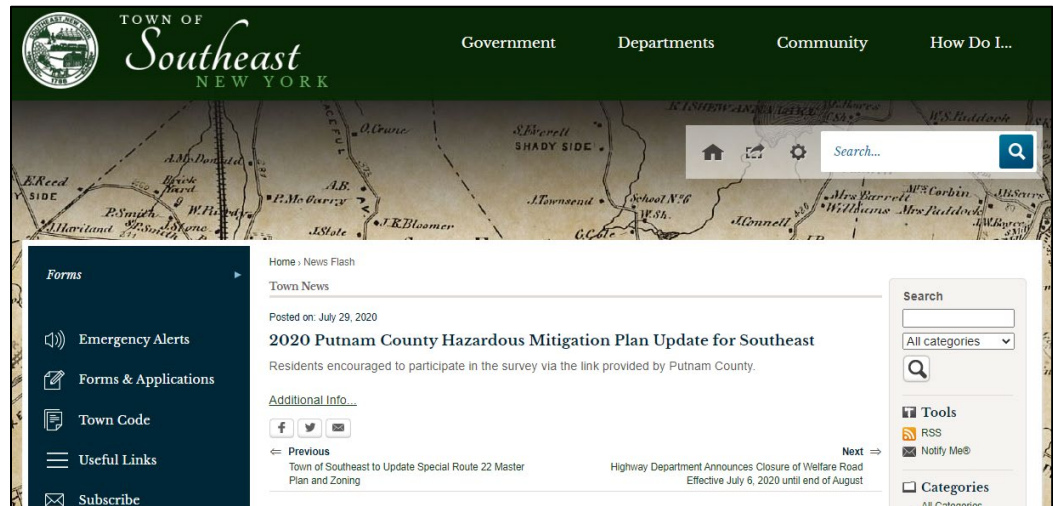
Figure 3-2. Village of Brewster, NY Website



- On July 29, 2020, the Town of Southeast added a news post about the HMP update. They provided a link to the HMP website and encouraged residents to complete the citizen survey.



Figure 3-3. Town of Southeast, NY Website



- On July 29, 2020, the Southeast-Brewster, NY Patch (<https://patch.com/new-york/southeast/putnam-county-update-its-hazard-mitigation-plan>) posted a press release about the County’s HMP update and included a link to the citizen survey. Additionally, they posted a link to the press release on their Facebook page.



Figure 3-4. Southeast-Brewster, NY Patch Article



- The Village of Nelsonville added a link to the HMP website to the Village homepage in August 2020.



located in the Town of Philipstown in Putnam County, New York. Its Government consists of a mayor and four trustees as its legislative body, and a Village clerk who doubles as treasurer.

We're happy you're here! Please take a look around and explore the history of our small village, along with what's going on in Nelsonville today.

NEWS

Please view our 2020 calendar [here](#).

PUTNAM COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION SURVEY
All residents are encouraged to complete the following [survey](#) organized by the Putnam County Hazard Mitigation Plan steering committee.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The Village Election on Wednesday, March 18th has been POSTPONED. The Village of Nelsonville Hall will be operating with limited hours. If you need to contact us with time sensitive questions or need assistance, please email villageclerk@nelsonvilleny.gov or mayor@nelsonvilleny.gov.

USEFUL LINKS FOR RESIDENTS:

- <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov>

Monday, August 10, 2020
7:00pm-7:30pm

AGENDA:
Road Paving estimates for Division and Bank Streets

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3344491351?pwd=a1BJUGNkUW84TEE1VnMrWkpwRVFnwZz09>

Meeting ID: 334 449 1351
Password: 10516
+19294362866,3344491351# US (New York)

+ ADD TO CALENDAR

- o The Town of Putnam Valley posted a link to the Hazard Mitigation Plan survey and a link to the brochure created for the HMP planning process.

Video On Demand

Putnam Valley Community Television

District Beaches

Learn More

The Town of Putnam Valley is a **PURPLE HEART TOWN!**
888.668.1656
www.purpleheart.org

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.

To protect and preserve our community, its environment, its economy, its character, and its future.

Putnam Valley Town Hall
Business hours: 8 AM – 4 PM, Monday – Friday by Appointment Only
Click [here](#) to call for appointments with individual departments.

265 Oscawana Lake Road
Putnam Valley, New York 10579
Click [HERE](#) for Directions

Learn more about the Putnam County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Live or work in Putnam County? Take our survey!
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PutnamHMP2020>

The September Town Board Meetings are as follows: 9/16 at 5 PM –Work Session. 9/23 at 6 PM –Regular Monthly Meeting. Both meetings will be held at Town Hall. Due to an

Pay Town Taxes Online

PAY TAXES

Click [HERE](#) for the 2020 Final Assessment Roll

Click [HERE](#) for the Putnam County Tax Assessment Parcel Search Tool

Click [HERE](#) for IMPORTANT CHANGES to the STAR exemption 2019

Click [HERE](#) for IMPORTANT CHANGES to the STAR exemption 2020

- Starting in November, draft sections of the plan (as available) were posted on the project website for public review and comment.
- Once approved by NYS DHSES/FEMA, the final HMP will be available on the county website.

3.4 INCORPORATION OF EXISTING PLANS, STUDIES, REPORTS AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Putnam County HMP update strives to use the best available technical information, plans, studies, and reports throughout the planning process to support hazard profiling; risk and vulnerability assessment; review





and evaluation of mitigation capabilities; and the identification, development, and prioritization of county and local mitigation strategies.

The asset and inventory data used for the risk and vulnerability assessments are presented in the County Profile (Section 4). Details of the source of this data, along with technical information on how the data was used to develop the risk and vulnerability assessment, are presented in the Hazard Profiling and Risk Assessment Section (Section 5), specifically within Section 5.3 (Data and Methodology), as well as throughout the hazard profiles in Section 5.4 (Hazard Profiles). Further, the source of technical data and information used can be found within the References Section.

Plans, reports, and other technical information were identified and provided directly by the county, participating jurisdictions, and numerous stakeholders involved in the planning effort, as well as through independent research by the planning consultant. The county and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the inventory of their Planning and Regulatory capabilities in Section 9 (Capability Assessment of each jurisdictional annex) and providing relevant planning and regulatory documents, as applicable. Relevant documents, including plans, reports, and ordinances were reviewed to identify the following:

- Existing municipal capabilities.
- Needs and opportunities to develop or enhance capabilities, which may be identified within the county or local mitigation strategies.
- Mitigation-related goals or objectives considered in the review and update of the overall Goals [and Objectives] in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy).
- Proposed, in-progress, or potential mitigation projects, actions, and initiatives to be incorporated into the updated county and local mitigation strategies.

The following local regulations, codes, ordinances, and plans were reviewed during this process to develop mitigation planning goals, objectives, and strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms to accomplish complementary and mutually supportive strategies:

- Comprehensive/Master Plans
- Building Codes
- Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances
- NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
- Site Plan Requirements
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans
- Stormwater Management Plans
- Emergency Management and Response Plans
- Land Use and Open Space Plans
- Capital Plans
- New York State Standard Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2019

A partial listing of the plans, reports, and technical documents reviewed in the preparation of this plan is included in Table 3-5.



Table 3-5. Record Review (Municipalities) - Record of the review of existing programs, policies, and technical documents for participating jurisdictions (all)

Existing plan, program or technical documents	Date	Jurisdictional Applicability
Building, Unsafe	-	Brewster
Construction Codes, Uniform	-	Brewster
Flood Damage Prevention	-	Brewster
Comprehensive Plan	2015	Brewster
Stormwater Management	-	Brewster
Zoning Plan	-	Brewster
Flood Damage Prevention	-	Carmel
Subdivision of Land	-	Carmel
Zoning Plan	-	Carmel
Comprehensive Plan	-	Cold Spring
Subdivision of Land	-	Cold Spring
Zoning Plan	-	Cold Spring
Floodplain	-	Cold Spring
Flood Insurance Study - Putnam County, New York	March 4, 2013	Countywide
MS4 Annual Report	2013	Countywide
Stormwater Improvement Study Final Report	December 2009	Countywide
Putnam County Profile 2017	2017	Countywide
Flood Damage Prevention	-	Kent
Steep Slope and Stormwater Management	-	Kent
Subdivision of Land	-	Kent
Zoning Plan	-	Kent
Comprehensive Plan	1991	Nelsonville
Zoning Code	-	Nelsonville
Stormwater Management	-	Patterson
Subdivision of Land	-	Patterson
Zoning Code	-	Patterson
Comprehensive Plan	2000	Patterson
Comprehensive Plan	2006	Philipstown
Open Space Plan	-	Philipstown
Flood Damage Prevention	-	Philipstown
Stormwater Management	-	Philipstown
Zoning Code	-	Philipstown
Large Development Projects Report	December 2015	Putnam County
Hudson Valley Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2018-2022	August 2019	Putnam County
Hudson Valley Region Distress Criteria Stastical Report	October 2017	Putnam County
An Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan for Putnam County	August 2004	Putnam County
Flood Preparedness & Response: A Guide for Municipalities	2014	Putnam County



Existing plan, program or technical documents	Date	Jurisdictional Applicability
Hudson Valley Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2019-2023	November 2019	Putnam County
Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan	May 2013	Putnam County
Report of the Task Force on Vision 2010 Guiding Putnam into the Next Decade	2010	Putnam County
Soil Survey of Putnam and Westchester Counties, New York	September 1994	Putnam County
Putnam County Commercial Corridors Planning and Feasibility Study	June 29, 2018	Putnam County
Building Construction and Fire Prevention	-	Putnam Valley
Flood Damage Prevention	-	Putnam Valley
Comprehensive Plan	-	Putnam Valley
Soil Erosion and Sediment Control	2013	Putnam Valley
Storm Sewers	2013	Putnam Valley
Stormwater Management	2013	Putnam Valley
Zoning Code	-	Putnam Valley
Comprehensive Plan	2014	Southeast
Building Construction and Fire Prevention	-	Southeast
Flood Damage Prevention	-	Southeast
Sewers and Water	-	Southeast
Stormwater Management	-	Southeast
Subdivision of Land	-	Southeast
Zoning Code	-	Southeast

Notes:
 * = this document may or may not include all jurisdictions
 T = Town
 V = Village

3.5 INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision-making. Within Putnam County, there are many existing plans and programs that support hazard risk management, and thus it is critical that this hazard mitigation plan integrate, coordinate with, and complement, those existing plans and programs.

The *Capability Assessment* section of Chapter 6 (Mitigation Strategy) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, state, county and local) that support hazard mitigation within the county. Within each jurisdictional annex in Section 9, the county and each participating jurisdiction identified how they integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory and operational/administrative framework (“integration capabilities”) and how they intend to promote this integration (“integration actions”).

A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).



3.6 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Putnam County and participating jurisdictions are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. This HMP update will be posted online at <https://www.putnamcountyny.com/pcbcs/oem/mitigation/> and municipalities will be encouraged to maintain links to the plan website. Further, the county will make hard copies of the HMP available for review at public locations as identified on the website.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the Planning Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public website at <https://www.putnamcountyny.com/pcbcs/oem/mitigation/>.

Each jurisdiction's governing body shall be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this plan.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the plan as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the next five-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the five-year plan update as appropriate; however, members of the Planning Committee will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may be held as deemed necessary by the Planning Committee. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the plan.

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

After completion of this plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will continue to be a function of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee will review the plan and accept public comment as part of an annual review and as part of five-year mitigation plan updates.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the HMP Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public web site.

Mr. Robert Lipton is identified as the Putnam County HMP Coordinator in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance), and is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this plan. Contact information is:

Robert Lipton, Deputy Commissioner
Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services
112 Old Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512
845-808-4000
Email: Robert.lipton@putnamcountyny.gov