

## Explanation of the Hazard Mitigation Risk Assessment Matrix (draft)

The purpose of the Risk Assessment Matrix is to assist in the formation of mitigation actions that are intended to reduce the physical, social, and economic loss that may result from a natural hazard event.

The Risk Assessment Matrix identifies vulnerable areas and assets of the town that have either sustained damage from a natural disaster in the past or have a reasonable probability of sustaining damage in the future. Natural hazards that were taken into consideration were coastal flooding, coastal erosion & shoreline change, riverine flooding, heavy rains, climate change & sea level rise, hurricanes, storm surge, high winds & thunderstorms, snow, ice, extreme cold and extreme heat.

Once vulnerable areas and assets are identified (location and ownership), the Charlestown Natural Hazard Mitigation Committee will determine the primary/problem/effects (impacts) to the residents, property, infrastructure, and economy. The mitigation benefits of pre- and post-mitigation efforts are determined by identifying the advantages gained if the impacts of a natural hazard event could be prevented. Mitigation benefits could include, but are not limited to, the protection of life, property, infrastructure, economy, and historical significant structures.

Questions, comments and/or input can be directed to Dori Boardman at Charlestown Town Hall [dboardman@charlestownri.org](mailto:dboardman@charlestownri.org).