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# Town of Pittstown

## Jurisdictional Annex to the

MULTIJURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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# Town of Pittstown Annex

This is the jurisdictional annex for the Town of Pittstown. The jurisdiction’s governing body passed a formal resolution to participate in updating this multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan (HMP). A copy of its resolution is maintained at the local government offices and at the Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety.

## Contact Information

Table 1: Contact Information for the Town of Pittstown

Name	Title	Contact Information
Matt Curley	Supervisor	Phone: 518-753-4222 Email: supervisor@townofpittstown.org
Paul Campbell	Highway	Email: highway@townofpittstown.org
Dave Crowther	Code	Email: buildingdept@townofpittstown.org

## Introduction

The Town of Pittstown has a fully integrated approach to hazard mitigation planning and program implementation. Table 2 lists the participants in the 2024 process for updating the HMP.

Table 2: Participants in the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for the Town of Pittstown

Name	Title	Jurisdiction
Matthew Curley	Supervisor	Town of Pittstown
Paul Campbell	Highway	Town of Pittstown
Dave Crowther	Building Inspector	Town of Pittstown

# Jurisdiction Profile

## Location and Land area

The Town of Pittstown is in north central Rensselaer County, in the eastern part of New York State. It shares border with Schaghticoke to the north, Brunswick and Grafton to the south, Hoosick to the east, and Schaghticoke to the west.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Rensselaer County has a total area of 665 square miles (1,720 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 652 square miles (1,690 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 13 square miles (34 km<sup>2</sup>) (1.9%) is water. Of that, the Town of Pittstown has a total area of 64.84 square miles (167.94 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 61.63 square miles (159.62 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 3.22 square miles (8.33 km<sup>2</sup>) is water.

## Population

According to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, the population of the Town of Pittstown was estimated to be 5,540. The July 1, 2023, U.S Census population count shows a decrease in population to 5,531.

## Demographics

The population of the Town of Pittstown includes 103.1 males per 100 females (all ages). Persons under 18 years make up 24.6% of the population, and persons 65 years and over make up 15.8%.<sup>1</sup> Young and old subsets of the population may have unique needs as far as care requirements and potential cognitive and/or mobility limitations before, during, and after a disaster.

The portion of the population who speak a language other than English is 1.7%. Persons not speaking English well may have trouble understanding instructions regarding disaster preparation, response, and recovery.

Of those 25 years old and older, 92.0% are high school graduates or higher, and 22.2% have received their bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>2</sup> Higher education can help enhance skills associated with cognition and evaluation of risk. Higher education can, therefore, foster an overall improved perception of risk, particularly where individuals may not have prior direct experience preparing for, responding to, or recovering from a particular hazard in their daily lives.

From 2018 to 2022 there were 1,783 total households and 3.20 persons per household. Persons living alone sometimes have less of a direct social circle for support before, during, and after a disaster.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, 2025, "Town of Pittstown, Rensselaer County, New York Quickfacts", <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/pittstowntownrensselaercountynewyork,US/PST045224>

<sup>2</sup> IBID

<sup>3</sup> IBID

The Census Bureau classifies all people not living in housing units (house, apartment, mobile home, rented rooms) as living in group quarters. The two types of group quarters are institutional (correctional facilities, nursing homes, mental hospitals) and non-institutional (college dormitories, military barracks, group homes, missions, shelters). The Census Bureau maintains no group quarters information for this municipality. The needs of persons living in group quarters are unique, and residents are likely to have access and functional needs and unique care requirements before, during, and after a disaster.

According to 2022 American Community Survey, the median household income of the Town of Pittstown was \$96,181, and the percentage of persons in poverty was 10.2%. Lower-income persons have limited financial resources to draw from in both a pre- and post-disaster scenario and are likely to require support as they prepare for, and recover from, hazard events.

Noninstitutionalized civilians with a disability accounted for 11.8%, and people over 65 with a disability accounted for 26.0%. Persons (civilian, non-institutionalized) without health insurance were 3.2% of the population. Persons with disabilities have access and functional needs such as cognitive or mobility limitations that may put them at greater risk before, during, and after a hazard event.

## Brief History

The area that is now Rensselaer County was inhabited by the Algonquian-speaking Mohican Indian tribe at the time of European encounter. Kiliaen van Rensselaer, a Dutch jeweler and merchant, purchased the area in 1630, as part of the Dutch colony New Netherland. The land passed from English rule (1664) to Dutch control (1673), then back to English rule (1674), until American independence in 1776. Rensselaer County was created in 1790s from an area that was originally part of the very large Albany County. In 1807 the county reorganized.<sup>4</sup>

The Town of Pittstown is one of the original towns in the county and was created in 1788 from a patent dated 1761.

## Governing Body

The governing body of the municipality consists of a Town Board and various departments. This council serves as the municipal/local government, performing executive functions of different natures. Members of this governing body are elected by the people.

## Growth and Development Trends

Performing an assessment of growth and development trends is one step of a hazard mitigation plan update. This look into the future is important because development in hazard areas could put more people and property in harm's way and, in turn, could increase potential disaster-related damage and

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<sup>4</sup> 2020 Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation Plan, "Town of Pittstown Annex"

losses at a time when the mitigation plan’s purpose is to reduce the potential for damage from natural disasters.

An evaluation of growth and development trends was undertaken by each participating jurisdiction as part of the development of the initial plan in 2011. As part of this plan update, the Town of Pittstown reviewed and updated its prior feedback to reflect current conditions in the community as of early 2019.

The Town of Pittstown did not note any major residential or commercial development taking place, or any major infrastructure development planned for the next five years in the municipality. Typical development tends to be active single family residential development in undeveloped woodland areas and farmland. There is no commercial development or retirement housing. Due to the economy, very little residential development is currently occurring.

The Town of Pittstown enforces land use regulations and higher-level authority to protect new development from the effects of natural hazards.

## Hazard Identification

The Calculated Priority Risk Index (CPRI) is a comprehensive assessment tool used to evaluate and prioritize risks within a given context. It considers various factors such as probability, impact, and urgency to determine the level of risk associated with events or situations. By considering these variables, the CPRI helps organizations and individuals make informed decisions about risk management and mitigation strategies. It provides a systematic approach to identifying and addressing potential issues, allowing for more efficient allocation of resources and proactive risk prevention. With the CPRI, stakeholders can prioritize their focus on the most critical risks, leading to more effective risk management and, ultimately, better outcomes. Table 3 provides the methodology of the CPRI.

Table 3: Factors in the Calculated Priority Risk Index

Risk Index Factor	Degree of Risk Level		Criteria	Factor Weight for Degree of Risk Level
Probability What is the likelihood of the hazard occurring?	1	Unlikely	Less than 1% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of greater than every 100 years.	30%
	2	Occasional	1%–10% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of 11–100 years.	
	3	Likely	11%–90% percent probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of 1–10 years.	

Risk Index Factor	Degree of Risk Level		Criteria	Factor Weight for Degree of Risk Level
	4	Highly Likely	91%–100% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of less than 1 year.	
<b>Potential Consequences</b> What will be the overall impact in terms of injuries, damage, death, continuity of operations, and environmental and economic impacts?	1	Negligible	Very few injuries, if any. Only minor property damage and minimal disruption of quality of life. Temporary shutdown of critical facilities.	30%
	2	Limited	Minor injuries only. More than 10% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for more than one day.	
	3	Critical	Multiple deaths/injuries possible. More than 25% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities more than one week.	
	4	Catastrophic	High number of deaths/injuries possible. More than 50% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for 30 days or more.	
<b>Warning Time</b> How long will there be between when it is recognized the hazard is approaching and when the hazard will begin affect the community?	1	Self-defined	More than 24 hours	10%
	2	Self-defined	12–24 hours	
	3	Self-defined	6–12 hours	
	4	Self-defined	Less than 6 hours	
<b>Duration</b> What is the length of time the hazard will remain active, including how long emergency operations will need to continue after the hazard event?	1	Brief	Up to 6 hours	10%
	2	Intermediate	Up to one day	
	3	Extended	Up to one week	
	4	Prolonged	More than one week	

Risk Index Factor	Degree of Risk Level		Criteria	Factor Weight for Degree of Risk Level
Spatial Extent How large of an area could be impacted by a hazard event? Are impacts localized or regional?	1	Negligible	Less than 1% of area affected	20%
	2	Small	1%–25% of area affected	
	3	Moderate	25%–50% of area affected	
	4	Large	Greater than 50% of area affected	

**RISK FACTOR EQUATION**

$$RF \text{ Value} = [(Probability \times .30) + (Magnitude \times .30) + (Onset \times .10) + (Duration \times .10) + (Frequency \times .20)]$$

Table 4 presents the CPRI for the Town of Pittstown with respect to different hazards the jurisdiction might experience.

Table 4: Types of Hazard Events with Calculated Priority Risk Index for the Town of Pittstown

Type of Hazard Event	Probability	Potential Consequences	Warning Time	Duration	Spatial Extent	Risk Factor Value
Drought	2	1	1	3	4	2.1
Earthquake	1	4	4	4	4	3.1
Extreme Temperatures	1	1	1	2	4	1.7
Flooding	3	2	4	2	3	2.7
Hazardous Materials	1	2	4	1	1	1.6
High Winds	4	2	2	2	3	2.8
Hurricane or Tropical Storm	1	1	1	2	4	1.7
Landslide	1	1	4	2	2	1.6
Lightning	3	1	4	1	3	2.3
Terrorism	1	2	4	1	1	1.6
Tornado	2	3	4	3	3	2.8

Type of Hazard Event	Probability	Potential Consequences	Warning Time	Duration	Spatial Extent	Risk Factor Value
Utility & Infrastructure Failure	1	1	4	2	1	1.4
Wildfire	1	2	1	3	2	1.7
Winter Storm	3	1	3	2	4	2.5

## Hazard Event History

Understanding hazard event histories is crucial for effective risk management. Analyzing past events allows us to identify trends, patterns, and recurring risk factors. This knowledge enables us to better prepare for and mitigate the impact of future hazards. Examining hazard event histories provides valuable insights to inform decision-making and help prioritize resources for risk prevention and response efforts. Table 5 lists some of the more notable events in the Town of Pittstown since 2003.

Table 5: Notable Hazard Events in the Town of Pittstown Since 2003

Type of Hazard Event	FEMA Disaster # (If Applicable)	Date(s)	Damage or Impacts	Description
Drought	None	None	None	None
Earthquake	None	04/05/2024	No reported impacts	Earthquake with epicenter in NJ, felt in some parts of the county
Extreme Temperatures Extreme Heat	None	08/12/2021	Heat indices reached 95°F–104°F degrees across parts of the Hudson River from Albany and points southward reaching 105°F–110°F.	Extreme Heat
Extreme Cold	None	02/03/2023– 02/04/2023	Warming centers were opened.	Arctic Cold, with extreme wind chills some squalls- temperatures ranging from -18°F to -39°F , wind gusts up to 44 mph
Flooding (Including Flooding, Dam Failure, and Ice Jams)	None	None	None	None
Hazardous Materials	None	None	None	None
High Wind	None	05/15/2020	Trees were downed in the Pittstown area. Around 71,000 customers were without power at the height of the storm.	An intense line of thunderstorms quickly developed near Lake Ontario and raced eastward into eastern New York. A segment of particularly strong and long-lasting thunderstorms impacted the region.

Type of Hazard Event	FEMA Disaster # (If Applicable)	Date(s)	Damage or Impacts	Description
	None	10/7/2020	Tree downed near Croll Road and County Route 111. There was also one fatality when a tree fell onto a man's car while driving on the Taconic Parkway.	A line of thunderstorms developed, causing microbursts in Pittstown, with estimated wind speeds of 90 mph. This event was classified as a serial derecho based on the 320 mile long damage swath and distribution of significant wind gusts (75 mph and above).
Hurricane or Tropical Storm	None	None	None	None
Landslide	None	None	None	None
Lightning	None	None	None	None
Terrorism	None	None	None	None
Tornado	None	None	None	None
Utility & Infrastructure Failure	None	None	None	None
Wildfire	None	None	None	None
Winter Storm (Including Ice Storm and Snowstorm)	None	12/15/2022–12/17/2022	N/A	Nor'easter, snowfall ranging from 1 in to 12 in.
	None	03/13/2023–03/15/2023	Downed trees and power lines with widespread power outages around the county	Nor'easter, heavy wet snow, accumulations of 31 in around the county

Type of Hazard Event	FEMA Disaster # (If Applicable)	Date(s)	Damage or Impacts	Description
	None	Jan 9, 2024 Jan 13, 2024	Sustained winds over 50 mph coupled with ice, heavy snowfall caused widespread damage: downed trees, broken power lines, roads impassable, some structure damage around the county	Power was off for over a 4-day period for a total of 27 hours for nearly all residents in the county.

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),<sup>5</sup>the notable events in Town of Pittstown since 2020 include the following:

- October 7, 2020** – Thunderstorm Wind: A high-end severe weather event unfolded across the Northeast on Wednesday, October 7, 2020. A line of thunderstorms originated across New York State and moved eastward into New England during the afternoon hours, producing widespread damage. New York State Mesonet weather stations recorded widespread wind gusts between 50 and 60 mph down the Mohawk Valley into the Greater Capital District with a 67 mph wind gust measurement at the Albany International Airport. This ranks as the highest gust for the month of October with records dating back to 1987. Microbursts were confirmed by storm surveys in Root, Pittstown, and Johnsonville, NY, with estimated wind speeds of 80, 90, and 100 mph, respectively. In addition, a brief EF0 tornado occurred in Canajoharie, NY. There was also one fatality when a tree fell onto a man's car while driving on the Taconic Parkway. This event was classified as a serial derecho based on the 320 mile long damage swath and distribution of significant wind gusts (75 mph and above). The fact that trees across the region were fully leafed exacerbated the resulting wind damage and produced widespread power outages. As a result of this storm, there were over 160,000 power outages across the region. Schools closed the next day due to lack of power, and dry ice was distributed to the public while power was being restored over the next few days. A tree was downed near Croll Road and County Route 111.
- June 6, 2023** – Hail: Scattered showers and thunderstorms developed within the proximity of an upper-level low pressure system off the coast of New England. Hail fell out of many of these storms and ranged from pea size (around 0.25 inches) to as large as ping-pong balls (1.50 inches). In some locations, hail fell long enough to accumulate on ground surfaces. Around 1 inch size hail fell in Pittstown.

## National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Summary

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program that provides flood insurance to millions of policyholders across the country. The following information is provided to meet federal standards. The Town of Pittstown answered the NFIP questions in Table 6 through Table 8 to the best of its ability.

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<sup>5</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI). 01/01/2011–09/30/2024. "Rensselaer County, New York." [https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/listevents.jsp?eventType=ALL&beginDate\\_mm=01&beginDate\\_dd=01&beginDate\\_yyyy=2011&endDate\\_mm=09&endDate\\_dd=30&endDate\\_yyyy=2024&county=RENSELAER%3A83&hailfilter=0.00&tornfilter=0&windfilter=000&sort=DT&submitbutton=Search&statefips=36%2CNEW+YORK](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/listevents.jsp?eventType=ALL&beginDate_mm=01&beginDate_dd=01&beginDate_yyyy=2011&endDate_mm=09&endDate_dd=30&endDate_yyyy=2024&county=RENSELAER%3A83&hailfilter=0.00&tornfilter=0&windfilter=000&sort=DT&submitbutton=Search&statefips=36%2CNEW+YORK)

Table 6: Responses on Floodplain Management from the Town of Pittstown

Question	Response
Who is the floodplain manager? Is this their primary or secondary role?	Code Enforcement/Building Inspector is Floodplain Manager.
Does the floodplain manager have adequate training and capacity for their role? If not, what else is needed?	Floodplain Manager is new to this position and training process is ongoing.
How does the community enforce its floodplain rules? Does enforcement include monitoring compliance and acting to correct violations?	Through the Code enforcement and the Floodplain Manager.
When was the community’s most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV)?	Unknown
Were any violations noted on the community’s most recent CAV?	Unknown
Is there an upcoming CAV? If no, is one needed?	No None needed
When was the most recent floodplain management ordinance adopted?	Local law 2 2015
Does your community participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)? If so, describe the steps the community has taken to achieve the CRS goals.	No
Does the community’s floodplain management ordinance include any higher standards? If so, please list.	No
Who is responsible for permitting?	Floodplain Manager
How does the community issue development permits in the special flood hazard area?	Floodplain Manager is responsible for tracking and issuing floodplain permits.
Does the community maintain elevation certificates?	No

Question	Response
Does the community track the number of buildings in the special flood hazard area? If yes, are there any trends?	Yes, we keep track. No, there are no trends.
How many repetitive loss (RL) structures does the community have? (List number and type of structure)	None
How many severe repetitive loss (SRL) structures does the community have? (List number and type of structure)	None
Have any RL/SRL properties been mitigated since the last plan update?	None
Who is responsible for making substantial damage/substantial improvement determinations?	Code enforcement officer
How does the substantial damage/substantial improvement process work in your community?	The code enforcement officer is responsible for reviewing structures including during the permit process and issuing SD/SI determination as necessary.
Is there sufficient staff and training to make substantial damage/substantial improvement determinations?	Staff is in place, and training is scheduled/ongoing.
How are substantial damage/substantial improvement requirements messaged to the public before and after an event?	Not applicable as none have occurred
Have any substantially damaged/substantially improved structures been mitigated since the last plan update?	No
How will the community remain in compliance with the NFIP moving forward? (Simply stating "the community will continue to comply with the NFIP" will not meet FEMA's planning requirements)	The town will continue to enforce floodplain management requirements incorporating the Floodplain Manager's input into all decisions.

Table 7: Responses on Floodplain Mapping from the Town of Pittstown

Question	Response
How does the community support map change requests? This could be requests during the Risk MAP process or through Letters of Map Amendment or Revision.	All changes would go through the current Floodplain Manager.
When did the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) become effective?	January 6, 2016
When was the latest FIRM adopted?	November 10, 2015
Is the FIRM and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report in an accessible location? How would the public get access to their flood map information?	Floodplain Manager's office
Does the community use any Risk MAP products? If so, describe.	No
Does the community collect updated floodplain data or modeling? Is this shared with partners and with FEMA?	No
Other comments?	N/A

Table 8: Responses on Flood Insurance and Outreach from the Town of Pittstown

Question	Response
How does the community educate the public on floodplain management and the availability of flood insurance, in and out of the floodplain?	This would be achieved through the Floodplain Manager or a local law 2 of 2015.
How does the community engage with insurance agents on flood insurance?	Unknown
Does the community (or state) have flood hazard disclosure laws?	Unknown
How familiar is the public with their flood insurance options?	Unknown
How many properties have flood insurance in the community?	Unknown
Are there any areas where flood insurance is lacking?	Unknown
Other comments?	None

## Critical Facilities Information

The following information is provided to meet standard F1. Identifying critical facilities in flood-prone areas is crucial for effective emergency planning and risk management. By understanding the potential impact of flooding on these facilities, local authorities can develop proactive strategies to mitigate risks and ensure the safety and functionality of these important assets during flood events. This information is valuable for decision-making and prioritizing resources for emergency response and preparedness efforts. Table 9 lists the critical facilities (emergency facilities, critical infrastructure and utilities, and other key facilities, as presented in Risk Assessment) that are in the floodplain in the Town of Pittstown.

Table 9: Critical Facilities Located in the Floodplain in the Town of Pittstown

Critical Facility	Type of Facility	Jurisdiction	1% Chance? Zone AE	0.2% Chance? Zone X (Shaded)	How has this facility been protected from flooding?	Feasibility of Mitigating the Flood Risk
Unnamed	Bus	Town of Pittstown	No	No	N/A	N/A
Unnamed	Bus	Town of Pittstown	No	No	N/A	N/A
Unnamed	Bus	Town of Pittstown	No	No	N/A	N/A
Johnsonville Fire Department	Fire Stations	Town of Pittstown	No	No	Elevation depicts low probability of flood	N/A
Pittstown Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Stations	Town of Pittstown	No	No	Elevation depicts low probability of flood	N/A
Raymertown Fire District	Fire Stations	Town of Pittstown	No	No	Elevation depicts low probability of flood	N/A

Critical Facility	Type of Facility	Jurisdiction	1% Chance? Zone AE	0.2% Chance? Zone X (Shaded)	How has this facility been protected from flooding?	Feasibility of Mitigating the Flood Risk
Country Acres Mobile Home Park	Wastewater	Town of Pittstown	Yes	No	Unknown	Unknown

## Jurisdiction/Public Identified Vulnerabilities

Table 10 provides crucial information on critical facilities within the Town of Pittstown floodplain, highlighting the town's vulnerability to identified hazards. It outlines the susceptibility of future assets to damage from the identified hazards, offering valuable insights into their potential impact on these essential facilities. By understanding the risks associated with these assets, local authorities can develop proactive strategies to mitigate the vulnerabilities and ensure the safety and functionality of these important assets during hazard events. This data is invaluable for decision-making and prioritizing resources for emergency response and preparedness efforts, ultimately contributing to more effective risk management and resilience-building within the community.

Table 10: Vulnerable Assets in the Town of Pittstown

Vulnerable Assets	What makes this group/asset vulnerable during hazards? Have there ever been issues with recovery after an event?
<b>People</b> (residents, workers, visiting populations, and socially vulnerable populations like seniors, individuals with disabilities, lower-income individuals, etc.)	
Residents along the Sunkauissia creek in County Acres	The people could be stranded in their homes. There have been no issues with recovery after any events.
Residents along the Hoosick River near the dam in Johnsonville	The people could be stranded in their homes. There have been no issues with recovery due to no flooding occurring yet.
<b>Structures</b> (residential, commercial, industrial, government-owned, planned capital improvement, etc.)	
Homes along the Sunkauissia Creek in County Acres	Homes could be flooded. No issues with recovery.
Homes along the Hoosick River on River Road	Homes could be flooded. No issues with recovery, no flooding occurring yet.
<b>Economic Assets</b> (major employers, primary economic sectors, key infrastructure like telecommunications networks, etc.)	
No big economic assets in the area	N/A
<b>Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources</b> (areas of conservation, beaches, parks, critical habitats, community centers, historic places, etc.)	
Unknown	N/A
<b>Critical Facilities and Infrastructure</b> (hospitals, law enforcement, water, power, transportation systems, etc.)	
If the flood gates are activated residents on river would need help to evacuate to a shelter.	See prior answer.

Vulnerable Assets	What makes this group/asset vulnerable during hazards? Have there ever been issues with recovery after an event?
Tomhannock Reservoir	Water source for over 100,000 residents across Rensselaer and other counties could be susceptible to contamination with some hazards.
<b>Community Activities</b> (major local events, such as festivals, or economic events, like farming or fishing)	
The Town of Pittstown is largely farming and agriculture, and flooding is always a major concern.	See prior answer.
<b>Are there any other assets that you can think to include?</b>	
None	N/A

## Additional Public Involvement

As part of this 2025 plan update, the Town of Pittstown undertook various activities to (a) alert the public and other stakeholders to the fact that the HMP Planning Committee was working to develop the update and (b) provide the public and other stakeholders with a forum to ask questions and submit comments and suggestions on the process. Table 11 presents outreach activities undertaken by the Town of Pittstown for the 2025 plan update.

Table 11: Outreach Activities Undertaken by the Town of Pittstown

Activity Date	Type of Activity	Activity Details	Department and/or Staff Member
April 2024–August 2024	Survey	Survey was posted throughout town and gathering centers and online.	Town Supervisor

## Capabilities Assessment

Local mitigation capabilities are essential for reducing the impact of hazards on communities. Local authorities can effectively mitigate hazards by leveraging existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources. These capabilities encompass a range of strategies, such as land-use planning, building codes and enforcement, public education and outreach, infrastructure protection, and natural resource protection. Through collaboration with various stakeholders, including emergency management agencies, public works departments, and environmental organizations, local communities can implement comprehensive mitigation efforts to minimize the impact of disasters. Table 12 through Table 15 provide the Town of Pittstown’s capabilities.

## Planning and Regulatory

Planning and regulatory capabilities are the plans, policies, codes, and ordinances that prevent and reduce the impacts of hazards.

Table 12: Planning and Regulatory Capabilities of the Town of Pittstown

Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	In Place (Y or N)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
Building code	Y	Our current local law addresses this in section .4-4
Zoning ordinance	Y	Addressed in article 6.1 of LL 2-2015
Subdivision ordinance or regulations	Y	Unsure
Special purpose ordinances (floodplain management, stormwater management, hillside or steep slope ordinances, wildfire ordinances, hazard setback requirements)	Y	Our current local law addresses this in section .4-4
Growth management ordinances (also called "smart growth" or anti-sprawl programs)	N	N/A
Site plan review requirements	Y	Unsure
General, comprehensive or master plan	Y	Unsure
A capital improvements plan	N	N/A
An economic development plan	N	N/A
An emergency response plan	Y	List of contacts for emergency situations
A post-disaster recovery plan	N	N/A

Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	In Place (Y or N)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
A post-disaster recovery ordinance	N	N/A
Real estate disclosure requirements	N	N/A
Other	N	N/A

## Administrative and Technical

Administrative and technical capabilities include staff and their skills.

Table 13: Administrative Capabilities of the Town of Pittstown

Staff/Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
Planner(s) or engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	N	N/A
Engineer(s) or professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	N	N/A
Planners or Engineer(s) with an understanding of natural and/or human-caused hazards	N	N/A
Floodplain manager	Y*	Helps to maintain flood insurance and compliance
Surveyors	N	N/A
Staff with education or expertise to assess the community's vulnerability to hazards	N	Unsure
Personnel skilled in GIS and/or HAZUS	N	N/A
Scientists familiar with the hazards of the community	N	N/A
Emergency manager	Y	Unsure

Staff/Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
Grant writers	N	N/A
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	N	N/A
*All communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program; as such, they are required by the regulations to have an appointed floodplain manager.		

## Financial

Financial capabilities are the resources to fund mitigation actions.

Table 14: Financial Capabilities of the Town of Pittstown

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No/Don't Know)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	No	Unsure
Capital improvements project funding	Yes	Unsure
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes	Unsure
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service	No	Unsure
Impact fees for homebuyers or developers for new developments/homes	No	Unsure
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes	Unsure
Incur debt through special tax and revenue bonds	Yes	Unsure
Incur debt through private activity bonds	Do not know	Unsure
Withhold spending in hazard-prone areas	Do not know	Unsure

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No/Don't Know)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
State mitigation grant programs	Do not know	Unsure
Other	N/A	N/A

## Education and Outreach

Education and outreach capabilities are programs and methods that could communicate about and encourage risk reduction.

Table 15: Education and Outreach Capabilities of the Town of Pittstown

Education and Outreach Capability	In Place? (Y/N)	Does this resource currently incorporate hazard mitigation?	Notes
Community Newsletter(s)	Yes	Yes	N/A
Hazard Awareness Campaigns (such as Firewise, Storm Ready, Severe Weather Awareness Week, School Programs)	Yes	Yes	N/A
Public Meetings/Events (Please describe.)	No	No	N/A
Emergency Management Listserv	No	No	N/A
Local News	Yes	Yes	N/A
Distributing Hard Copies of Notices (e.g., public libraries, door-to-door outreach)	Yes	Yes	N/A
Insurance Disclosures/Outreach	No	No	N/A

Education and Outreach Capability	In Place? (Y/N)	Does this resource currently incorporate hazard mitigation?	Notes
Organizations that Represent, Advocate for, or Interact with Underserved and Vulnerable Communities (Please describe.)	No	No	N/A
Social Media (Please describe.)	No	No	N/A
Other? (Please describe.)	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Opportunities to Expand and/or Improve Capabilities

Table 16 presents opportunities for the Town of Pittstown to expand or improve capabilities.

Table 16: Opportunities to Expand and/or Improve Capabilities of the Town of Pittstown

Capability Type	Opportunity to Expand and/or Improve
Planning and Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The town created a committee to address the growth and development of the town while addressing the aspects of the hazardous mitigation to prevent any hazardous that may occur. The Zoning Schedule and Development Plan addresses areas of concern and was adopted in 2019.</li> </ul>
Administrative and Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current floodplain manager is new to the position this calendar year. He needs certification in this field. The floodplain manager is in the process of joining the association of state floodplain managers, where training will occur.</li> </ul>
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main item needed for a town the size of Pittstown to expand or improve to reduce risk is funding. When the storm of July 2017 devastated many areas of the town, FEMA came three times and said the town would qualify for funding for improvements to roads and upgrades but then the hurricane struck Puerto Rico, and no funding was available for upstate NY.</li> </ul>
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brookfield Power, which owns a hydroelectric dam on River Road, holds public meetings to keep the public informed and allows them to ask questions or address their concerns.</li> </ul>

## Mitigation Strategy

Table 17 presents details about the 2019 mitigation actions. Table 18 presents the actions in the 2025 update, and Table 19 shows the prioritization of the mitigation actions.

Table 17: Status of Actions for the Town of Pittstown in 2019<sup>6</sup>

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead <sup>7</sup>	Status Update
1	NEW - Country Acres Mobile Home Park	Flooding in residents' mobile homes at park. Over the years, the creek has continued to fill with sediment. Storm of July 2017 created the worst ongoing flooding issues in the mobile home park. Swift water rescue had to be used to get residents to safety. Much debris (including propane tanks) flowed to Tomhannock Reservoir, a water source for the City of Troy.	Creek needs to be cleaned out and possibly raising the creek banks in the process.	Highway Superintendent, County Engineer Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)	This is still being monitored as discussions continue with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC).

<sup>6</sup> Projects related to Critical Facilities (CF) must protect the facility to the 500-year event or worst damage scenario, whichever is greater.

<sup>7</sup> Include relevant department and position title.

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead <sup>7</sup>	Status Update
2	NEW - 517 Groveside Road	Creek flows through farmer's property: floods cause water to overflow culverts and corn fields and storage barn. In July 2017, 3 to 5 acres of corn fields were flooded resulting in associated crop losses of all corn that was affected. (based on the 2018 NYS Agriculture Overview from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at <a href="https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/Ag_Overview/stateOverview.php?state=NEW%20YORK">https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/Ag_Overview/stateOverview.php?state=NEW%20YORK</a> , 159 bushels/acre; \$4.1/bushel; yield estimated value lost during 2017 of roughly between \$1,956 and \$3,260). Flooding occurs at this location every year, though not always to the level of the 2017 event.	Creek needs to be cleaned out and culvert work is needed.	Highway Superintendent DEC	Culvert repair is scheduled for 2024/2025 to address the problem.
3	NEW - Peter Hansen Lane	Middle of dirt road is exposed shale rock that cannot be worked on with grader	Road needs to be altered with jack hammer to remove shale, change design of road.	Town Highway Dept. Superintendent	The road level has been raised with additional gravel materials.

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead <sup>7</sup>	Status Update
4	NEW - North Pole Rd Widening	Road is not wide enough in certain areas for adequate plowing in the winter and grading in the summer. There are traffic safety issues.	Widening the road by acquiring through easements or eminent domain	Town Highway Dept. Superintendent	The road has been widened and trees along the roadway have been cut. The first 0.8 mile has been resurfaced and paved.
5	North Pole Road Culvert Upgrade / Drainage Improvement (2011 PI-1)	Road is not wide enough in certain areas for adequate plowing in the winter and grading in the summer. There are traffic safety issues.	Culvert upgrade/drainage improvement to North Pole culverts, adding additional culverts, road widening	Highway	The culverts have been repaired and the roads widened.
6	Hazard Outreach (2011 PI-5)	The residents' knowledge of hazards and risks could be improved.	Implement public awareness and education for all possible hazards that apply to Pittstown residents.	Town Board	The survey for the residents has been installed on the town website to gauge the knowledge of the residents.

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead <sup>7</sup>	Status Update
7	Participate in County-Led Hazard Mitigation Outreach (2011 PI-CL-1)	Residents could benefit from additional information on hazards, risks, and hazard mitigation measures they can take on their own properties to reduce damages and improve resident safety before, during and after a hazard event.	Public awareness program on Hazards, Prevention, and Mitigation: County will maintain a hazard mitigation and mitigation planning web presence (local municipal websites to link up to this site, if they haven't already done so); all participating jurisdictions to support preparation of a joint annual hazard mitigation and mitigation planning fact sheet and its distribution; periodic discussion of hazard mitigation and the mitigation plan at other regular local meetings; use of annual flyers, newsletters, advertisements, or radio/tv announcements, etc. at the discretion of each jurisdiction (incorporating as much free information as possible from the FEMA Publications Warehouse and other appropriate sources) (public education).	County-led action item; Core Planning Group Member, Town Supervisor	Ongoing

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead <sup>7</sup>	Status Update
8	Request code/ordinance review by county as needed (2011 PI-CL-2)	Communities are safer and more resilient when new construction and substantial improvements take into account the latest information on hazard vulnerabilities and measures to reduce risk.	Code update: Review existing local codes and ordinances against the identified hazards to determine whether there need to be any amendments to address identified hazards and, where a need is identified, modify/amend the codes/ordinances as applicable (prevention).	County-led action item; Core Planning Group Member, Town Supervisor	Ongoing
9	Send CEO to County-Led Training (2011 PI-CL-3)	There can be a loss of institutional knowledge with staff changes. Even when the staff is the same, continual training improves local capabilities and allows officials to better regulate activities in hazard areas to protect lives and property.	Code enforcement: Enforcement of NYS and Local Building Codes with Continual CEO training (prevention).	County-led action item; Core Planning Group Member, Town Supervisor	Ongoing
10	Send Comprehensive Plan Update to County for Review by County Planning (2011 PI-CL-4)	A long-term vision for the community that doesn't take into account hazard areas can put lives and property at risk. Taking into account natural hazards and hazard mitigation measures can make the community more resilient.	Ensure that local comprehensive plans incorporate natural disaster mitigation techniques through a courtesy review of draft plans by the County Planning Department (prevention).	County-led action item; Core Planning Group Member, Town Supervisor	Ongoing

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead <sup>7</sup>	Status Update
11	Attend County-Led Workshops on Natural Hazards and Hazard Mitigation (2011 PI-CL-5)	When municipal staff aren't armed with information on zoning and planning issues that sometimes arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation, they may make decisions that don't foster community resiliency.	Hold periodic workshops for municipalities regarding zoning and planning issues that arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation (prevention).	County-led action item; Core Planning Group Member, Town Supervisor	Ongoing
12	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance per New FEMA Regulations (as needed) (2011 PI-NFIP-1)	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulated to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to comply with latest FEMA regulations.	Town Board	In 2015 local LL#2 2011 was repealed with LL#2 2015 to meet current NYS Constitution and NYS ENCON law.
13	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance when New FIRMs are Issued (2011 PI-NFIP-4)	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulated to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with potential future new FIRMs.	Town Board	In 2015 local LL#2 2011 was repealed with LL#2 2015 to meet current NYS Constitution and NYS ENCON law.

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead <sup>7</sup>	Status Update
14	Floodplain Manager CFM Certification (2011 PI-NFIP-5)	As a community participating in the NFIP, our Floodplain Manager must enforce our local floodplain management ordinance. To do so effectively, he/she must be very familiar with the FEMA-480 document. Certified Floodplain Managers receive their certification after passing an exam which tests their knowledge of FEMA-480. An unknowledgeable floodplain manager may not implement the ordinance or the FEMA requirements properly. In turn, lives/property can be put at risk or in harm's way, and additionally, our community's eligibility to continue its participation in the NFIP could be jeopardized if we do not undertake floodplain management activities in accordance with NFIP requirements (as spelled out in FEMA-480).	Require staff involved in floodplain management and ordinance enforcement to become Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs).	Code Enforcer	The new code enforcement officer for the town is working to receive the required certifications.

Table 18: Proposed New 2025 Mitigation Actions

Jurisdiction	#	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal / Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Description of Responsibilities and Partners	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
Pittstown Hamlet	1	County Acres Mobile Home Park	No	Protect existing assets	Flooding	Fast running flood areas during storms	Creek needs to be cleaned out and possible raising of the banks	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Water management, County Engineer, and Town of Pittstown site coordination	None	None	1–5 years	NYS DEC	Unknown	Safety of Parks residents and water quality in the Tomhannock reservoir	HMGP, BRIC, FMA	Low priority
Town of Pittstown	2	Quaker Road	No	Protect existing assets	Flooding	Clogged culverts	Creek clean out and culvert work	Town of Pittstown Road work	None	None	1 year	Town of Pittstown	\$5,000	Safety of town residents and commuters	Town of Pittstown Budget, HMGP, BRIC, FMA	Low priority
Town of Pittstown	3	Petter Hansen Lane	No	Protect existing assets	Utility & Infrastructure	Dangerous shale sticking out	Raise the road level to cover the shale	Town of Pittstown Road work	None	None	1 year	Town of Pittstown	\$2,500	Safety of town residents and commuters	Town of Pittstown Budget, HMGP, BRIC	Low priority
Town of Pittstown	4	North Pole Road	No	Protect existing assets	Utility & Infrastructure	Traffic safety issues	Widening of the road through easements	Town of Pittstown coordination	None	None	1 year	Town of Pittstown	\$10,000	Safety of town residents and commuters	Town of Pittstown Budget, HMGP, BRIC	Medium priority
Town of Pittstown	5	North Pole Road	No	Protect existing assets	Utility & Infrastructure	Traffic safety issues	Widening of the road through easements then installing new culverts	Town of Pittstown coordination	None	None	1 year	Town of Pittstown	\$6,500	Safety of town residents and commuters	Town of Pittstown Budget, HMGP, BRIC	Medium priority

Jurisdiction	#	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal / Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Description of Responsibilities and Partners	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
Town of Pittstown	6	Hazard Mitigation Awareness And Education outreach Program	No	Increase Public Awareness	Drought, Earthquake, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Hazardous Materials, High Winds, Hurricane/Tropical Storms, Landslide, Lightning, Terrorism, Tornado, Utility, and Infrastructure Failure, Wildfire, Winter Storms	Lack of public awareness on prevention and mitigation	Increasing public awareness	County-led action item. Town of Pittstown	None	None	1 year	Rensselaer county	Unknown	Education of the public	HMGP, BRIC	Low Priority
Rensselaer county	7	Code/enforcement review	No	Protect existing assets	Drought, Earthquake, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Hazardous Materials, High Winds, Hurricane/Tropical Storms, Landslide, Lightning, Terrorism, Tornado, Utility, and Infrastructure Failure, Wildfire, Winter Storms	Safer communities when latest information on hazard vulnerabilities are taken into account	Review existing local codes and ordinances against identified hazards	County-led action item. Town of Pittstown	None	None	1 year	Rensselaer county	Unknown	Keeping the hazard mitigation plan current	HMGP, BRIC	Medium priority

Jurisdiction	#	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal / Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Description of Responsibilities and Partners	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
Town of Pittstown	8	Code enforcement training	No	Promote resilient new development	Drought, Earthquake, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Hazardous Materials, High Winds, Hurricane/Tropical Storms, Landslide, Lightning, Terrorism, Tornado, Utility, and Infrastructure Failure, Wildfire, Winter Storms	Loss of institutional knowledge Keeping code enforcement training up to date and current.	Enforcement of NYS and local building codes with continual training	County-led action item. Town of Pittstown	None	None	1 year	Town of Pittstown	Unknown	Safety of town residents	Unknown	Medium priority
Rensselaer County	9	Comprehensive plan	No	Promote resilient new development	Drought, Earthquake, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Hazardous Materials, High Winds, Hurricane/Tropical Storms, Landslide, Lightning, Terrorism, Tornado, Utility, and Infrastructure Failure, Wildfire, Winter Storms	Not taking in to account natural hazards mitigation measures that can make the community more resilient	Making sure that the comprehensive plans incorporate natural disaster mitigation	County-led action item. Town of Pittstown	None	None	1 year	Rensselaer county	Unknown	Keeping the hazard mitigation plan current	Unknown	Medium priority

Jurisdiction	#	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal / Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Description of Responsibilities and Partners	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
Town of Pittstown	10	Workshops on hazardous mitigation	No	Promote resilient new development	Drought, Earthquake, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Hazardous Materials, High Winds, Hurricane/Tropical Storms, Landslide, Lightning, Terrorism, Tornado, Utility, and Infrastructure Failure, Wildfire, Winter Storms	Updates to the hazardous mitigation plan Decreasing natural hazards and hazard mitigation potential issues	Holding periodic workshops regarding planning and zoning issues that arise	Town of Pittstown	None	None	1 year	Town of Pittstown	Unknown	Safety of town residents	Unknown	Low priority
Town of Pittstown	11	Floodplain Management	No	Promote resilient new development	Flood	Outdated ordinances mean the community is not regulating to the latest codes and standards	Update or revise floodplain management ordinance to comply with the latest FEMA regulations	Town of Pittstown	None	None	1 year	Town of Pittstown	Unknown	Safety of town residents	FMA, HMGP, BRIC	Medium priority
Town of Pittstown	12	Floodplain Management	No	Promote resilient new development	Flood	Outdated ordinances mean the community is not regulating to the latest codes and standards	Update or revise floodplain management ordinance to comply with the latest FIRM regulations	Town of Pittstown	None	None	1 year	Town of Pittstown	Unknown	Safety of town residents	FMA, HMGP, BRIC	Medium priority
Town of Pittstown	13	Floodplain manager Certification	No	Promote resilient new development	Flood	Getting our new floodplain manager up to date on all certifications and training	Requiring the new floodplain manager all new training and certifications	Town of Pittstown	None	None	1 year	Town of Pittstown	Unknown	Safety of town residents	FMA, HMGP, BRIC	High priority

Table 19: Mitigation Action Prioritization

Action #	Social	Technical	Administrative	Political	Legal	Economic	Environmental	Priority (High, Medium, Low)
1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Low
2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Low
3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Low
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Medium
5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Medium
6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Low
7	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Medium
8	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Medium
9	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Medium
10	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Medium
11	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Low
12	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Medium
13	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	High