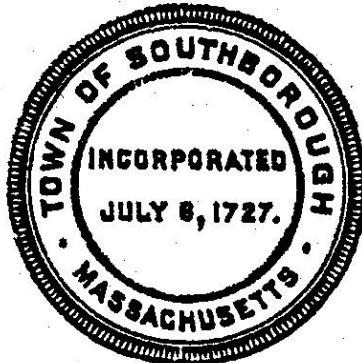


**MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS  
PROGRAM FY 19**

**PLANNING GRANT  
RFR ENV 19 MVP 01**

**Applicant & Address:  
TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH  
17 COMMON STREET  
SOUTHBOROUGH, MA 01772**



**Local Project Manager & Point of Contact:  
Melissa Danza  
Conservation Agent  
[mdanza@southboroughma.com](mailto:mdanza@southboroughma.com)  
508-281-8984**

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## Section 1: Letter of Support from Town Administrator

### TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



#### OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HOUSE · 17 COMMON STREET · SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772-1662  
(508) 485-0710 · FAX (508) 480-0161 · [selectmenoffice@southboroughma.com](mailto:selectmenoffice@southboroughma.com)

April 9, 2019

Katie Theoharides, Assistant Secretary of Climate Change  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

**RE: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant**

Dear Ms. Theoharides:

This letter is in support of the Town of Southborough's application for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant.

Living in New England, we are no strangers to changes in the weather. We can experience damaging winds, extreme cold, and flooding rain, all in the same season. And it seems that these weather patterns have become more severe and prone to property damage in the past years. Climate change is real, and we must prepare for it now, or pay the costs of our negligence in the coming years. Southborough is making inroads in its attempts to try and stay ahead of the curve.

Southborough has an active, but mostly volunteer, Emergency Management Agency, that schedules regular meetings and table-top trainings for its members and Town leadership. Our Green Community status with the Commonwealth has provided us funding opportunities to reduce our electricity usage and make our operations more affordable and efficient. And Southborough has a long and storied history of its preservation and conservation efforts for historical and open space parcels in Town. At the Annual Town Meeting in March 2019, Southborough voters overwhelmingly approved designating the Town as a Tree City, USA.

As with most cities and towns, there are never enough hands or money to address all of the needs that require our attention. Funding and assistance through the MVP grant will help Southborough with the planning and capital needs that we need to ensure that our community is prepared to address issues associated with climate change. We are currently in the process of updating our Master Plan, and Open Space and Recreation Plan, and this grant will help us to add our Hazard Mitigation Plan to that list. We are extremely fortunate to have Melissa Danza as our Conservation Agent, to lead this effort, as Melissa has been through this process previously during her time with the Town of Uxbridge in the same capacity.

I offer my full support to the Town's application for the MVP grant, and appreciate your time and consideration of our submission.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Purple  
Town Administrator

## Section 2: Town of Southborough's Commitment

*Include a short statement of the municipality's commitment to taking on this grant and planning for the impacts of climate change, including their commitment to assigning a local project manager and developing a core team to support the project, outlined in the Community Resilience Building guide. Please also outline the municipality's commitment to providing sufficient staff time match to complete the project and how that will be accomplished within current resources.*

---

The Town of Southborough is fully committed to upholding a sustainable program for addressing the multi-faceted impacts of climate change. In recent years the Town has, or is in the process of updating their Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, acquiring the Tree City USA designation, purchased priority open space parcels and implemented Conservation Restrictions, adopted Low Impact Development bylaws and regulations, and received a Green Community designation from the Department of Energy Resources.

As a community, volunteers and professional staff alike have consistently shown an outpouring of support for land and natural resource protection within the Town of Southborough while striving to keep its 'integrity.' The impacts of climate change are another facet of improving our community and the support can be seen in the means of statements to help aid in this grant process.

With a Southborough Emergency Planning Committee & Southborough Emergency Management Agency already in place, we are able to utilize and quickly assemble a core team by focusing in on key individuals such as the Chair of Emergency Management Committee (Fire Department), Police Chief, Conservation Agent, Town Planner, DPW Director, Board of Health director, members of Board of Selectman & Planning Board, Facilities Manager, and additional volunteers from Open Space Preservation Committee or other boards and committees as deemed necessary.

The Conservation Agent and Chair of the Southborough Emergency Planning Committee will spearhead the endeavor of becoming a designated MVP community and creating a local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The primary points of contact will coordinate gathering relevant information and scheduling meetings along with arranging logistics of each meeting. The project will be phased as such that designated staff time will be spread evenly throughout the specified timeline and will not impound their work hours.

## Section 3: Local Project Manager

*The name and qualifications (please include resume and summary of experience) of an employee of the municipality, a committee member, or volunteer who can serve as the local project manager, assemble a core team to work on the project, and serve as the point of contact for the grant.*

---

The Conservation Agent will serve as the local project manager, assemble a core team, and serve as a point of contact for this grant. The agent already communicates between many town boards and departments to effectively collect and consolidate information regarding applications, projects, and other town issues. As other projects are being finalized (updated Open Space & Recreation Plan and various Conservation Restrictions) the Agent will have additional time to dedicate to this project.

The Agent will work with the Chair of Southborough Emergency Planning Committee, Neal Aspesi, to help aid in gathering information and relevant volunteers as he has an extensive background regarding the hazards and vulnerabilities within the Town of Southborough.

The Conservation Agent was involved in the creation of a core team, initial planning, and data collection steps for the Town of Uxbridge prior to accepting their position with Southborough. In addition, the Agent has led several community outreach programs (school events, clean up days, and general workshops and seminars regarding land protection) for previous municipalities and will be able to utilize that experience to keep the public informed and act as a spokesperson for the project.

# Melissa Danza

mdanza@southboroughma.com

Office: 508-281-8984

## Employment Experience

**Conservation Commission Agent – Town of Southborough, MA** September 2018-Present

- Ensure compliance with Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and issued permits
- Continuous inspections for active sites for erosion controls, general compliance, and stormwater features
- Issue Enforcement Orders on behalf of the Commission when necessary
- Intake of applications under the WPA, Wetlands Bylaw, and Stormwater Management Bylaw
- Writing of decisions under WPA, Wetlands Bylaw, & Stormwater Management Bylaw
- Daily administrative duties (mail, phone, emails, invoices, etc.)
- Engage with citizens to answer questions and inform the public
- Yearly inspections of Conservation Restrictions

**Conservation Commission Agent – Town of Uxbridge, MA** August 2016-September 2018

- All tasks listed in previous administrator position
- Schedule site visits with applicants and/or engineers/representatives to discuss current and proposed conditions of site
- Ensure compliance with issued Order of Conditions before, during, and after construction
- Maintain and keep record of Conservation Restrictions held by Commission
- Issue Enforcement Orders on behalf of the Commission when necessary
- Work with home & property owners regarding violations, encroachments on town land, or open permits
- Maintain & regulate the use of Pout Pond (public beach owned by Commission)
- Annual walk of lands under Conservation Restrictions

**Conservation Commission Administrator – Town of Uxbridge, MA** September 2015-August 2016

- Ensure compliance with legal timelines regarding applications and decisions
- Provide feedback and advice to Commission regarding applications and site work
- Direct and assist residential and non-residential applications
- Prepare agendas, minutes, proper meeting material, and attend bi-monthly meetings
- Research archives and regulations as needed
- Keep complete, accurate, and up-to-date physical and electronic files
- Sign-off and research appropriate building permits for any Conservation restrictions
- Research reported violations and outstanding Conservation issues
- Answer phones, process mail, and take messages/questions for Commission or general Conservation concerns

## Education

- Unity College Expected: March 2020
  - Master's of Science in Natural Resource Management
- University of Massachusetts Amherst May 2015
  - Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

## Skills, Certifications, & Specific Coursework

- TELE Workshops (Landowner Outreach)
- MACC Fundamentals Certificate
- ArcGIS
- Watershed Science
- Environmental Toxicology
- Environmental Policy
- Environmental Economics
- OSHA 10 - General Industry

## Section 4: Statements of Municipal Support

*A summary statement of municipal support, including at least 3 letters of support indicating interest in participating in the planning process from all relevant local boards, departments, commissions, businesses, organizations and other partners, including local, regional and statewide agencies or groups focused on climate change adaptation, emergency preparedness, planning, natural resources and land conservation. These partners are critical to the planning process and will ensure the city or town is able to develop a robust final report and build support for future work.*

---

The Town of Southborough has gathered support from numerous departments and local agencies that are willing to aid in an investigation on how climate change will affect our community. With an existing network in place that deals with emergency management, these core members can effectively and efficiently gather the information necessary to prepare and initiate the stakeholder workshop with our selected vendor. Having this framework in place guarantees that Southborough will be successful in garnishing the MVP designation.

In all areas within the town departments and organizations the impacts of climate change can be significant. Most impacts take the form of infrastructure needs/deficits, flooding, rise of invasive species, and increased storm intensity and temperatures. To better prepare for the future, the Town of Southborough is committed to understanding the needs that our community has and how we can actively prepare for them.

The designation as an MVP community, and if selected as a recipient of the MVP Planning Grant, Southborough will then be open to additional funding and opportunities to make capital and other identified improvements that could help to mitigate the impacts of climate change.



## *Town of Southborough Emergency Management*

ENHANCING COMMUNITY SAFETY THROUGH EDUCATION AND PREPAREDNESS

March 13, 2019

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Attn: Ms. Katie Theoharides, Undersecretary of Climate Change  
Saltonstall Building, 100 Congress Street, #900  
Boston, MA 02114

Ms. Theoharides,

This letter is in support of the Town of Southborough's application for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant.

As the Town of Southborough Emergency Management Agency's (SEMA) Director of Operations, I am tasked with planning, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation management and oversight for the wide variety of natural, technological and man-made large-scale emergencies and disasters that threaten and impact the community. Specific to climate change, the dramatic increase in scale, frequency and impacts of seasonal, tropical and winter storms over that past decade highlight the need for infrastructure, communities, and citizens to be increasingly prepared and resilient.

While the ultimate goal is to stop and reverse the impacts of climate change, this is an in-depth and long-term process. Until climate change is no longer a threat to the world, it is our community's duty to take the necessary planning, preparedness and mitigation steps to enhance the safety and resiliency of the community by minimizing impacts.

From an emergency preparedness and response focus, the highlights of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) will place priorities on enhanced infrastructure to ensure response and evacuation road access, operational capabilities of emergency facilities and communications. Mitigation steps, such as clearing trees and implementing redundancy will positively influence these as well. The MVP will also enable the town to support community emergency preparedness and educational campaigns.

The limited staffing of the Town of Southborough dramatically impacts our ability to effectively take the necessary preparedness and mitigation actions needed to enhance the community's safety, resiliency and ability to maintain and return to a normal state of operations from the impacts of climate change.

I fully support the Town's application for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program and efforts towards becoming a safer and more prepared MVP community.

Regards,

*Neal P. Aspesi*

Neal P. Aspesi  
Director of Operations  
[naspesi@southboroughma.com](mailto:naspesi@southboroughma.com)

21 Main Street, Southborough, Massachusetts 01772  
508-485-3235 / 508-485-3887 fax

# TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



## FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

TOWN HOUSE · 17 COMMON STREET · SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772-1663  
(508) 485-8175 · FAX (508) 485-7189 · [jparent@southboroughma.com](mailto:jparent@southboroughma.com)

April 01, 2019

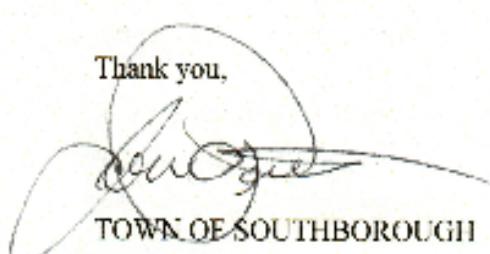
Ms. Kathleen Theoharides, Assistant Secretary of Climate Change  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Theoharides,

It gives me great satisfaction to express my support of the Town of Southborough's application to participate in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program (MVP). As the Director of Facilities and the individual who administers Southborough's Green Communities related responsibilities, I am thrilled that Southborough is seeking to be proactive in regard to climate change vulnerability preparedness.

Since becoming the Director of Facilities in 2014, I have witnessed numerous types of damage to town owned building structures and associated utilities from extreme weather conditions such as massive downpours, unusual blizzard conditions, and even a micro burst. As these "out of the ordinary" type weather scenarios become more and more ordinary as the result of climate change, I believe firmly that it is crucial for Southborough to have a well thought out strategic plan in place for dealing with the ramifications of such weather events. To that point, I see great benefit to the Town of Southborough obtaining designation as a MVP town.

Thank you,

  
TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH  
John A. Parent  
Director of Facilities

# TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

147 CORDAVILLE ROAD • SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772-1802 • (508) 485-1210 • FAX (508) 229-4644

April 9, 2019

Katie Theoharides, Assistant Secretary of Climate Change  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant – Southborough, MA

Ms. Theoharides:

Extreme weather events have increased in frequency in my tenure as Southborough's DPW Superintendent. During this time the Town's population has grown and the percent of impervious surface has increased. The Town's most recent developments have been as cul-de-sacs with conventional storm systems; however, the bulk of the Town's streets have "country" sheet drainage, or corrugated metal daisy-chain basins.

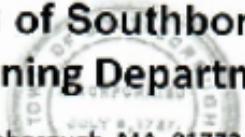
Southborough is a typical metro-west town, with over 15% of the Town's land area covered with the Sudbury Reservoir and many small ponds. Small streams and rivers crisscross the Town roads and fields, with the Sudbury River creating the Town's southern border.

The frequency of severe weather and the Town's geography and infrastructure, has led to collapsed culverts, undermined roadways and backed up storm water systems. Therefore the Southborough DPW supports the Town's application for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant.

Thank you,  
TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*Karen Galligan*  
Karen Galligan  
Superintendent

# Town of Southborough Planning Department

  
Southborough, MA 01772-1662  
17 Common Street  
508-485-0170

April 8, 2019

Ms. Katie Thecharides, Assistant Secretary of Climate Change  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of Southborough MVP Grant Application - Planning Board Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Thecharides:

The Southborough Planning Board fully supports our Town's application to engage in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program and work with others in Southborough to become a more resilient community. Unique and diverse challenges impacting our community's ability to preserve and protect our physical and natural resources is an important focus for assessment and planning, which will help us identify the most significant challenges ahead.

Southborough is a community with many waterbodies, reservoirs, rivers and streams which makes it vital to consider stormwater flow and flood levels, as well as droughts. We appreciate the opportunity to join with others to protect wetlands and floodplains which are essential to protect human interests in water resources in our environment. In addition, invasive species and loss of native plants and wildlife will amplify the environmental challenges which the Town faces. Resiliency is an important part of our current Master Plan update which strives to implement practices that minimize loss of vital natural resources and encourage development techniques that preserves Southborough's essential character.

Understanding the Town's vulnerabilities is very important in achieving a long-range vision for sustaining our resources and community facilities into the future, be it land use, open space, natural resources, lower impact development, infrastructure, housing or transportation. The Planning Board fully supports Southborough's application to the MVP program.

Sincerely,



Donald C. Morris  
Planning Board Chair

Conservation MVP Grant Application PB Support Letter 04.08.19

# TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN HOUSE · 17 COMMON STREET · SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772-1662  
(508) 281-8984 · FAX (508) 480-0161 · [mdanza@southboroughma.com](mailto:mdanza@southboroughma.com)

April 5, 2019

Ms. Kathleen Theoharides  
Assistant Secretary of Climate Change  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Letter of Support for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Planning Grant

Ms. Theoharides,

The Southborough Conservation Commission fully supports our town's application to engage in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to become a designated community that works to combat climate change and prepare ourselves to be a resilient community.

Because of our location within the Sudbury/Assabet/Concord (SuAsCo) watershed and abundance of wetlands within the town, the Conservation Commission appreciates the opportunity to better understand the future impacts to our resources and what we can do to mitigate them.

While we are charged with the Wetlands Protection Act, local Wetlands Bylaw, and Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw, the Commission could learn about the potential impacts from the eyes of other volunteers or key stakeholders within the town and ensure that all needs are being met. With an increase of development and concerns regarding extreme weather events and invasive species, the Commission aims to make informed decisions during their permitting process and possibly use the outcomes to update ~~out~~ our bylaws as needed.

We look forward to being a part of the process and believe that the Conservation Commission's roles and knowledge can bring important information to the table and fully support Southborough's application for the MVP Planning Grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Possemato".

Mark Possemato  
Chair, Conservation Commission

# TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



## Senior Center

9 Cordaville Rd. SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772  
Phone (508) - 229-4453 fax (508) - 229-1783

April 1, 2019

Mellissa Danza  
Conservation Agent  
Town of Southborough  
17 Common Street  
Southborough, MA 01772

Dear Ms. Danza

The Southborough Council on Aging wishes to express our enthusiastic support of our town's application to participate in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program and is committed to working alongside other committees, boards, and organizations in Southborough.

Like other towns in our region, Southborough has been impacted by recent weather and climate extremes, power-outages, flooding and the effects of invasives. We recognize that many of these challenges are directly related to climate change and will benefit from our town's participation in this program.

We appreciate the opportunity to support you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,  
Bill Harrington  
Chairman, Southborough Council on Aging



Sudbury Valley Trustees

*Conservation, Collaboration, and Community since 1953*

April 17, 2019

Katie Theoharides, Assistant Secretary of Climate Change  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Theoharides:

On behalf of Sudbury Valley Trustees, (SVT), I am writing to enthusiastically support the Town of Southborough's application to participate in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. Since 1953, SVT has been protecting and stewarding natural areas throughout the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River watershed, including Southborough. Through our work, we gain firsthand knowledge of how the changing climate threatens our local ecosystems, and are pleased that the Commonwealth and municipalities in our region are taking steps to address the growing threat.

Through focused planning, Southborough will be able to better understand and prepare for the risks associated with extreme temperatures, increased flooding and severe storms. Municipal staff, community leaders, non-profit partners and volunteers can identify the most vulnerable areas, and seek natural-based solutions to bolster them.

SVT anticipates playing a role in the MVP process by highlighting the importance of open space in mitigating the effects of climate change. We hope you will look favorably on the Town of Southborough's application.

Sincerely,

Lisa Vernegaard  
Executive Director

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recycled paper.

18 Wolbach Road • Sudbury, MA 01776-2429 • tel 978-443-5588 • fax 978-443-2333 • [www.svtweb.org](http://www.svtweb.org)

## Section 5: Using the Outcome for the Future

*A description of how the municipality will use the results of this process to inform ongoing or new planning efforts including local hazard mitigation plans (HMP), open space and recreation plans, master plans, etc., and how results from this process would be used to inform that plan. Municipalities who clearly state their intention to incorporate results from the MVP program into a new or ongoing planning process may be eligible to receive additional funding through this opportunity. Please note the status of your local HMP, including if you have an active or expect to be soon completing a local HMP process (for plans expiring in 2019-2020). Municipalities with no current HMP or those with plans expiring in 2019 or 2020 are eligible for additional funding to complete or update a full draft of the HMP for MEMA review, in concert with the tasks described in Section 2A of this RFR. A merged scope of work for incorporating the tasks in Section 2A with those required to complete a full draft of an HMP will be provided during award contracting.*

---

Comprehensive planning is an essential tool the communities need to accommodate for, especially to retain the town's 'integrity,' complete capital improvements, assess and plan for long term growth, and other inevitable changes. Thankfully, Southborough recognizes that the MVP process is multi-faceted in that we can use the results to make informed decisions and updates to many other 'plans' in town.

### **Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Since the MVP process overlaps with other studies, we can use that information and results to make informed decisions and updates to many other 'plans' in town. With the local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) having expired in 2015 there has been a push from the Southborough Emergency Management Agency to acquire funding through the town and MEMA/FEMA grants. Unfortunately, the town has not been favorable in wanting to fund, through a warrant article, the 25% match requirement (of the \$18,000 quote) that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program would require. Various departments have attempted to utilize money within their already tight budgets to meet the match requirement, but have yet to be successful. Additional funding through the MVP opportunity would allow the Town of Southborough and Emergency Management Agency the relief to complete their local HMP with fresh and updated information that would be acquired through the MVP process.

### **Master Plan**

Southborough has recently formed an over 20-member Master Plan Committee to update the existing Plan (2008). With members and timelines overlapping between the two processes the information will be available to incorporate climate change into the Town's vision and goals. The changes to the town from climate change will be reviewed by members of the Master Plan Committee and general public during multiple workshops or listening sessions. With climate change in mind during the creation of our Master Plan there will be greater awareness of why these potential risks should be addressed for the success of our future.

## **Open Space & Recreation Plan & Efforts**

The Town of Southborough has an active and engaged Open Space Preservation Commission, Stewardship Committee, and Trails Committee. These committees consistently work together to combat invasive species in town and promote the planting and cultivation of native plants for proposed new construction. During the MVP process, it can be enlightening for the general public to understand that the effect that climate will have on habitat and native flora. These committees can use the information gathered from the MVP process to focus on areas of concern to eradicate or further preserve. With a few changes left to be made to the Open Space and Recreation Plan, information gathered through the MVP process can help us continuously update the information and prioritize key parcels or areas in town that are vulnerable to climate change. The Open Space & Recreation Plan goals can also be tailored with the outcomes found during the MVP process so that specific Committees or Commissions can be tasked with small but monumental steps towards climate change mitigation.

### **Removal of Invasive Species**

Citizens and activists within the Town of Southborough have been heavily supported by the voters regarding funding projects for the removal of invasive species. As this has become an increasing problem within the Commonwealth and beyond, the MVP process will help to inform more of the general public about the increasing amount of invasive species that are inhabiting the town because of climate change.

### **Infrastructure Improvements**

The MVP process will help to inform the Southborough DPW on priority areas and infrastructure that may be susceptible to climate change. By pinpointing and determining the areas of concern and reason for failure, the DPW can then use these workshops to better schedule their capital projects and begin to engineer a more reliable or sustainable system. This will then be a resource to inform the public of why money may need to be appropriated at town meeting for infrastructure updates or construction.

## Section 6: Addressing Climate Change

*Please tell us about your need to address climate change. What are the expected climate change impacts in your community and what do you think are the biggest risks? Has your community done any work to address climate change impacts in the past? Have you experienced significant loss or damage from extreme weather events, flooding, heat waves, drought, sea level rise, storm surge, or other climate change impacts?*

---

Every community within Massachusetts and the United States should be considering the effects that climate change will have in their neighborhood. In Southborough, we should be taking a proactive approach to combatting major and minor ramifications that we may face in the future.

As one of the thirty-six towns within the Sudbury, Assabet, Concord (SuAsCo) Watershed and a portion of the town located within an Outstanding Resource Water (as a public water supply contributor) the concern of localized flooding and impacts from runoff are of a high priority. The Sudbury Reservoir covers approximately one quarter of the land mass in Southborough so it has the potential to cause extensive flooding if inundated during severe storms.

The Town of Southborough also distributes pre-treated water from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) that originates from the Quabbin Reservoir and Wachusett Reservoir and are sources of drinking water for surrounding towns. The Sudbury Reservoir is also used as a back up water supply for the city of Boston so the town needs to be cautious of the impacts of climate change or potential sources of pollution to these waterbodies.

In the Town of Southborough, the effects that we are anticipating to impact us are localized flooding or culvert collapse, extreme weather conditions with both hot and freezing temperatures, increased storm events with intensity and duration causing local power outages, flooding, and unsafe road conditions. The biggest risks are public safety whether it be on the road (unsafe road conditions from culvert collapse or ice and snow) or in homes (power outages and fallen trees and debris).

In the past we have experienced culvert failure, leading to a collapse in a roadway. With localized flooding from large rain events we can expect many undersized culverts to wash out and create safety and environmental hazards. During summers we now deal with longer and higher indexes of heat that provides great concern for our vulnerable populations. The strong storms in the winter create unsafe roadways and power failures which also can impact vulnerable populations.

The town also has an increased awareness regarding invasive species due to rising temperatures and improper erosion controls. With the Spotted Lantern Fly making its path to the north, we want to aid the stop of its migration by first removing Tree of Heavens that are found throughout town and also remain vigilant for any verified reports of its presence. The invasion of the Spotted Lantern Fly can cause massive devastation to trees and vegetation throughout town.

## Section 7: Environmental Justice Communities

*Please indicate if your municipality contains environmental justice communities or other populations that may be particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts and natural hazards. Please describe how you will work proactively to involve these groups in the planning process.*

---

Southborough does not have any environmental justice communities but a quarter of the population is under 18 years of age and almost 15% is above 65. These populations, while they might appear small, can be particular vulnerable to climate change impacts and hazards because of their decreased ability to react.

During cases of extreme heat or cold, seniors often become stranded in their homes because of their inability to drive or contact help in a power outage. The Senior Center and Council on Aging will be actively engaged in discussions to ensure that senior populations and neighborhoods are taken in account during emergency planning and addressing needs to be met in a crisis (power for heat or air conditioning, refrigeration for medicine, etc.).

The School Department and Youth and Family Services will be asked to opine on areas that may affect our youth regarding the impacts of climate change. Issues such as evacuations and shelters to protect and house vulnerable populations will need to be thought out.

## Section 8: Expansion of Scope

*Municipalities may request to expand the scope of the planning grant to include additional tasks such as follow-on workshops or public listening sessions, community outreach and education, targeted vulnerability assessments of critical sectors to gather more data, or additional steps they believe would build on the MVP planning process and further advance their community resiliency building efforts. If your municipality would like to expand the scope of the opportunity please outline, in detail, the work you intend to do to build on the MVP planning process, how it fits in with the overall MVP planning process as you understand it from your review of the Community Resilience Building Guide (<https://www.communityresiliencebuilding.com/>), the timeline for which you would complete it in, and the outcomes and deliverables you expect to achieve.*

---

At this time, the Town of Southborough wishes to renew or create a new local HMP. By completing both the MVP and HMP the town would create a comprehensive network of emergency management goals and outline how we need to progress towards mitigating the impacts of climate change. We believe that that working on both plans and designations simultaneously or in succession we will be able to build a solid foundation through both avenues to face the impacts of climate change and the associated hazards.

We respectfully request that additional funds are granted to the Town of Southborough to complete and/or update our Hazard Mitigation Plan by fully funding the additional costs or providing us with extra funding for the work to then be covered by the FEMA/MEMA grant. At this time this is the only expansion of scope we are requesting because of the time dedication needed for both processes within this grant timeline.

By completing the HMP we aim to further educate the public and town officials of the importance of risk reduction and mitigation techniques. This will build the importance and a framework of projects that will better benefit the town in the future as hazards associated with climate change or disasters become a more imminent threat. This will put the steps in place now so that the town can better prepare for capital projects and not be surprised when infrastructure fails.