

NEWS RELEASE

Town of Amherst Preliminary Flood Maps Available for Review

For Immediate Release

Contact: Christine Brestrup, Planning Director, 413-259-3145; or Nate Malloy, Senior Planner, 413-259-3322

(July 10, 2017) The Town of Amherst

Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the Town of Amherst are now available for review and comment. Comments are due by July 26, 2017.

The Town of Amherst is in the process of updating its Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS). The purpose of this study is to create accurate federally approved maps for land affected by flooding in order to provide information to landowners, the Amherst Conservation Commission, the Planning Board and other interested parties.

Amherst's federal flood maps (FIRM maps) were last updated in 1983. New, better technology for mapping flood prone areas is now available and Town Meeting appropriated funds to update Amherst's flood maps.

A consulting firm, AECOM, was hired by the Town and has been working with the Town and with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to create more accurate mapping of the floodable areas along rivers and streams in Amherst, including but not limited to Cushman Brook, Hawley Brook, Baby Carriage Brook, Mill River, Muddy Brook, Fort River, Eastman Brook, Hop Brook, Plum Brook, Amethyst Brook, and Adams Brook, among others.

The mapping has now been completed and the town has received copies of the Preliminary maps for review and comment. This multi-year effort is now being made available for public scrutiny. The maps are posted on the town website at the following link:

<https://www.amherstma.gov/1069/FEMA-Flood-Maps>

The maps are also available in paper format for viewing at Town Hall, 4 Boltwood Avenue, in the Department of Conservation and Development.

A meeting, open to the public, with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and AECOM, the consultant, will be scheduled for later this summer to discuss the revised flood hazard information, bylaw adoption, and other frequently asked questions and concerns.

Please view the maps online or come in to Town Hall to view the maps and send your comments to: Christine Brestrup, Planning Director, 413-259-3145, brestrupc@amherstma.gov or Nate Malloy, Senior Planner, 413-259-3322, malloyn@amherstma.gov Comments are due by July 26, 2017.

We want to hear from residents, property owners, board and committee members and others who have an interest in making sure that our FIRM maps are accurate and will serve the town well into the future.

We expect that the project will be completed by the end of the calendar year and the maps will then be presented to Town Meeting for approval as the official FIRM maps.