

**Updated following July 26, 2022 Community Engagement Meeting.
New text is in green.**

Instructions: This tool is intended to help organize your community’s approach to increasing resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts. Answer the questions to the best of your knowledge and seek information from your colleagues in municipal and county government and organizations in your community. Provide any relevant information in the explanation field. If it is difficult to give a clear yes or no response to a question, use the explanation field to explain why. **There are no wrong answers and the responses here will not affect your community’s eligibility to receive grants.** Where the response to a question is no, that may indicate an area of opportunity to address through a Community Action Grant.

Community name:	Town of Brooksville, Hancock County
Self-Evaluation responses provided by: Please include contact info	Allen Kratz, Service Provider resilienceworksllc@gmailcom 201-214-7476 (cell)
Date:	July 29, 2022
Was this evaluation discussed during a community workshop? Include the date of the workshop.	July 11, 2022 and July 26, 2022

Once the questions on the following pages are complete, use these prompts to identify potential next steps for your community:

What are two things your community is doing well?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly updated and approved Comprehensive Plan includes a chapter on climate change. Town has set aside \$25,000 for climate-change projects: \$15,000 from town warrants in 2021 and 2022 plus \$10,000 from Island Institute . Scientists Nancy Knowlton and Jeremy Jackson are working with the Brooksville Elementary School to help enhance appreciation of town’s natural resources. Volunteers from Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Committee have been photographing and logging impact of sea level rise in low-lying areas . Photos are posted on town website as part of growing database about the impact of flooding. No town buildings are at risk, but roads are regularly flooded at high tide. There are some low-lying roads, Breezemere and Bakeman Beach, plus Blake’s Beach
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maine DOT will be mapping the projected impact of future flooding along the entire coast of Maine; this will be a valuable resource for Brooksville. Question for follow-up: what's the projected timeline? • In various meetings (Select Board, Comprehensive Plan Committee, Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Committee) there's a growing realization that inter-town cooperation will best address climate change issue, e.g., provision of emergency access/service during severe storms. • Brooksville's Select Board chair and others from Brooksville are active in Peninsula Tomorrow, interacting with colleagues from Blue Hill, Brooklin, Castine, Deer Isle, Penobscot, Sedgwick, Stonington and Surry on best ways to address climate change. • The Town has been proactive on replacing upsized culverts to accommodate anticipated stormwater runoff from increasingly more numerous and severe storms. Some culverts were replaced in advance of repaving of the roads. There was a question about culvert replacement on state roads and the process for working with MDOT to make sure Brooksville projects are in the queue. John Gray will gather information from Mark Blake, Brooksville's Road Commissioner, as to the plan for culvert replacement. • A question arose as to which roads, both local and state-maintained are vulnerable to climate change impacts? Allen Kratz updated the Committee on road vulnerability studies taking place around the State. MDOT is conducting a vulnerability assessment of all the roads along the coast. The Town of Stonington completed a detailed study. The Blue Hill Heritage Trust is doing a study on the "carrying capacity" to determine how much development the Peninsula can handle. Maine DEP is conducting a study on the effects of climate change on marsh grass. Future infrastructure vulnerability assessments considered by Brooksville and/or other towns in the partnership should take into account these other studies in order to avoid overlap and to maximize funds invested.
<p>What are two areas that could be improved in the short-term?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers from the Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Committee started to complete the Flood Resilience Checklist. That task needs to be completed with additional technical expertise. This checklist will be useful to address flood insurance, using existing mapping programs.

- It would be good to focus on the economic impact and emergency-access /emergency-evacuation aspects of sea level rise.
- It would be good to formalize a hazard mitigation plan for the town, coordinating with the Hancock County Emergency Management Agency.
- Brooksville needs clarity on whether the town needs a formal engineering study (like the one that Stonington commissioned from GEI in 2020-2021) – or whether the town can rely on existing data (Maine Geological Survey) or imminent studies, e.g., DOT coastal mapping study (mentioned above), which is in a very early stage).
- Determining what level of engineering study is needed will be helpful to know as the town seeks funding.
- A open question: What about private property owners? Can they be connected in – e.g., by providing information to them? To what extent will this be added to the scope of studies, mitigation?
- Would it be valuable for Town to offer information session regarding mapping tools – so that individuals can gain that information. One challenge: is the resolution of the maps adequate to identify property boundaries?
- A key question: if we know problem areas and can prioritize them, what steps do we need to take to get funding (Coastal Road is state road; (Route 176); Breezemere Road is a town road). What’s the process for securing funding?
- What does a “high and dry” town such as Brooksville need to do in a “build-out” analysis to address in-migration from places elsewhere that are not as resilient? How can a town maintain the culture of its community? Note: The town’s updated comprehensive plan noted this challenge and can be a starting point for this discussion.
- The Hancock County Planning Commission is limited in staff resources at the moment. It would be useful if it were to have more resources, e.g., paper maps that people could work with.
- Also, it would be valuable for more linkage between the Brooksville Planning Board and county planning commission.
- What other issues need addressing? Food security? Sea level rise would significantly impact the food chain. Do the funds we’re discussing address locally-grown food? Is that part of the emergency plan? Because this evaluation and Community Resilience Partnership grant application are an “open book” for community to decide, we can include this in our discussion.
- **The Town should move to establish a six-figure reserve fund for climate change emergency spending. Examples**

	<p>would be: Heavy rainfall event road washouts, wildfire response, road impassability due to sea level rise.</p>
<p>What is important for your community to address in the long-term?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resiliency of Brooksville’s roads, especially for the use by emergency vehicles is critical. • Ensure food security by expanding the ability to produce food locally. Climate change will disrupt production of food and distribution of food around the country. One solution is to expand the number of acres of fallow fields into productive farmland. There are large tracts of land that are not in production, but are owned by heirs. Organize groups of growers from various organizations such as the Grange, community gardens, farmers markets, Maine Organic Farmers and Growers Association and Maine Farm Trust. • There are people who are interested in farming, but the lack of affordable housing is a barrier to attracting new farmers. Use the land available and build houses on the edge of the field for new farmers. Adopt new housing policies to accommodate people who want to farm. • Consider looking at the increased food production and housing needs issue on a regional perspective. There are important elements already in place around the region, including a composting facility, agricultural arts in the school systems, the food insecurity program initiated by Carol and Dick Gregor and the Reversing Fall Sanctuary. • The University of Maine is working on an experimental housing construction program using 3D printing and might be a partner to help build affordable housing. There was consensus that this is an innovative project that might serve a demonstration program for other communities. Tony Ferrara and Annie Guppy will work on a 2-page proposal for the next meeting that fleshes out the conceptual framework of a food insecurity/housing plan. • Emergency Management Agency planning and staffing – work with Town and Hancock County EMA staff to develop response plans. • Climate change is imminent and critical. How do we engage people in the process and get them to help in finding and working toward solutions? The more we do, the more we will succeed. People will take notice and will want to become more involved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfire Management – The area has a lot of wooded areas with deadwood and brush. There is a stipulation that the Holbrook Island Sanctuary, owned by the State, remain in its natural state. There still exists a real fire danger, which cannot be mitigated. Hancock County EMA is very concerned about the potential for wildfires. • Potential for establishing a regional fire service using a combination of core full-time firefighters supplemented by volunteers. Training requirements and lack of volunteers was noted in Brooksville’s Comprehensive Plan.
What specific 3 to 5 actions are priorities for your community?	<p>These three priorities align with the List of Actions that will help implement Maine’s Plan for Climate Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability assessment to address roadway resilience to high tides, storm surge, sea level rise –Strategy G1 • Food security / abundance, and associated housing – Strategy D1 • Emergency management, focused on fire protection and wildfire risk. – Strategy F2

Minimizing Risk and Exposure to Hazards

1) Has your community assessed the likelihood of various types of hazards or disruptive events?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan is a good starting place to find this information. Hazards can include storms, floods, wind, fire, extreme temperatures, drought, etc. Likelihood could be indicated either numerically or qualitatively as low, medium, or high.	Please see information above.
2) Has your community assessed how the likelihood of each hazard has changed over time and may change in the future?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If your community has not tracked trends historically, you might infer past trends by determining if current priorities have shifted compared to past hazard mitigation plans. For example, drought or wildfire might be an emerging concern.	Please see information above.
3) Has your community assessed the impacts or consequences of each type of hazard for the community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, flooding on Main Street impedes emergency services or affects local businesses.	Please see information above.
4) Is your community taking steps to reduce exposure to multiple risk types?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Your local or county hazard mitigation plan probably contains this information.	Please see information above.
6) Is your community preparing for low-probability-but-high-consequence events?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
These events could be, for example, a 1-in-100-year flood, or a prolonged electricity outage or heating fuel shortage. What events might the community need to consider?	Please see information above.
7) Has your community assessed the consequences of multiple events or different types of hazards occurring in geographic or temporal proximity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Examples could include back-to-back flooding events or a power outage during a heat wave.	Please see information above.
8) Is your community assessing emerging risks (e.g. drought, wildfire) and identifying blind spots?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
In addition to natural hazards, consider public health threats that might be worsened by climate change, such as contamination of drinking water sources and vector-borne diseases from ticks and mosquitos.	To date, the focus has been on sea level rise and the impact of high tides/storm surge. Future discussion is likely to encompass other climate change risks.

Understanding Sensitivity and Building Resilience	
9) Is your community tracking underlying societal characteristics and trends that increase vulnerability?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
This information might be found in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan. Examples of characteristics and trends might include older or low-income populations, low housing availability, reliance on a single economic driver, aging infrastructure, environmental degradation, etc.	The updated comprehensive plan makes note of changing demographics and guide further discussion by elected and appointed town officials and community members.
10) Is your community proactively addressing vulnerabilities associated with these underlying characteristics?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Look in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan for strategies that might address these trends.	Brooksville has created a new committee to address the importance of affordable housing, which is critical for retaining a multi-generational, multi-occupational population
11) Does your community have financial resources in reserve to cope with or absorb shocks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
For example, a rainy-day fund.	See the recommendation above for establishing a six-figure reserve fund for climate change emergency spending. Examples would be: Heavy rainfall event road

	washouts, wildfire response, road impassability due to sea level rise.
12) Is your community building flexible human capacity that can be drawn on in emergencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, community emergency response teams (CERT) or mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.	Brooksville’s Town Office emails alerts to community members in advance of predicted severe weather. The alerts provide advice, links to available resources and reminders to “check in” on the wellbeing of neighbors. Brooksville’s participation in Peninsula Tomorrow builds upon earlier discussions with neighboring owns regarding coordinated emergency response.

Improving Long-term Adaptive Capacity	
13) Does your community have plans or policies that anticipate future climate risks and community sensitivity trends?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Examples might include a comprehensive plan chapter that describes how the community is planning for climate change impacts, or a capital improvement plan that requires construction projects to consider future conditions like sea level rise, extreme rain, or drought.	Brooksville updated its comprehensive plan, which includes a chapter on addressing climate change. Town voters approved the plan in June 2022. In 2021 and 2022, town voters approved warrants totaling \$15,000 to create a reserve fund for climate mitigation/climate change. The Island Institute also provided \$10,000 (as-yet unspent) to help the town address climate change.
14) Are there resources to sustain new capacity when needed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
This is different from Question 10 in that these resources would need to sustain a new long-term commitment rather than a one-time, short-term response. For example, if flooding emerges as an issue, a revenue source such as a stormwater utility fee could sustain a new community stormwater management program.	The allocations that Brooksville made in 2021 and 2022 (please see answer #13), set a good precedent for seeking future voter approval of a long-term financial commitment.
15) Does the community have policies in place to build back smarter or recover with resilience after a disruptive event?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Examples might include a flood ordinance that requires compliance with the current building codes after substantial damage, or a communitywide post-disaster recovery plan.	Formal policies do not exist; they could be the subject of future discussion.
16) Does the community stress test to ensure plausible risks are manageable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

<p>This might be a table-top exercise with emergency management and community stakeholders, or a financial health analysis.</p>	<p>Formal, advance stress testing does not exist; it could be the subject of future discussion.</p>
<p>17) Does the community have a policy or process for managing uncertainty?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Does the community have a way of making important decisions when information is incomplete or unavailable?</p>	<p>A formal policy or process does not exist; they could be the subject of future discussion.</p>