



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Jaimye Bartak, PVPC Senior Planner, (413) 781-6045 or [jbartak@pvpc.org](mailto:jbartak@pvpc.org)  
Chief Tim Nelson, Amherst Fire Chief, (413) 259-3082 or [nelson@amherstma.gov](mailto:nelson@amherstma.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Town of Amherst to Hold Public Engagement Event for Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

Amherst residents, businesses, and surrounding community representatives are invited to provide comments on the update of the Town of Amherst Hazard Mitigation Plan on January 26, 2016, at 5 pm at the Town Meeting Room, 4 Boltwood Avenue. The plan is being updated by the Town with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). All members of the public, representatives from surrounding communities and other interested parties are welcome to attend the event.

The meeting will include an overview of the hazard mitigation planning process and a discussion of existing mitigation initiatives addressing natural hazards in Amherst. Municipal officials and PVPC staff will be available to answer questions and listen to comments on the draft plan.

This planning effort is being undertaken to help the Town of Amherst assess the risks faced from natural hazards, identify action steps that can be taken to prevent damage to property and loss of life, and prioritize funding for mitigation efforts. A mitigation action is any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards.

For more information, please contact PVPC's Jaimye Bartak at [jbartak@pvpc.org](mailto:jbartak@pvpc.org) or (413) 781-6045.