Notice to Residents: Preliminary Disaster Assessment Meeting

July 25, 2024

Dear Residents,

Yesterday, Town Officials met with representatives from the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to discuss the process for obtaining a federal major disaster declaration. The purpose of this meeting was to conduct a preliminary disaster assessment.

During the meeting, officials were presented information by Lancaster representatives and then surveyed major areas throughout the town to further quantify damage estimates, particularly focusing on town infrastructure such as roads. It is important to note that two key criteria must be met for the federal disaster declaration process to proceed: damage assessments at both the county and state levels.

Once the initial damage estimates from impacted communities are compiled by the agencies, these efforts will be forwarded to the Governor's office for further review. If the damage assessments meet the required thresholds, the Governor will request a federal disaster declaration from the President. This declaration would designate the area as a major disaster area, allowing the town to access federal assistance for recovery and rebuilding efforts. If it is declared, public assistance funds would cover 75% of the recovery costs.

If you need resources for your home, business, or nonprofit organization, please call 211.

Sincerely,
Jessica Cyr
Town Manager