

## CENTER HARBOR WATER RESOURCES SPECIFICS

- A total of **1090 acres** of wetlands / hydric soils were identified during the compilation of the Center Harbor Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). This represents **10.3%** of the Town.
- A total of **112 wetland complexes** were identified, the size spanning from 0.13 acres to 123 acres, with a mean of 2.5 acres (NRI).
- In 2014, the process of stratifying the wetlands was completed: there are **12** designated Prime Wetland Complexes; **30** “designated” wetlands complexes totaling ~102 acres; the balance of **70** are considered “undesigned”. Of those 70 undesigned wetlands, **3** are greater than 2 acres in size.
- There is an additional **698 acres** of non lake wetlands that were mapped in the half mile ring that surrounds Center Harbor (NRI).
- The **Prime Wetlands** summary is well described on pages 19 -21 of the NRI – the sum of the complexes total **375.75 acres** with the Hale swamp and the Snake River spanning 2 municipalities. Van de Poll notes, “all 12 prime wetlands provide *invaluable flood water storage*”.
- On page 14 of the 2014 Hazard Mitigation Report, it says: “ The Town does however have a number of streams which can flood quickly, impacting property”. The NRI documents **14 perennial (designated)** streams totaling 9.06 miles and **30** additional **intermittent** stream systems totaling 22.1 miles, many which feed into the perennial streams. Of the **100 designated & undesigned** wetland complexes in Center Harbor, **41** are associated with a *designated stream or great pond*. “Although streams and rivers are surface waters in the eyes of the State (of NH), they often develop wetland conditions... Intermittent streams are part of the jurisdictional wetland system by the State of NH.” (NRI).
- On page 34 of the 2014 Hazard Mitigation Report (Chapter 5, Mitigation Strategies), under Zoning Ordinances it notes: “ There are very few flood prone areas in this town”. The Town of Center Harbor is extremely fortunate in this regard. One has to wonder if that is in part or whole due to the presence of and the number of high functioning wetland complexes throughout the Town, playing a significant role in flood storage capacity and other flood related mitigation measures. The passage of Water Resources Conservation Overlay District in 2016 will help preserve and protect the integrity of the existing wetland complexes, their upland protective buffers, and riparian buffers.

- On page 43 of the 2014 Hazard Mitigation Report, C. Mitigation Goals and Types of Actions – 1. Actions that will keep things from getting worse – **Prevention** : 1a (Zoning) and 4b (Natural Resource Protection / Wetlands Protection Programs) – I would suggest adding this to the 2019 update: “maintain the integrity of the existing wetland complexes with the proper and consistent enforcement of the WRCOD in order to preserve and protect the level of flood storage capacity that currently exists in Center Harbor. Between significant rain events and snow and ice melt from severe winter weather, the need to protect the wetlands’ flood storage capacity warrants continued surveillance as part of ongoing mitigation strategy.” (or something similar or comparable).

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen A. Criasia  
Center Harbor Conservation Commissioner  
Member of the 2019 Center Harbor Hazard Mitigation Update Committee

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