

October 25, 2007

Dear Goffstown Property Owner:

As you may know, on April 27, 2007, the President declared our State a federal disaster area due to the flooding in April 2007. Our community may be eligible for grant money under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. Under this program, which is administered by the State Emergency Management Agency, the Town of Goffstown can apply for funds to support a property acquisition or "buyout" program for property owners who have experienced water damage due to recent flood events during the last two years.

If the State and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approves our application, FEMA will provide funds to the Town of Goffstown through the State to acquire properties damaged by the flood. A typical federal buyout program determines a purchase price by calculating the pre-disaster fair market value of your home. At the time of closing, liens and mortgages on the property are paid and the remaining balance is paid to the homeowner. To avoid duplication of benefits, prior individual emergency assistance funds received from FEMA are deducted from the proceeds unless the homeowner can document with receipts that these funds were expended for emergency housing and repairs to their home.

Those property owners who decide to sell their properties to the Town of Goffstown can then relocate to less hazardous areas outside the floodplain. The Town of Goffstown will remove existing structures and maintain the property as town land. The Town of Goffstown will only acquire property from property owners who voluntarily choose to sell their properties.

If you are interested in learning more about Property Acquisition under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the enclosed stamped envelope by November 12. The purpose of this questionnaire is to gauge interest in a "buyout" program, it is not a commitment to participate in a program should one become available.

If you have any questions, please call (603) 497-8990, extension 103. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jim Bingham
Assistant Town Administrator