

Town of Shandaken

S.A.F.A.R.I. Meeting NOTES

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

December 13, 2022, 10:00 am – 11:15 am

In-Person at AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

Or attended Remotely: <https://meet.goto.com/186340189>

In Attendance:

In person

Peter DiSclafani, Shandaken Town Supervisor
Heidi Emrich, UC Dept of Environment
Tim Koch, Education Leader, AWSMP

Virtual

Kevin VanBlarcum, Shandaken Deputy
Supervisor
Leslie Zucker, Program Leader, AWSMP
Adam Doan, Stream Project Manager, AWSMP
David Burns, Project Manager, NYCDEP

Town of Shandaken Updates

- Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, etc
 - Peter reports he will be taking over, at least for December, as Local Floodplain Administrator.
 - Going through files:
 - 17 floodplain development permit applications are filed
 - 7 currently under review – will reach out to AWSMP or Environmental Planner if there are any questions; there are some trickier applications
- Pine Hill LFA
 - Public notice for Town Board review and adoption did not make the paper in time for December's first TB meeting
 - The Town Board will conduct a 15 minute public hearing at the next Meeting 12/28; and the board plans to pass after that public hearing

Design & Implementation Projects

- Bridge Street Bridge Design
 - Heidi read an email from Andrew Emrich, UC DPW (who couldn't make today's meeting: Update stated that site survey, hydraulic modelling were completed and the design was underway and the County planned on a public informational meeting in February.
 - ***More specifics were requested: POST MEETING NOTE: Andrew reported back that UCDPW will be holding the public information session on 2/6/23 at 7pm at the Town Board meeting.***
- Letter of Map Revision (LOMR)
 - No new information at this time

AWSMP Updates

- New Landowners List
 - Tim reported that he and Dani (AWSMP) are working on a list of recently sold parcels within the watershed (2020-2022). This can be used for programmatic outreach, and possibly publications such as stream guides, fact sheets on flood preparedness, cwc tank anchoring, etc.
 - Tim is happy to share data with Shandaken, if they'd like to see it
 - Heidi mentions that she has put in a request from FEMA to receive policy and loss information, that might help inform the types of information that

- should be sent to new landowners.
 - Leslie mentioned that these mailings could come from the town; this would likely qualify for CRS credit
 - Heidi offered to investigate requirements for next level
- Staffing
 - AWSMP is still looking to re-hire staff to support AWSMP objectives; 1 is an educator position which will backfill some (but not all) of the work Brent was doing
- Floodplain Manager training
 - Heidi has offered to help put on a floodplain manager training in the spring
 - Heidi shared that NYFSMA will be holding their annual conference in Syracuse April 18-20, 2023
 - Heidi also shared that a prospective CFM can take the test via scantron at any time now. There is no longer a set time to take it in-person.
- Streamside Landowner Survey
 - Tim also shared that AWSMP will be working on a survey mailed out in early 2023 for streamside landowners. The survey will ask what they know about flood history, risk perception vs. risk reality.
 - The survey is a multi-phased, direct mailer
- New York State Floodplain & Stormwater Managers Association Conference
 - AWSMP will offer a number of scholarships for municipal officials to attend
- SMIP program will continue in 2023
 - 3 rounds; the first in February with a deadline in March
 - Reminder: Any LFA project can be applied for at any time.
 - Leslie sent Eric a draft Request for Proposals for the McKenley Hollow project though she has not heard back. He should be able to use that RFP to solicit proposals and gain quotes so AWSMP can advance the awarded grant project.

NYCFFBO Updates

- Station Road
 - 27 Station Road: due to staffing shortages at DEP, little progress has been made – hoping to resume talks re: required easement with County in January
 - 17 Station Road: town passed resolution to allow landowner to participate in NYCFFBO program. That information has been provided to DEP. This will allow DEP to request appraisal.
 - The town resolution stated that they decline ownership. Leslie asked if the town would consider ownership, based on stream restoration work, Bridge Street bridge replacement, and potential for park lands?
 - Peter responded that the town will likely amend the resolution to accept Town Ownership
 - Heidi read an email that came in during the meeting- from DEP, also recommending the Town should consider ownership.
- Sage & Shurter Re-Use Plan Review
 - The committee reviewed the proposed re-use plan submitted by DEP. The Sage & Shurter parcel will ultimately be owned by the town of Shandaken and the town has an opportunity to suggest changes and submit comments on the proposed uses before DEP closes on the property.
 - First comment: does “native vegetation” indicate that the town must MAINTAIN strictly native vegetation? What happens if non-native / invasive plants appear on site?
 - The committee recommended changing parking made of pervious surface to “parking and trails”
 - The committee recommended adding “Stream projects that promote water quality and floodplain improvements that aim to enhance the Esopus Creek and reduce localized flooding”
 - It was also recommended to add access to the rail corridor for maintenance

Partner Updates

- CWC updates
 - No new updates from CWC
 - Shandaken has not heard anything more regarding the feasibility study for floodproofing the town hall
 - Shandaken plans to submit application for relocation feasibility study; resolution to apply was passed; application packet is ready to be submitted by town
- Ulster County Emergency Management
 - FEMA Virtual Table Top Exercise – Emergency Management has sent informational email to Upper and Lower Esopus towns. There are three possible dates for towns to choose from, February 21, 22nd or 23rd. (AWSMP requests to avoid 2/21, if possible).
 - Heidi described the participant roles and responsibilities (attached to these notes), for the town’s consideration
 - One note under “Observers” – For example: a Chief might be an Observer, while the captain might be the participant. The Chief can see how the captain might respond, and as an observer, the Chief can contribute to the discussion with relevant questions.
 - Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – UC has entered into contracts with Tetra Tech. UC is in the info-gathering phase, supplying the consultant with GIS data. Be on the lookout for any emails from UC IT dept requesting info for this important plan update.

Annual Town-Wide Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Progress Report

- Heidi gave a report on the annual update exercise that Peter, Eric, Kevin and Heidi went through on November 17, 2022. There are no material changes to the status of the 53 actions within the plan. 25 initiatives are still ongoing; 8 are completed and 20 have seen no action.
 - The committee reviewed the draft progress report:
 - Conversation re: “Changes in Risk Exposure in the Planning Area” – there is some discussion about this, ultimately the AWSMP partners offer to review and supply information for this section of the annual update.
 - Initiative No. 10: “Streamline procedure for updating County Emergency Management ...” The committee briefly discussed this item - it is not reported as “completed” but is possibly already happening. Pending confirmation from District Chief Ted Byron, this should be something that can be accomplished in 2023.
 - “Recommendations for Changes or Enhancements”: include Phoenicia and Pine Hill LFA implementation actions in list of identified priorities and recommend Big Indian and Chichester LFAs for 2023

October Meeting Notes: *Approved*

Next Meeting: *Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 10am*