

# Town of Shandaken

## S.A.F.A.R.I. Meeting Notes

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

**Tuesday December 12, 2023 10:00am – 12:00pm**

**In-Person at AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY**

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

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### **In Attendance:**

#### In Person:

Peter DiSclafani, Town of Shandaken  
Supervisor  
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway  
Superintendent  
Leslie Zucker, Program Manager, AWSMP  
Adam Doan, Stream Project Manager,  
UCSWCD  
Tim Koch, Stream Education Leader, AWSMP  
Sophie Grant, Event Administrator, AWSMP  
Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE

#### Remote:

Aaron Bennett, Deputy Chief, NYCDEP  
Watershed Lands & Community Planning  
Adam Trescott, Project Manager, Stream  
Management Program, NYCDEP  
Max Kelly, Watershed Educator, AWSMP

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### Town of Shandaken Updates

- **Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, applications, etc**
  - Town Hall/Highway Garage Relocation Feasibility Study
    - Town to follow up on selecting a consultant
  - Pine Hill Stormwater Application
    - Still waiting on SLR
  - Peter reports a few floodplain permits, porch add-on; things are going smoothly.
  - Aaron asks: what's the status of the structure across from the Phoenicia Diner; Peter says they're looking to convert it to a restaurant.
    - The whole structure would need to be elevated, brought up compliance
    - No major activity yet; maybe new driveway
    - Structure is in the floodway

### Pine Hill Local Flood Analysis Project Review

- **Local Flood Analysis Contract Notes**
  - Leslie reminds the group that the LFA grant is scheduled to end December 27. SLR has no more work to do on it, with the exception of an addendum for the additional Bonnie View Avenue modelling & LOMR recommendation. Leslie sent formatting guidance. They are preparing now. AWSMP expects to have the addendum for review within the next week or so. If everything is acceptable, the town will need to adopt; it gets added to the LFA report officially.
  - When all is complete, there will be a small amount of funding left in the grant contract. This is a last call to use that money.
- **Project Areas 1 & 2 (Bonnie View Ave), Next Steps**
  - Ulster County Temporary bridge is in
  - Leslie sent RFP for design and engineering for project areas 1 & 2. SLR plans on applying. Leslie will be readying the contract so it can get moving right away.
- **Project Area 5 (Academy Street) Next Steps**
  - Nothing to do here yet...

## Design & Implementation Project Updates

- **Design & Feasibility Phoenicia Bridge Street Bridge Project - UC DPW (partly funded by AWSMP)**
  - Leslie shares that AWSMP and Ulster County DPW are waiting for SLR to provide clarification on possible flood reduction benefits and furnish information on span options. These larger spans initially proposed (Alternative 2 vs. Alternative 3) may not reduce flooding on Main Street as much as everyone hoped. More information is needed before moving forward to design. It will be important to consider what affect replacing the Main Street bridge may have on the flows moving downstream to the Bridge Street bridge. AWSMP recommends applying for this study.
  - Brief discussion regarding buy outs and relocation. AWSMP will help coordinate and support the process with all the different agencies and options.
- **Phoenicia Floodplain Bench and Main Street Bridge Conceptual & Feasibility Analysis**
  - AWSMP drafted a scope of work for additional modelling in Phoenicia for floodplain benches and Main Street bridge, in combination with Bridge Street bridge replacement
    - This scope of work can serve as the base of an application, which would need to be submitted to AWSMP for grant funding.
    - Leslie suggests an additional contract with SLR to design the floodplain benches (AWSMP assumes the town wants ownership over that modelling)
      - Leslie will resend the mail. The town needs to complete draft provided by AWSMP and apply for LFA implementation funding
      - No one wants whatever is built for bridge street bridge to limit what can or could be done on Main Street.
    - Eric recalls that there was some modest modelling in 2011; discussion about modelling done during the LFA

## Stream Restoration Project Updates

- **Elk Bushkill (funded by AWSMP)**
  - Effectively complete. Demobilized. There will be site moderating; touch up plantings in the spring
- **McKenley Hollow (funded by AWSMP)**
  - Eric hasn't heard anything from SLR.... But SLR might be waiting to hear from Adam (AWSMP). Goal is to complete the review and comment-tracking log before the end of the year. There will likely be a follow-up meeting to discuss alternatives and hybrid solutions.
    - This is the first time they've seen a private bridge really cause a bad public outcome.
      - That bridge causes major avulsion
      - Is there a scenario where the town could apply (to someone? DEP?) to replace this private bridge for significant public benefit?
        - DEP, in the past, has said they won't find this type of work, but Leslie shares that she's never seen a more clear-cut example of a bridge causing a major risk to the public safety.
        - Adam weighs in and says the bridge is completely geomorphically incompatible.
        - Leslie – is there a funder out there that will help the private land owner, that would help make replacement or retrofit more feasible?

- No other large-scale stream restoration projects in Shandaken planned for 2024

## Stream Access & Recreation Updates

- **Mt. Tremper Park**
  - Rehashed initial ideas for what the park might look like there; eliminated some of the more substantial ideas (like ice rink). Nature-based (adaptable) playground, ropes course and park; pump track- bike park; discussed parking and access.
    - Discussed designing the park to discourage full-day use / swimming, and to be honor the historic fishing use of the site.
    - Discussed a promenade and signage

## NYCF-FBO Updates

- **Mt. Pleasant Rd., Mt. Tremper**
  - Landowner is still interested; reached out with additional questions, including what would happen if he were to pass away during the contracting process?
    - The process will pass to the executor and can continue
- **Main St., Pine Hill**
  - Buy out resolution approved for 248 Main Street
  - Heidi to follow up with official visit

## Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
  - none
- **CWC**
  - none
- **NYCDEP**
  - Aaron shares that DEP is looking internally at how to accommodate LFA study areas. If there are other areas (Olivera, Willow, Lake Hill, etc.) If there are other areas of interest for the town, please weigh in.
    - For example – repetitive loss areas that towns have identified – there is an analysis done from CRS
      - This is an appendix to Flood Mitigation Plan
    - Outlier critical facilities and surrounding areas
    - Areas with cluster septic program eligibility (overlying those areas with SFHA)
      - Listed areas are in the contract between DEP and CWC; Aaron can share.
      - Revisit this , population centers, future LFAS – next SAFARI meeting
    - Aaron also started a list of “campuses” where people congregate (Like Frost Valley or Timberlake, Baptist Camp, etc).
    - New LFA areas could also be defined by a town’s own designated Repetitive Loss Areas.
      - This to be reviewed next meeting; the documents is an addendum to the Town-Wide Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan
- **Ulster County** (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)
  - Final week to review the Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (UCMJHMP) before County does final pass and submits to DHSES for review
  - The UCMJHMP does NOT qualify for CRS points. It is not a replacement for a Town-wide plan.

## Town of Shandaken Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan

- **Review comments on the draft plan**

- The committee reviews the update narrative and mitigation actions:
    - See 2022-2023 Update for additional information
- **Discuss proposed mitigation action implementation strategy in 2024**
  - Heidi suggested that quarterly the group actively review the plan's mitigation actions and select projects to advance toward implementation
- **Discuss Update in 2024**
  - The group briefly discussed that to maintain CRS points, Shandaken should consider hiring a consultant to complete a plan update in 2024.
    - This would likely be a 6 month process, not a year(s) long process.

**Approve Notes / Adjourn**  
**Next Meeting:**

Approved, send to Joyce.  
**MOVED to the January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am.**