

# Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

**Tuesday March 28, 2023 10:00am - 12:00pm**

In-Person at AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

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

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### **In Attendance:**

#### In Person

Peter DiSclafani, Shandaken Town Supervisor  
Leslie Zucker, Program Leader, AWSMP  
Adam Doan, Stream Project Manager, AWSMP  
Heidi Emrich, Ulster Co. Environmental Planner

#### Virtual

Aaron Bennett, Deputy Chief, NYCDEP  
Watershed Lands & Community Planning  
Eric Hoffmeister, Shandaken Highway  
Superintendent  
David Burns, Project Manager, NYCDEP

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### **Town of Shandaken Updates**

- Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, etc
  - Working with the Mt. Tremper landowner with the proposed pool in floodway
    - Landowner's engineer reached out to get the HEC modeling from DEP
    - Landowner will provide the town with a no-rise certification, signed by an engineer before moving forward with pool installation
  - Aaron brings up the concern for the fencing – new fencing around pool may have to be modeled.
- CRS annual review - Peter heard back; CRS paperwork was accepted and in good order for 2022.
  - Heidi suggests that Peter and Kevin VanBlarcum might want to sit together later this summer and take a look at CRS actions, outreach activities etc. that may be needed to be completed for 2023.
  - Peter interested in finding ways to achieve higher CRS status, if possible

### **Feasibility Studies**

- Shandaken/Allaben LFA
  - Town Hall & Highway Garage complex floodproofing feasibility study - review (funded by CWC)
    - Reviewed results of the report; in summary:
      - Dry or wet floodproofing of town hall may possible, each would require an additional engineering (structural) study
      - Reconfiguring Town Hall (abandoning 1<sup>st</sup> floor, essentially), also feasible. CWC does not fund additions to compensate for floorspace lost.
      - Elevation at Town Hall is not feasible.
      - Relocation is preferred.
    - Leslie asks: Did the study look at parking or accessibility during a flood, utilities, etc? Peter acknowledges the question, might the town be throwing good money at bad, if they seek to make any modifications at the current location.
    - Brief discussion on Phoenicia Elementary School – which has been voted recently by the Onteora School Board to close. Is it an ideal location? It's dry, there is already a building. It is still cut off due to flooding in Phoenicia.

Heidi mentions asbestos concerns, which she understood to be a contributing factor to the decision to close.

- Peter would have to obtain much more information from the school district before knowing if relocation to this site is a viable option.
- Brief discussion on CWC funding, which for eligible projects, may include:
  - feasibility studies up to 5-10k
  - purchase of land / vacant portion of property for relocation
  - relocation of structures
  - design of new structures on a new property
  - 25% of wastewater up to \$50,000
  - CWC does not fund cost of new construction.
- Town Hall & Highway Garage Complex relocation study application – update:
  - CWC board has not reviewed this application. Their view is that Shandaken may not have the funds for new construction and CWC may not want to fund a feasibility study, land purchase, or design if the town isn't capable of going the rest of the way
  - SAFARI committee responds that a community cannot seek out grant funding without a detailed study documenting the need for the (relocation) funds requested.
  - CWC committee hasn't seen 2<sup>nd</sup> application, the group recommends Peter speak again to CWC
    - Should Peter go to the next board meeting?
  - Next step: Schedule a phone call with Jason Merwin, John Mathiesen
    - Heidi: Identify potential funding sources like NYS's Bond Act, Climate Smart Communities, and other funding streams ASAP - a list for Shandaken with details on potential award amounts.
  - Can the town take another look at Glenbrook Park site.
  - Aaron mentions that if funded by CWC, the town can weigh in on the scope of the feasibility study. (The town does not need to select LaBella Engineering, they can put out an RFP).
- Shandaken Ambulance & Medial Facility, Phoenicia
  - Ambulance Facility has been identified as having a potential need for relocation, but site location may depend on what opportunities are present if Town Hall ever relocates. SAFARI committee puts a "pin" in this until further information is known

### **SMIP Funding & Program Updates**

- Leslie shares the status of the SMIP fund which includes:
  - Local Flood Analysis project implementation
  - Dedicated funding for all other eligible projects (a very competitive category)
- LFA planning comes out of that "all other projects" larger pot.
- Current SMIP fund runs out September 30, 2024.
  - Stakeholder council would like to know what are the priorities for Shandaken so the group can prioritize these funds?
    - Is the town going to apply for funding for Pine Hill Project Area 2 – Bonnie View Avenue between Station Road and Mill Street? (Waiting for SLR to deliver survey to know how that project may move forward).
  - Leslie suggests Lower Main Street Over Birch Creek, Pine Hill Project Area 6, the highest BCA, and highest number of residents affected by that crossing.
    - Eric and Peter agree – would be good to advance an initial engineering and feasibility study.
  - Were there other projects Shandaken would like to advance in the next few years?
    - Eric, just about every crossing!
      - Lower Main Street first (two bridges on Main Street) Academy Street, Elm Street, just slowly restore one-by-one

- Eric will go up to Pine Hill and prepare a Priority List and will think about working towards concept and design projects in that order, and move towards implementation.
      - Whatever work Shandaken may want done by 2024, they should think about applying now
  - Local flood Analysis for Big Indian and Chichester? That comes from the pool of funding that is very competitive. AWSMP would find it helpful to know if Shandaken would like to advance before the end 9/30/24 or wait until 2025?
    - Eric suggests waiting until the end of 2024, just until the town gets caught up a bit... or, start with Big Indian and Olivera and wait on Chichester?
      - Olivera may involve a bit more coordination with partner organizations than previous LFA due to complexity; important to keep that in mind. Will likely take a full year to complete.
    - Group agrees... move forward with applying for Big Indian and Olivera
  - Updating the Phoenicia LFA is a potential project where the committee could further explore how to mitigate floodwaters from Main Street.
    - Better to wait until there is at least a selected design. Don't start it too soon.
    - Adam suggests linking Chichester LFA with Phoenicia update?
    - The limits of the proposed Chichester LFA and Phoenicia LFA area abutt one another; thus Shandaken could conduct those LFAs together.
  - AWSMP asks: Overall, what would Shandaken like to get done before end of 2024:
    - Lower Main Street
    - Bridges in Pine Hill are all priority projects. Eric will prepare a priority list.
    - Kevin has put together a committee for the Mt. Tremper Park. AWSMP can help with restoring native vegetation, treatment at the edge, educational signage
  - NEXT SAFAR MEETING: ASSEMBLE THOUGHTS FOR BIG INDIAN / OLIVERA

### **Stream Restoration Project Updates:**

- McKenely Hollow – SLR has conducted ground survey and UAV survey and they should be working on the hydraulic model.
  - Adam has had communication with downstream landowner, who has since had their house demolished (not for buy out, for rebuilding purposes). The project required access to be granted by this landowner
    - Positive landowner reaction, everyone seems supportive

### **Design & Implementation Project Updates**

- Design & Feasibility Phoenicia Bridge Street Bridge Project - UC DPW (funded by AWSMP)
  - Lower High Street Owner: Okay with raising Road and retaining walls, but does not prefer road cutting through property; SLR wants to explore connecting Station Road to Lower High Street to the East
  - Campground owner does not prefer a retaining wall in front of the office which services the business
  - The owner of the A-Frame home on Station Rd, prefers not to move the driveway access, but is okay with relocating the house on site or somewhere close by. Alternative 3 maintains existing driveway access, but places her home within the opening of the bridge.
    - The Easterly neighbor is willing to sell his property (owns 2 lots) and work with the town. Perhaps there is an option there. This might also help access to property in the rear?
- Mount Tremper Bridge LOMR - updates, if any
  - The letter's been sent!

### **NYCFFBO Re-Use Plan Review**

- Damiana

- Van Baren
  - The group reviews the three proposed uses for BOTH lots (prepared by DEP):
    - Open space / native vegetation
    - Compatible outdoor recreation such as parking access
    - Future potential relocation of County Route 47 and the construction access, uses and/or maintenance thereof
  - These re-use plans do not limit all activity outside these listed uses. So long as they're compatible.
  - These re-use plans can also be revised someday if/as needed.
  - Heidi – Make changes as discussed, send to Peter as a Word document for Town prelim approval; Send to Aaron for submission to DEC for their approval. Then town and DEP make their final approvals
  - Closings for these two parcels are schedule for the end of July. These re-use plans get filed concurrently.

### **Partner Updates**

- AWSMP - none
- CWC - none
- NYCDEP
  - FBO Updates from Aaron:
    - Damiana / Van Baren – hoping to close in July. No underground storage tank. DEC spill on Damiana has been closed. Can order pre-demo survey work before closing. That should expedite start of Demolition process.
    - Sage & Shurter / Kirkpatrick – both closed two weeks ago.
      - Sage/Shurter – Eagles nest... is active now. DEC will have to weigh in on when demolition can have
    - Reese Demo – almost done. 1 or 2 punch list items. 116 concrete blocks were removed from that site.
- Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)
  - UCMJHMP: Upcoming Meetings: Save-The-Dates: May 17<sup>th</sup> & June 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Housekeeping**

- Annual review and update of SAFARI committee members (add/invite new members?)
  - Discussion about considering adding involved community members
  - Does CWC want to suggest someone else other than John Mathieson attend these meetings?
  - Add Donna LeMoine as she is the deputy floodplain administrator
- Review the meeting schedule
  - Peter suggests that this still works. Keep the same

### **Approve Notes / Adjourn**

#### **Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, June 13th, 2023 @ 10:00am