

Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

Tuesday August 8, 2023 10:00am - 11:30am

In-Person at AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

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

In Attendance:

In Person:

Peter DiSclafani, Town of Shandaken
Supervisor
Eric Hoffmeister, Town of Shandaken
Highway Superintendent
Leslie Zucker, Program Manager, AWSMP
Tim Koch, Lead Educator, AWSMP
Max Kelly, Watershed Educator, AWSMP
Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE
Adam Trescott, Project Manager, Stream
Management Program, NYCDEP
Andrew Emrich, Sr. Engineer, UCDPW

Remote:

Aaron Bennett, Deputy Chief, NYCDEP
Watershed Lands & Community Planning

Town of Shandaken Updates

- Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, etc
 - Pretty quiet these days
- Pine Hill Stormwater Retrofit, CWC Application
 - Ready to submit application to CWC for preliminary engineering.
 - Work will be designed in phases. Upper Main Street parking lot and firehouse, and then Shandaken will work to move down Main Street
- Donna and Peter are ready to take the Certified Floodplain Manager exam. The AWSMP scholarship covers membership and exam. Peter can coordinate with Sophie at AWSMP

Design & Implementation Project Updates

- Design & Feasibility Phoenicia Bridge Street Bridge Project - UC DPW (partially funded by AWSMP)
 - Andrew reports that SLR conducted soil borings in June (additional borings may be required once design is farther along. SLR also completed field investigations and pebble counts for geomorphic assessment.
 - Report may be delivered between end-of-August / end-of-September.
 - Once agencies review, Andrew would like to hold next public hearing this fall. This meeting will be an open forum with project team available for one-on-one question and answer.
 - Landowner discussions: Eric and Peter have discussed relocating the road over lands of Warfeild or lands of Empire Railway Museum
 - Andrew suggests either could be an extremely complicated process, especially where determining ownership of Station Road is concerned.
 - Town “owns” first 300 feet, but the remainder is Ulster County (entire roadbed is on lands of Ulster County)
 - Eric suggests that since the town has been maintaining that road all the way down, for over 10 years, could it be considered a town road by use?
 - Next Steps?

- Determine ownerships and bounds by survey and/or by attorney
 - SLR hasn't included any of this as part of their study.
 - Andrew acknowledges the receipt of the watermain plans from LaBella. Andrew shared with SLR so that it can be included for feasibility study.
 - Heidi reports that Ulster County applied for a Climate Smart Communities grant through NY's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).
 - The application was for \$2 million to support construction of the bridge
 - The application stated that the project is in the preliminary engineering phase and is considering two alternatives at present; each with flood reduction benefits.
 - The application also stated the County will coordinate with the town on the plans to advance a floodplain bench / enhancement (town jurisdiction).
 - Andrew asks: how much is left of the turn table? Eric – just the foundation remains
- Phoenicia Floodplain Bench and Main Street Bridge Conceptual & Feasibility Analysis
 - Given some of the modelling results on the Bridge Street bridge and in consideration of the funding source from DEP (\$8 million was earmarked for both the bridge and the bench). Is the floodplain bench actual feasible? What are the extents? What are the benefits? What are the costs?
 - The recommendation is that now is the time to move this forward, to 30% design, so the entire project is coordinated.
 - Andrew offers processing an amendment to the County contract so that it would include a 30% bench design. May be more efficient? Though it wouldn't be hard for AWSMP to contract either. Town can decide and follow up in the next month or so.
 - If advanced, these projects could all work in tandem.
 - Andrew suggests more in-depth modelling of homes and how they're affected by the two alternatives.
- Mount Tremper Bridge LOMR (funded by AWSMP)
 - SLR reports no updates. They have all the data from DOT.
- Pine Hill LFA Project Area 2
 - According to Eric, SLR's latest analysis shows a 19.5-foot bridge would be sufficient to pass DOT standards (some discussion on whether that's the 50-year or 100-year).
 - The bridge will be widened and raised some.
 - Does Shandaken need to apply to AWSMP to advance design?
 - Or do they want to work with the county with pre-cast panels and some sheeting (the county can do the work, if the town pays for materials).
 - Should the town apply for implementation funds so the AWSMP can consider funding the materials?
 - Eric should forward the report he's received from SLR so Town/AWSMP/County can coordinate next step (design or move straight to county construction?)
 - Currently, replacement of this crossing is slated for Spring 2024.
 - Discussion: Could the Bonnie View (project 2) crossing be "temporarily" replaced while Shandaken looks at designing "project 1" and "project 2" per the Pine Hill LFA (designed crossings, floodplain bench, raising roads, etc) for maximized flood reduction benefits?
 - UC Bridge Forman would need evaluate if a crane could access the site to install temporary panels; UCDPW would need to do a survey to know if a temporary bridge is possible.
 - Leslie reminds SAFARI that the application(s) for these projects **needs to emphasize flood reduction benefits** in order to receive DEP-approval/funding

- Leslie asks that if DEP sees any issues with advancing Design for Projects 1 & 2 (before Birch Creek, which may have greater flood-reduction benefits), DEP should let it be known now, before town moves forward with a plan for a temporary bridge.
 - Aaron, at first glance, thinks Projects 1 and 2 construction funding would likely be supported by CWC.
- The committee also discusses Birch Creek and how those three crossings should all be replaced as well. Lower Main Street, Academy Street and one more up Birch Creek.
- AWSMP will continue to review the LFA technical advisors
- If the county/town does move forward with a Bonnie View Ave 19.5-ft culvert, the town might need to ask SLR to design for grade control.
 - Aaron- if the project is not reducing water surface elevation, it may get kicked back by CWC as ineligible.
 - Aaron provides requirements from CWC: Reduce elevation, reduce velocity, alter flow-paths, otherwise minimize potential for flood damage.
 - If SLR could provide that information, that would inform the next steps.

Stream Restoration Project Updates

- Elk Bushkill (funded by AWSMP) & McKenley Hollow (funded by AWSMP)
 - Heidi shared notes from Adam: *"The EBK SRP has commenced with some minor activity at the site. The contractor has started to mobilize and we'll be conducting our pre-construction meeting Tuesday afternoon (today). The bulk of the work will likely begin next week when the dewatering pumps will be delivered."*

Streamside Acquisition Program negotiations and priority areas in Shandaken

- Leslie updates the group on progress: Stakeholders are coming to agreement on coordination and data sharing between Catskill Center, Stream Management Programs, and the Towns.
 - Leslie describes the proposed process for reviewing reaches of stream and using the tools in the toolbox to make comprehensive change.
 - CWT is advocating for towns to be PART of the process throughout, though opt-in is not necessarily being required (at this stage)
 - Ulster County may eventually "pilot" up to 5 priority areas throughout Ashokan watershed towns
 - What's left to negotiate: the stewardship component. Ulster county towns want lands to be maintained and the community should be able to manage their infrastructure, flexibility for community projects, recreation, utilities.
 - Still to discuss: 3rd party ownership, easements, or land-use permits if it's city-owned.
 - Biggest point of unknown: Will the city fund a license agreement? A 10-year (or more?) agreement to preserve/steward stream corridors. This is being met with mixed response from all partners, positively and negatively.
 - SAFARI committee discusses the notion of formalizing a limit to the sale of uplands. Subdivision is strongly preferred. Can it be required?
 - Discussion on swap of uplands. The committee looks at a few large upland DEP parcels; the Town may be in a good position to negotiate this, with the possible expansion of SAP and the continuation of CORE LAP being discussed now.
 - Leslie will send list of stream reaches to be considered for a potential SAP expansion (though nothing is set in stone).

Stream Access & Recreation

- Mt. Tremper Park: no new update, no recent meetings since June.

Partner Updates

- AWSMP - none
- CWC - none
- NYCDEP
 - VanBaren to close tomorrow.
 - Damiana will be delayed. Landowner sadly passed away recently.
 - CWC has 2 RFPs out for consulting firms for demolition coordination and FMHIP feasibility studies for 2024-2026.
 - Sage & Shurter closed. About to order the pre-demo surveys (this week)
 - Kirkpatrick, same.
 - Pre-demo surveys should be done by end of September.
- Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)
 - Shandaken requests that for the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Ulster county look at UC parcel: 4.45-1-17. Can the jurisdictions coordinate an action (and eventually implement) the rehabilitation of the old holding tank, for use as a fire water supply (pipes to 4.445-1-4.100) – feasibility study for viability.

Approve Notes / Adjourn
Next Meeting:

Notes from July Meeting Approved. Send to Joyce.
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 @ 10:00am