

Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

August 15, 2022, 10:00-11:45 AM

In-Person at AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

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

In Attendance:

In person

Peter DiSclafani, Shandaken Town Supervisor
Leslie Zucker, Program Leader, AWSMP
Adam Doan, Stream Project Mngr, UCSWD
Heidi Emrich, UC Dept of Environment
Mark Carabetta, Principal Environmental
Scientist, SLR
Kiah Parmelee, Water Resource Scientist, SLR
Mieke Scherpbier, Project Water Resources
Engineer, SLR

Virtual

Kevin VanBlarcum, Shandaken Deputy
Supervisor
Eric Hofmeister, Shandaken Hwy Superint.
Michael Madison, Emergency Manger, UC
Emergency Services
Andrew Emrich, Sr. Engineer, UC Dept of Public
Works
Beth Reichheld, Director, NYCDEP Stream
Management Program

Town of Shandaken Updates

- Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, etc.
 - Peter asks Adam if he'd received the Panther Kill Floodplain Development Permit back from the town; Adam says yes.
 - BEARD: Heidi Reports that Laura Beard of (tbd) Oliverea Rd (at Intersection with McKenley Hollow) has reached out to the Town. Heidi and Ms. Beard have been in contact.
 - Heidi has visited the site – no remnants of former building
 - The site is definitely at risk of inundation, especially the Westerly streamside portion
 - Heidi consulted with Dave Tobias, Section Chief, NYCDEP Watershed Protection & Planning: Dave feels that if a homeowner demolished a structure on their own due to repetitive loss, there may still be room to qualify under Category #5, possibly
 - Heidi ultimately learns from Ms. Beard that this structure burned in a fire in 1980, sadly; and thus, will likely not qualify after all.
 - **Question:** *Does the notion of self-demolition warrant exploration?? Might be applicable to Fox Hollow (Gray Way) parcel?*
 - *Peter responds the yes, the town would be interested in reaching out to the owners of said Fox Hollow Property. Heidi to inquire.*

AWSMP Updates

- FHM Working Group
 - Leslie reports that AWSMP will hold the next FHM Working Group is September 15 from 10-12
 - Topic for Discussion: Land Acquisition in flood mitigation; what programs and tools are working and what could be improved; what's lacking
 - Leslie explains FAD revision process –key deadline coming up, continuation of DEP Land Acquisition Program beyond 2024 will require reissuance of Water Supply Permit
 - Reexamination of LAP is underway now
 - Streamside Acquisition Program (SAP) – SAP has been piloted for years

in Schoharie River Basin (managed by Catskill Center, in partnership with the City and its acquisition Program)

- SAP provides two options: 1) fee simple, and 2) conservation easement for streamside buffers in important floodplain parcels
 - Should this be expanded
 - What should the program rules be?
 - What would be the rolls of the towns, the Stream Programs, The City?
 - How would SAP affect the existing LAP?
 - If SAP were to move forward, the City would be required to commit 8 Million dollars to the program.
 - Leslie suggests that if the program moves forward, it might provide a solution to those at-risk vacant parcels
 - Delaware county has been resistant to fee-simple acquisition options; however historically Ulster County has been amenable.
 - Peter comments that he sees the benefit for this program but would be cautious that the program doesn't allow for whole tracts of land (which might include buildable uplands), to be acquired by DEP any more than is already the case in the LAP. Peter is concerned with lack of existing buildable area within the town.
 - The FHM Working group will also feature a brief presentation on Risk Rating 2.0 with newer information from the Floodplain Manager's conference
 - The FHM Working Group will also feature a presentation on how to interpret USGS stream gage data – a topic that has been requested in the past
- Streamside Landowner Survey
 - Leslie shares that AWSMP will conduct a Streamside Landowner Survey within the entire Ashokan Watershed, similar to the one conducted in 2006 (2006 survey served as foundational information for AWSMP outreach and technical assistance)
 - RFP: Selected Cornell University Center for Conservation & Social Sciences in the Dept of Natural Resources
 - Survey should go out this fall; with results in the spring
 - AWSMP will share results
 - 6 flood related questions including:
 - Do they have flood insurance?
 - History of flooding on the property
 - How much they'd be willing to spend themselves on mitigation
 - What are their trusted sources for flood-related information
 - What flood mitigation actions would they like to know more about
- SMIP Funding
 - Next round coming up
 - Leslie says AWSMP sent Eric the application for the project they had been discussing
 - Applications will be due Wednesday October 12
 - Reminder, LFA implementation can be applied for, at any time.
 - Panther Kill Stream Project
 - Adam reports that Hubbell Inc. from Margaretville has been awarded the contract; plan to start within the next week or two & complete by September 30

NYCFFBO

- Aaron reports via email:
 - 27 Station Road
 - Appraisal was completed and the Official Offer from NYCDEP was submitted to the County Friday
 - Fitzpatrick
 - No update. Minor lot line revision is still in progress

- Sage & Shurter, Damiana & Van Baren
 - All expected to close within next few months.
 - Minor issue re: resolutions on Damiana and Van Baren – but will not hold up closings
 - Heidi shows the group the reference to an “LFA area” as it appears in both the Damiana and Van Baren Town Resolutions for NYCFFBO
 - That reference to LFA should be removed and a new / revised; NYCFFBO Category #5, Inundation Hazard should be reference; and resolution passed.
- Hansen
 - CWC has put out the RFP for Demo. Pre-Bid Meeting on site is mandatory. Scheduled for 8/25. Bid Closes 9/1, in time for CWC’s next monthly meeting
- Reese
 - Site inspection meeting (held 8/3) with CWC, LaBella & DEP found there was additional clarification needed. CWC will put this RFP to bid in September and will plan to close the bid on or about October 1 with approval at the October CWC meeting

CWC Updates

- No one is present from CWC

Ulster County Updates

- Andrew, DPW, reports on the following:
 - Kick-off Meeting for Bridge Street Bridge at end-of-month
 - Creekside Drive – embankment project with NRCS funding – slated for early 2023 construction
 - Glenbrook Bridge (Creekside Drive, across from Glenbrook Park) – super structure is going to be replaced late this year / early next year
 - Heidi asks about Beard / Oliverea Road: would the county be interested in owning the parcel for future road realignment
 - Andrew responds yes, but that DPW doesn’t typically purchase land like that
 - Could potentially go through Planning & DPW would support it.
- Mike, Emergency Services, reports on the following:
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan Update email went out; includes a survey to gage interest in participating in the update
 - More information to come soon
 - Heidi proposed a meeting with Mike and Town of Shandaken (with AWSMP) to discuss resources, so UC knows what Shandaken has to hand, and Shandaken knows what resources might be available upon request during an emergency
 - Mike adds that during a disaster response, if Shandaken informs UC ES on their mission – UC ES can use their expertise to guide response strategies
 - Peter agrees further discussion would be beneficial; prefers to tie this into Table Top Exercise in late fall/ winter

Implementation Project Updates

- **Phoenicia Floodplain Enhancement**
 - Leslie opens up the discussion to say this is not a project yet, necessarily
 - Keep on the radar; maybe the town wants to pursue
 - Might be good to think about this more while Bridge Street Bridge Project move forward; Adam and Leslie to follow closely
 - Peter asks about the Bridge Street Bridge funding?
 - Beth explains the funding will be coming from the state; DEP is planning that it is appropriated. DEP is working with DEC internally on contract mechanism and Beth believes the project will be fully contracted and funding available in DEP fiscal year 2026; construction season 2025

- **Phoenicia / Mt Tremper Bridge Street Bridge Design & Feasibility Study**
 - Nothing more to add; discussed above
- **Letter of Map Revision, NYS Rte 28, Mt. Tremper**
 - Mark, SLR reports that SMIP funding has been approved and project is moving forward
 - *Post Meeting Clarification: LOMR is moving forward with a SMIP Agreement in place between the town and CCEUC to provide grant funding*
 - Matt from SLR can join SAFARI next month (9/13) to provide an update
- **Shandaken / Allaben Town Hall Property Protection Measures, Feasibility – CWC FHMIP Application**
 - Heidi reported that Town of Shandaken has applied to CWC for a FHMIP grant for a feasibility study on floodproofing the town hall; including looking at a building addition scenario to offset the potential loss of the bottom floor office space. No response yet from CWC.

LFA and Other Planning Updates

- **Pine Hill Local Flood Analysis Meeting Review**
 - Heidi offers her impressions from Public Meeting 2:
 - 25-30 people attended and were quite engaged
 - Suggests a brief summary to begin the meeting to define LFA goals and maybe even basic flood terms
 - Mark responds that this was why they did try to include educational elements to the presentation
 - Heidi adds that the stream profile info graphic and example of activated channel width were very helpful and engaging
 - Group discusses public interest in bank erosion
 - One resident reached out about his own erosion concerns; Adam to follow up
 - Heidi contacted Army Corp of Engineers re: private restoration work on Bonnie View:
 - Yes, the applications were submitted in March & May of 2022
 - ACOE permitting office found nothing terribly concerning with application; did not respond within 45-day period, thus applications were approved by default
 - There is brief discussion if more information on this is needed; not at this time
- **BCA / BRC Priorities**
 - Mieke, SLR presents slides showing 6 proposed project areas
 - Discussion surrounding sharing slides (as requested during the meeting) – this continues at end of presentation
 - Mieke details the 6 proposed project areas and what mitigation tools are being recommended for each
 - Mark explains the BCA process which includes gathering the BCR for each affected structure within the immediate project area and that information feeds into the larger BCA process, per project
 - There is a brief discussion on how the project recommendations might *appear to* affect landowners and that it may important to reiterate the goals of the LFA (not a full design); Heidi feels it is important to keep landowner concerns in mind when presenting at final meeting (attendees concerned about “taking”)
 - Eric comments that once you explain the benefits of improving the bridge, and that it will allow them better, safer access, they usually buy-in
 - Brief discussion about historic (and failing) walls along creeks
 - Brief discussion about any concern about replacing historic bridges from residents; none so far
 - Brief conversation on modelling dredging to explain why it typically is not effective. Pine hill does not have this aggradation problem that other hamlets do; if anything deepening the channel might undermine the channel banks (walls). In the end, group agrees this is not enough of a concern follow-up
 - Mark discussed approach to individual property BCR – proposing a range of results

