

Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

January 23, 2024 - 10:00am – 12:00pm

In-Person at AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

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

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
Max Kelly, Watershed Educator, AWSMP
Sophie Grant, Event Administrator, AWSMP
Aaron Bennett, Deputy Chief, NYCDEP
Watershed Lands & Community Planning
Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE
John Mathiesen, Environmental Engineering
Specialist, CWC

Remote:

Aaron Bennett, Deputy Chief, NYCDEP
Watershed Lands & Community Planning
Andrew Emrich, P.E., Sr. Engineering, UCDPW

Town of Shandaken Updates

- **Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, applications, etc**
 - Peter reports that there have been some request for “what if” scenarios, otherwise there have been no new or recent projects.
 - There are a few landowner projects that have surpassed what may have been permitted. Donna is watching these carefully.
 - Someone on Mt. Pleasant Rd. issued a complaint against a neighbor who put fill in the floodway. Town responded by issuing a Notice of Violation. The landowner was going to pursue obtaining a no rise certificate... But now those owners are in Florida and there’s been no action. Because there’s been no action, the neighbors called DEC Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety
 - Aaron asks how is Donna’s workload? Aaron is hearing that building inspectors are stretched thin, that there’s a lot of turnover and that there is a lot of development pressure.
 - Peter responds that yes, the turnover issues had been challenging, compounded by the new STR laws and enforcement requirements. But things are settling in now.
 - Heidi comments that this conversation will be continued at the next Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group Feb 15.
 - Peter mentions that he’s seen some minor work going on at a structure across from Phoenicia Diner, on Rte 28. Eric says he thought the work may be occurring in the floodway.
 - Existing structure is in the floodway.

- Heidi will support town to address new construction, will furnish maps/letter
 - Plank Rd. Property owner has applied to CWC for FHMIP funding. Owner is looking for the county to help as well. She's in a low spot against the mountain.
 - The house was substantially damaged. It was 55% damaged in Irene. The bank took it. Sold it. Now there is yet another new owner.
 - The property may have been substantially improved
 - John asks: would the town consider a buy out? Town to consider at next town board meeting
 - Discussion on why the committee believes realtor training is needed. This is a good case study.
 - Discussion on Eric's two buildings: feasibility study recommended allowing the buildings to flood. Water too high for dry floodproofing.
- **Town of Shandaken Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**
 - Heidi to help the Town draft SMIP Application for next funding round, announced February 8, due Feb 29.
 - Town receives CRS credit for having and maintaining an updated town-wide Haz Mit Plan.

Pine Hill Local Flood Analysis Project Review

- **Project Areas 1& 2 (Bonnie View Ave) update**
 - Leslie shares that the Pine Hill Local Flood Analysis, completed. Addendum received with recommendation for Project Areas 1 & 2 and recommendation to pursue LOMRs when/as needed.
 - The Town needs to adopt so that LOMRs work will be eligible for application funding.
 - RE: Bonnie View: Application from town is in, quote from SLR is in. AWSMP has everything the need for SMIP grant agreement and agreement with SLR. Only thing left is an Executive Council review of additional funding request.
 - Leslie asks: Is the town going to apply for Phoenicia modelling (see below)
 - County crossing on schedule for next year.

Side note: Shandaken waiting for a design plan to apply for funding to CWC for stormwater.

Design & Implementation Project Updates

- **Design & Feasibility Phoenicia Bridge Street Bridge Project - UC DPW (partly funded by AWSMP)**
 - Andrew says this is going slowly as we're gathering information on the Stony Clove. After review, more information is needed... the project, at this point, may only reduce levels a couple of inches and that makes it hard to justify a \$20 mil. price tag
 - County needs to consider other, perhaps less expensive, less extensive bridge replacement alternatives.
 - The project team needs to explore: if some amount of work is done on Stony Clove, will it affect Bridge Street Bridge, and by how much?
 - Andrew asked SLR to model a less-expensive option (SLR scope is only to design one, so this needs to be worked out)
 - Need to figure some things scope-wise. It may be that we need to re-scope the project.
- **Phoenicia Floodplain Bench and Main Street Bridge Conceptual & Feasibility Analysis (Flood Mitigation solutions for Phoenicia)**

- Phoenicia Modelling – AWSMP suggests that it would be great for Shandaken to apply for LFA implementation funding for this, this round, so the application can be reviewed by the grant review committee.
- Feasibility study for Ruth Gale (38 Main St) - submitted to CWC for floodproofing measures.
 - This was looked at years ago and there wasn't a relocation site that was agreeable to the owner at the time.

(Post-Meeting Update: According to Aaron, available sites in town were still in the special flood hazard area, and CWC will not pay to relocate from one flood zone to another).

- **LOMR Update**

- Aaron set up a meeting with FEMA and FEMA's engineering consultant; how to proceed because H&H may be "off." The model has taken each confluence from Fox Hollow to Boiceville and applied it to the downstream confluence, all the way to the Ashokan Reservoir.
 - FEMA isn't committing to remodeling FIS now, and eventually it will be modelled in 2D (years in the future)
 - So what do we do in the meantime? We don't have accurate maps...
 - The group discusses the history of what was modelled
 - For now, do "we" with the 1d model, and stick with the FIS?
 - Maybe FEMA will entertain the idea of remodeling it sooner, but they are not committing at this point.
 - Aaron shares that Leslie made a point during the call: We've all spent substantial dollars on hazard mitigation projects, elevating houses, bridges, and will continue to do so. What could the implications be?
 - The group will reconvene in 2 or 3 weeks and we'll plan show all the work that's been done, could be done, and why its worth funding a correction.
 - There will be a technical review before notifying the general public of this issue.

Stream Restoration Project Updates

- **McKenley Hollow (funded by AWSMP)**
 - Comments back from SLR. Next step: have a meeting and talk next steps, it hasn't been scheduled yet. Town should have been on that email. Trying to schedule for the week of February 5th

Stream Access & Recreation Updates

- **Mt. Tremper Park**
 - Heidi shares photo during a recent 3-4 year storm event. The flood bench certainly did its job; the "Rock Cut" site was fairly inundated with water.
 - This is something for the park committee to consider. Its not just large storms they have to design for, more regular storms as well.

NYCF-FBO Updates

- **Mt Pleasant Rd., Mt. Tremper**
 - No movement
- **Main St., Pine Hill**
 - Reschedule site visit
- **Others**
 - 4 demolitions for 2024: All in Shandaken, Two in Oliverea (Damiana & Van Baren), Two in Mt. Tremper (Sage & Shurter and Kirkpatrick)

- DEP reviewing pre-demo surveys.
- Mt Tremper projects will likely need to be demo'd after October

Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
 - SMIP Funding and Scholarships
 - Next SMIP funding round to be opened in February.
 - Training Scholarship program. There will be some changes in the program – announcement to come! Scholarship will only cover course fees, no longer covering travel. They will cover NYFSMA conference. Shandaken will be able to apply.
 - Also on the list is Rosgen Level 1 or 2, OR – AWSMP will be doing their own 2-day training early to mid-June for Fluvial Geomorphology
 - CFM Exam Reminder
- **CWC**
 - Lilly application
 - Peavy application
 - Riccardella's 3 feasibility studies are being prepared right now.
 - Total of 5 tanks were anchored at Phoenica fire.
 - CWC has not heard back from Robert Drake on what direction he plans on going. He applied for design; but John is not aware of the final outcome.
 - Potter (Jay St.) feasibility study is being prepared.
 - Brief discussion on funding the remaining 25% of these projects
- **NYCDEP**
 - **LFA Expansion Areas – Explore Potential Areas in Shandaken**
 - Areas of Cluster Septic Systems
 - Areas for mass gathering, campgrounds, etc
 - Repetitive Loss Areas
 - In Ashokan Basin: thinking about adding campgrounds, Oliverea, Shokan, Lake Hill/Willow; based on some of the following criteria:
 - Repetitive loss areas
 - Campuses or campgrounds
 - Critical facilities that may be outside current LFA areas
 - Cluster septic system eligible communities: Lanesville, Woodland Valley Road, Traver Hollow, Shokan
 - Road stream crossings, where there's backwater or downstream inundation - internally DEP is discussing and considering levels of inundation at structures
 - Timeline: hopefully by the Partners Meeting. Within the next few weeks!
 - Leslie says town can apply for the next LFA after September 2024. If Oliverea becomes eligible – may want to combine with Big Indian.
 - New contract will only have enough money for one LFA per year.
- **Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)**

Approve December Notes / Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Peter Suggests moving this regularly to the third Tuesday... February 20th.