

# Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

May 21, 2024 - 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  
Adam Doan, Stream Project Manager,  
UCSWCD  
Max Kelly, Watershed Educator, AWSMP  
Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE

#### Remote:

Aaron Bennett, Flood Hazard Mitigation  
Coordinator, NYCDEP Bureau of Water  
Supply  
Andrew Emrich, P.E., Sr. Engineering, UCDPW  
Adam Trescott, P.E., SMP Ashokan Basin  
Manager, NYCDEP  
Kevin VanBlarcum, Town Board Member

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### Action Items:

- **Heidi to reach out to Donna to follow up on CAV, and next steps with DEC**
- **Heidi to send draft proposed Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan Update public outreach schedule to Peter and Eric, and Leslie, as Grant Coordinator, to be submitted with a request for a more detailed proposal from Tetra Tech (✓)**
- **Heidi to share “swap” parcel proposed sketch plan with (✓)**
- **Heidi to share Road Stream Crossing interactive map and dashboard with group (✓):**  
<https://road-stream-crossings-ulstercounty.hub.arcgis.com/apps/ulster-county-road-stream-crossing-assessments-1/explore>
- **Shandaken to investigate floodplain activity on Creekside Rd between Routes 42 & 47**
- **Peter to consider adding Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan to the agenda for the next town board meeting (reoccurring updates at regular intervals)**
- **Aaron to share 1-pg “fact sheet” on Mt. Tremper bridge with AWSMP**

### Town of Shandaken Updates

- **Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, applications, etc**
  - Any remaining CAV follow up?
    - Heidi: Talk to Donna. Set up a second meeting with Bailey, DEC for CAV follow-up
    - Heidi also shares that a CAV Debrief meeting has been set up for Ashokan Watershed municipalities for June 11<sup>th</sup>. (*Post-meeting note: This meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts*)
  - Peter reports no new floodplain dev permits, but Donna is monitoring certain projects and collecting required floodplain development permits

- Donna is also working on enforcing small structures (sheds, etc) seemingly being built in the floodway.
  - Aaron asks if Donna ever investigated clearing by Rte 42 and Rte 47 near the fishing access sites? Group agrees, town should be sure its permitted.
- **Town of Shandaken Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – SMIP Application**
  - Group discusses the grant committee recommendation that Shandaken look more closely at the education and outreach / public engagement plan that will be necessary to complete this FHM Plan Update.
    - Who from the town is going to take the lead on the project? Peter with Eric, with help from Kevin.
    - Heidi shares draft public meeting schedule and engagement strategy.
      - Peter asks if Tetra Tech will run the meetings?
        - Yes, they will, but they’ll do it as is required by the program, and not with the required local sensitivities and sensibilities.
        - We should really have local representatives and should really take the lead.
          - Aaron emphasizes how important it is to have town board involvement and to have them present during these public meetings. It sets a good example.
          - DEP commits to attending as well.
        - Peter suggests that Kevin and Mark Loete could also support the public outreach strategy.
        - Peter also suggests he’ll introduce the Flood Hazard Mitigation plan at the next town board meeting.
    - Heidi runs through the plan update process in broad strokes, and discusses the different intervals in which public engagement is required including:
      - 2 meetings within the first two months – in or near flood-prone areas (Phoenicia & Big Indian)
      - 2 meetings to review plan & gain feedback – same as above, in or near flood-prone areas, but maybe also target a more “disadvantaged community.”
        - Peter suggests Pine Hill
    - Heidi reports that the planning committee meetings also have to be made public.
      - SAFARI will have to make those meetings publicly available.
      - SAFARI will have to create a subcommittee, or increase “membership” as it relates to discussions on the FHM Plan Update
        - Committee members should include:
          - Code enforcement (*Donna*)
          - Highway / Public Works (*Eric*)
          - Public Information Officer (*Joyce*)
          - Land use planning staff (*Mark, zoning*)
          - Outside Agencies (*DEP, AWSMP, CWC, UC*)
          - At least 1 member of the public without town affiliation
  - NEXT STEPS:
    - Heidi to furnish the drafted public outreach strategy to the town and AWSMP grant coordinator for follow-up request to consultant for detailed scope and estimate.
    - Upon receipt, being work formalizing contract with Tetra Tech
    - Apply for ISAA with FEMA to obtain repetitive loss and claims data; Tetra Tech to be named on the ISAA so they can conduct the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis.

- **Town of Shandaken Town Hall / Highway Complex Relocation**
  - Review drafted site plan for swap parcel
    - Heidi explained process for locating approximate small stream locations and adding 300 ft buffer, which left approximately 8 acres to work with.
    - Heidi displays draft map
      - Eric suggests that the access road is drawn across a small tributary because of the curb cut, but it doesn't have to be.
      - Alternative driveways that come in closer to the site that would not cross the trib and would simply need a new curb cut.
        - Heidi will amend site plan to show ingress/egress options.
  - The committee asks about the LaBella relocation Study
    - Aaron furnished LaBella project lead with another relocation example to help with formatting. The town complex study is in the final stages and should be furnished shortly.
  - Committee says: Send draft "swap" sketch plan map to DEP staff.
- **Pine Hill Stormwater update**
  - Peter spoke with Ethan, nothing yet.

### Design & Implementation Project Updates

- **Design & Feasibility Phoenicia Bridge Street Bridge project in coordination with Phoenicia Main Street Bridge & Floodplain Enhancement studies** (funded in part and in full by AWSMP, respectively)
  - Andrew asks the status of Phoenicia Main Street Bridge feasibility study
    - SMIP grant was executed, and work began 4/24.
    - Can Leslie or the town reach out to SLR to try to move this along? Obtain a status? Bridget Street Bridge is on hold until more information is gathered related to Main Street / Stony Clove.
- **Pine Hill LFA Implementation: Bonnie View Ave Project Sites 1 & 2 Feasibility and concept design** (funded by AWSMP)
  - They started the survey, no news since.
  - County – Crystal Springs bridge work: replacement will definitely be this year, however Andrew is not sure of bridge crew's schedule yet

### Stream Restoration Project Updates

- **McKenley Hollow (funded by AWSMP)**
  - Advancing to 30% design based on last conversations with Town/AWSMP/SLR. Detailed cost opinion is coming. They'll break everything out line by line. Once we know what's in house and what needs to be contracted out, they'll be able to put out an RFP.

### Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
  - SMIP funding open: Open now. Due June 27<sup>th</sup>. Very little funding for FHM. Anticipate another fall round, for implementation in 2025.
  - "How to Read A River" Stream Geomorphology Field Course: June 4-5, 2024
    - Technical training and Menla Retreat Center
      - Focused on useful skills that are very practicable.
        - ½ day classroom, followed by station works
        - 2<sup>nd</sup> day – full day field component
        - Target audience: muni officials, highway staff, same as post-flood intervention training (foremen and the operators)

- Eric mentions: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> is highway school for Superintendents; Tim is aware.
  - “Conservation through Connection” 2024 Ashokan Watershed Conference, June-October 2024
    - Summer public events. Several will be in the town of Shandaken. Will reach out to Joyce.
- **CWC**
  - Damiana and VanBaren: waiting on pre-demo reports.
  - Sage/Shurter and Kirkpatrick: site visits have happened.
    - Aaron mentions, Sage/Shurter will be a town-owned property, however the private bridge is in really bad shape. Aaron is confident something can be worked out for the demolition (temporary bridge, likely). But once demo is complete and property is in town ownership, will the town want a bridge?
      - Labella is going to have a bridge engineer come look at it.
      - The town makes no comment as to their need for a safe and passable bridge.
  - Other FBO properties:
    - Heidi reports that the Pine Hill property on Main St. has received their offer from DEP but the offer is less than the owner paid for the property, so he is not inclined to proceed at this time.
      - Heidi did supply additional information (including the option for obtaining his own appraisal, and options and floodplain development requirements if the owner decides to build).
      - Heidi has not heard anything else since.
    - Heidi also reports on Church Rd. property: owner is very interested in possible relocation as part of the NYCFFBO process. Heidi and Adam will plan to meet with her when she is back in town (this is a 2<sup>nd</sup> home).
    - Heidi also reports on Mt. Pleasant property: no word from owner. Last she knew he was concerned about having to be out of the house by closing. He doesn't have the funds to find a new home before the closing so the timing is presenting a barrier to his participation.
- **NYCDEP**
  - Tour for Dept of Health folks. Visited a bunch of water quality sites on Stony Clove and along the Schoharie. Stopped in Mount Tremper. DOH was very engaged; the work very well-received. The group looked at the new Rte 28 Mt Tremper Bridge:
    - Aaron has a one-page “fact sheet” with details and pictures; cost estimates and information to share. Aaron will share with AWSMP.
    - Rte 28 bridge is a “Dream Big” example. It was put in the LFA and no one ever thought it would be completed; but DOT picked it up and got it done!
    - This could be an example of what could come out of the Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan update as well.
- **Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)**
  - UCDPW: Recently made aware of a wash-out along the rail corridor, just west of Emerson. Driving some sheeting along 80-ft stretch of the worst of it, to keep rail explorers in operation.
    - There is about 600-feet of unstable streambank and DPW will likely submit a SMIP grant to hopefully partner with AWSMP.
    - The current work is a temporary fix. The erosion is all the way back to the tracks.
    - Aaron comments: there have been several washouts here since '87?
      - This is NOT the same spot. This area was always vegetated, but vegetation has been wiped out since Irene and hasn't recovered.

Trees are leaning over the stream, its only a matter of time... its about a 600-ft fix.

- Crystal Springs Bridge (Bonnie View) later this summer
- Hatchery Hollow (later this spring)
- Kevin has a question: on Creekside drive.
  - Old stone retaining wall has failed. It's not really on the streambank; the failure is along a plateau. After Hatchery Hollow DPW will move the temp sheeting from there and install to stabilize this site.
- Heidi shares the Ulster County Road Stream Crossing interactive mapping site and dashboard which may be useful for highway departments.
  - Tim helped UCDOE with this project and its ready for use.
- Aaron asks about Community Rating System (CRS) recertification:
  - Town send their annual recertification forms to Verisk in/around January; town has also sent their annual letters to folks in repetitive loss areas
  - Town is still a Class 8.
  - The town became a CRS community in 2021, so the VERIFICATION (5-year) visit will not be until 2026.

**April Notes:** Fix "Hat Tree" Hollow to Hatchery Hollow. Send to Joyce.

**Next Meeting:** June 18, 2024 @ 10:00 am

**Adjourn**