

Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

TUESDAY July 16, 2024 10:00am – 11:30pm

In-Person at AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

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

You can also dial in using your phone: +1 (408) 650-3123 - (Phone Access Code: 186-340-189)

Join online through a Google Chrome web browser: <https://meet.goto.com/186340189>

Or install the app: <https://meet.goto.com/install> | Enter Meeting ID: 186-340-189

In Attendance:

In Person:

Peter DiSclafani, Town of Shandaken
Supervisor
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway
Superintendent
Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE
Bobby Taylor, CSBI Coordinator, Acting
Stream Project Manager, UCSWCD
Leslie Zucker, AWSMP Program Manager,
CCEUC
Aaron Bennett, Flood Hazard Mitigation
Coordinator, NYCDEP
Adam Trescott, P.E., SMP Ashokan Basin
Manager, NYCDEP

Remote:

Robert Drake, Town of Shandaken Town
Board Member & Deputy Supervisor
(online)
Max Kelly, AWSMP Watershed Education,
CCEUC (online)
Kat Bridges, member of the public

Action Items:

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Town of Shandaken Updates

- **Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, applications, etc**
 - Peter reports no new activity, just “business as usual.”
 - Heidi reports that she received a call from Domenick Covello, in his profession as Home Inspector. Prospective Buyer of 22-24 Main Street had concerns about purchasing the church and home in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and inquired about what improvements could be done, or would be required.
 - Domenick will advise the purchaser to visit Donna, Shandaken’s floodplain administrator
 - Heidi sent Domenick information on CWCs program, but noted the prospective buyer should call CWC with specifics.
 - Peter shares that another prospective buyer reached out for more information on a Woodland Valley property. Heidi provided detailed information on risk and local claims. That landowner has since inquired about 63 Burnham Hollow (not in the floodway)
 - Eric reports that the town did not receive any Bridge NY grant funding this latest round.
 - Peter reports that the FEMA BRIC Technical Assistance grant was also denied.

- **Chichester or Big Indian LFA to start this calendar year?**
 - Aaron asks if the town plans to apply for LFA funding for either Chichester, Oliverea or Big Indian (or any combination of the three).

- Apply this fall (can apply at any time) to start at the beginning of 2025.
- **Town of Shandaken Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan**
 - Heidi updates the committee. She has recently learned that Tony, the primary contact at the chosen consulting firm, has left. This is why we haven't heard anything regarding our most recent request for additional information.
 - Heidi will track down the appropriate contact and share Leslie's most recent official correspondence.
- **Town of Shandaken Town Hall / Highway Complex Relocation**
 - Review of Relocation Feasibility Study (prepared by LaBella, funded by CWC) final recommendations.
 - Heidi provides a summary of the feasibility study recommendations.
 - Stone Kill Farm property (Phoenicia) – recommended.
 - good site distance, level, outside of 500-year floodplain, good value (some concern over tanks on / near site).
 - Phoenicia Elementary (Phoenicia) – not recommended.
 - Access issues, 10,000 gal buried tank, and portions of land in 100-year and 500-year floodplain.
 - DEP swap parcel (Big Indian) – recommended.
 - Good site distance, enough available land (some concern related to bedrock and significant natural communities).
 - Glenbrook Park (Shandaken) – not recommended.
 - Access is limited during flood event; secondary entrance may be too steep for emergency vehicles.
 - **Phoenicia Elementary** discussion:
 - Leslie shares some information on initial Phoenicia Modelling as it relates to the elementary school:
 - Background: during the engineering study and concept design phase for Bridge Street Bridget, it was concluded that additional modelling of the Stony Clove and Main Street bridge would be informative, as the confluence is just upstream of the Bridge Street Bridge.
 - Initial report is expected in the coming weeks, however preliminary study results may indicate that water escapes the channel so far up from Main Street, than any alterations of the Main Street Bridge may be helpful, but still leave water on Main Street during a 50-year and 100-year flood.
 - This means Phoenicia Elementary will still have access issues and water on site in the event of a flood, even if the bridges in/out of town are replaced and floodplains enhanced in an effort to reduce surface water elevations.
 - AWSMP and EP advise the town to consider this carefully when thinking about the town hall for this location.
 - The highway garage would not be sited here.
 - The town feels pressure to “do something” with the elementary school.
 - CWC would not fund the purchase of the land at this site, nor would the purchase the building.
 - However, there could be funding out there for retrofit or adaptive re-use, potentially.
 - Aaron reminds us that any federal funding will require the structure be floodproofed to at least the 500-year flood elevation (new FFRMS ruling).

- **Stonekill Farm** discussion:

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)
 - See notes related to Phoenicia Elementary (above).
 - Additional Phoenicia modelling report will be delivered in coming weeks.
 - Leslie states that SLR will not be modelling any “radical” ideas to lower flood elevations (like complete elevation of 214; AWSMP would never recommend making 214 effectively a berm, as berms will always eventually fail)
 - SLR may run some generic scenarios, i.e.. if there was “this much” floodplain available, would the elevations be lower on Main Street, and at what interval storm.
 - If there is anything the town does want to see modelled, now is the time to ask, before SLR gets too far into the conclusion of their study.
 - Peter asks, would a flood wall along 214 keep water from entering Main Street?
 - Eric replies: it wouldn’t matter because the downstream bridge doesn’t have capacity to pass all that water, so no matter what, the water would back up and over or around a wall.
 - There is discussion around appealing to Army Corp of Engineers for assistance on a large-scale project that would protect Phoenicia, like elevating all at risk structures, as they are doing in Suffolk County.
 - Heidi acknowledges that this is much smaller scale, a much smaller community, but that doesn’t mean the lives here have any less value.
 - If there is general interest among residents and business owners, maybe its something worth considering.
 - It may be worth an initial investigative call with USACE.
 - **Pine Hill LFA Implementation: Bonnie View Ave Project Sites 1 & 2 Feasibility and Concept Design** (funded by AWSMP)
 - Bonnie View Ave H&H and feasibility report from SLR is on the way. Topo and Survey was done at the end of June.
 - AWSMP to ask SLR to include any structural information in their initial report, to be shared with Barton & Loguidice , who is under contract with Ulster County to prepare design and engineering work for the Highmount-Pine Hill Rail Trail project.
 - B&L would like to use Bonnie View Ave for some construction access and have concerns about structural capacity on Bonnie View Avenue Bridges.
 - B&L and Ulster County have been informed that Shandaken is working with AWSMP and SLR on design for crossings on Bonnie View
 - Eric to replay to email thread.
 - Heidi to follow up with Kristen on design of rail trail (construction 2026?).
 - The engineers should talk to each other.
 - Brief discussion on wetland adjacent to rail in Highmount.

Stream Restoration Project Updates

- **McKenley Hollow (funded by AWSMP)**
 - Waiting on SLR

Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
 - No other updates
- **CWC**
 - Updates from recent feasibility studies
 - NYCFFBO Demo updates
 - 4 demolitions are in CWC's consultant, (Labella)'s court.
 - Oliverea properties – preparing demolition plans.
 - Aaron reminds the group that the bridge on Sage & Shurter is not sufficient for construction / demolition. We'll see what the design engineer comes up with.
 - They may propose cutting trees to access a larger shed.
 - If there is a need to cut trees, then you can only do it after November 15 (Indiana Bat) and before December 31 (Bald Eagle)
 - Aaron asks about 27 Station Road, a parcel owned by County, engaged in FBO program, on hold?
 - Heidi reminds the group Ulster County was poised to convey Station Road to the town, for the purposes of proper access to this parcel.
 - This was placed on hold. If any work on Station Road is required for any part of the Bridge Street Bridge project, its likely a benefit to everyone if the County is still the owner of the road.
 - The road can be conveyed to Town once Bridge Street bridge project is complete, or if/when final engineering indicates conveying the road will be of no consequence to the project.
 - Aaron asks about the Big Indian erosion hazard parcel.
 - Yes, the landowner decided it felt too costly to try and think about relocation (despite some financial assistance available) and will remain in place.
 - She expressed interest in doing some bank work; Heidi referred her to Bobby Taylor.
 - Brief discussion on Mt. Pleasant Rd parcel. Owner was interested but would not be able to fund a move before receiving compensation at closing.
 - Brief discussion on another Station Road parcel, which was lacking access, but landowner had been interested in FBO... that is now dead, as the parcel is land-locked and appears will remain so.
- **NYCDEP**
 - Meeting with Ulster County, they have put a SMIP application for bank stabilization along the rail corridor in Mt Tremper. Committee is reviewing the application.
 - Oliverea and Woodland Valley will soon be eligible hamlets in the updated LFA program rules.
 - Aaron and partners have been developing criteria for updating the program rules and expanding the list of eligible hamlets.
 - Aaron sent out to the partners for comment; should be finalized soon.
 - Aaron asks if Shandaken has plans to advance either Big Indian or Chichester LFA?
 - There is brief discussion. The town may want to advance Chichester, or at least the application before the end of the year.
 - Leslie recommends considering town capacity as we look forward to next year's construction season, with other LFA implementation projects, plus a possible town-wide flood mitigation plan update on the horizon as well. It may be good timing for one of these LFAs given the ongoing work, or it may not.

