

Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

Monday October 23, 2023 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
Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE
John Matheisen, Environmental Engineering
Specialist, CWC

Remote:

Aaron Bennett, Deputy Chief, NYCDEP
Watershed Lands & Community Planning
Adam Trescott, Project Manager, Stream
Management Program, NYCDEP
Andrew Emrich, Sr. Engineer, UCDPW
Marke Loete, Shandaken Zoning Board & TU
Ashokan-Pepacton Chapter President

Town of Shandaken Updates

- **Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, applications, etc**
 - No new Floodplain Development Permit applications into the town
 - Heidi shares that a parcel in Mount Tremper is interested in a NYC-Funded Flood Buy-Out and is exploring all options. Heidi met with the landowner and explained that the parcel should certainly qualify for FBO given it is in the floodway.
 - Heidi shares that she reached out to SLR for more information on the preliminary results from the LiDAR. The group reviews letter from SLR and DOT re: modelling.
 - Flood depths may actually be approximately 1 foot higher, not lower.
 - Heidi will share the information from DOT with those attending the meeting.
 - Heidi asks John Mathiesen: Since you can't occupy a building that's fully under construction (as in with elevation), where do homeowners typically establish temporary residence?
 - John shares that in Prattsville, owners parked an RV and lived in that for summer.
 - Most of the others haven't been occupied anyway..
 - HOWEVER, Aaron and John remind the group that CWC tries to avoid elevating in the floodway at all cost (so elevation is very likely not be an option).

Pine Hill Local Flood Analysis Project Review

- **Summary of recommended projects & Prioritization**
 - Leslie leads a detailed discussion through all recommended projects in the LFA to evaluate committee, stakeholder and town priorities.
 - Project Areas 1 & 2: TOP Priority. Andrew – UC DPW is Surveying 10/24/23.
 - Andrew proposed and the group reconsidered the installation of a temporary structure with 1-lane crossing for the town crossing.
 - This will allow the County to access their bridge and allow the town to go ahead with further analysis and work on something more permanent that

would we be in line with funders' goals. This buys Shandaken time to design with actual flood reduction benefits.

- The committee agrees to follow up once DPW completes survey; at which time the town can apply for SMIP funding for full design and engineering.
- Following Project Areas 1 & 2, the SAFARI committee agrees Project Area 5, Academy Street would be next in line, and per the LFA recommendations, the project would directly eliminate and reduce flood risk for approximately 5 homeowners.
- Lower Main Street at Birch Creek is the next priority for the town. Project 6 could dramatically reduce flood levels at 11-12 homes, depending on what aspects of the recommendations are implemented.
- Project area 4, Upper Main Street over Alton Creek would follow, as a medium priority project. This project has upstream flood reduction benefits and would reduce backwatering that occurs.
- Project Area 3, Mill Street is lower priority for the town. There are flood reduction benefits downstream. However, the bridge is in good condition and is less critical, compared to others.

Pine Hill Stormwater

- Waiting for SLR to assemble preliminary design for application to CWC

Design & Implementation Project Updates

- **Design & Feasibility Phoenicia Bridge Street Bridge Project - UC DPW (partly funded by AWSMP)**
 - Moving along with feasibility study- the goal is to have another public information meeting in either November or December; it will be an open forum @ Parish Hall
 - The committee discusses the relocation of Station Road.
 - Should the town sponsor a study to explore the feasibility of relocation? This study can happen parallel to whichever alternative is being designed.
 - Andrew states that there needs to be a better understanding of what is or isn't possible in terms of acquisition and design, to connect Station Road to High Street.
 - The group discusses a possible scope of work to include acquisition maps, required deed work, legal work.
 - Heidi will draft this scope of work and share with Andrew for review, for the town to submit.
 - The scope would include:
 - Survey and exploration of two possible locations for new connection
 - Either just below, to the EAST of Warfield)
 - Or going up the Westerly side of Warfield, but shared 50-ft Road w/ Peragine
 - ANDREW recommends hiring local firm with local knowledge, someone with right -of-way expertise, someone that can really LEAD the process.
 - Heidi questions whether this work is under County purview or Town, since the County owns the road still. There is a brief discussion, but this is unresolved.
 - Aaron and Andrew recommend hiring a local firm; knowledge of local history will be very helpful.
 - Also in terms of "negotiating" with homeowners, it may be valuable to show these landowners WHY this is important to the hamlet. For instance, there should be images from 2005 showing train cars scattered by floodwaters.
 - Aaron and Mark Loete to share photos

- **Phoenicia Floodplain Bench and Main Street Bridge Conceptual & Feasibility Analysis**
 - Leslie will share a scope for the floodplain bench, town can review and apply to move it forward if they want. Leslie says just apply. It can help with decision-making down the road. What is actually feasible, costs, benefits, etc.
 - Knowing when and how will really inform future decisions.

Stream Restoration Project Updates

- **Elk Bushkill (funded by AWSMP)**
 - Leslie reports she believes its wrapping and moving towards plantings
- **McKenley Hollow (funded by AWSMP)**
 - Report is “fascinating from a geomorphic perspective”
 - Initial design report is in hand. Shandaken hasn’t seen it yet. Leslie to resend.
 - No construction work has started yet

Stream Access & Recreation Updates

- **Mt. Tremper Park -**
 - meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th at Town Hall at 7pm.

Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
 - Grants are due this week. Leslie can extend a few more days in order to get applications in.
 - Stakeholder Council is meeting November 16th
 - Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group Meeting November 9th
- **CWC**
 - Flurry of applications in Phoenicia including: Potter on Jay Street, Hofmeister on Main St. and Ricardella on Main St.
 - Chris Nissen finished tank anchoring at ambulance/Fire House - inside oil tank has been anchored as well
 - Wellington - they applied but their feasibility study really doesn’t
- **NYCDEP**
 - Adam T: Working through next round of contract negotiations...
 - Aaron: Damiana hasn’t closed yet, hopeful that will be done by the end of the year
 - Pre-demo surveys are underway at Kirkpatrick and Sage & Shurter
 - Demo will have to be close coordination between CWC and DEP because there is an active eagle’s nest on Sage & Shurter, the window to get this work done is limited to between October – December – demo won’t be until next year.
- **Ulster County** (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE) - none
- **Trout Unlimited**
 - Monthly meeting is Thursday, October 26, 7pm at the Emerson
 - Dany Davis , DEP Geologist is giving a talk on turbidity issues in the Esopus.

Other

- **Spring 2024 - Property Protection Measures Informational Meeting**
 - Heidi and John discuss a partnership to present a public information session for elevation, property protection measures, etc
 - Invite residents of LFA study areas
- **Pine Hill Flood Buy Out Candidate**

- Heidi has not made a final determination of eligibility. She reads the language in the LFA, it is slightly more up for interpretation than previous LFA recommendations for other towns. She questions the depth of flooding at a 1% annual chance storm. There is no flood damage since Pine Hill hasn't had a large storm event yet.
- The committee discusses obtaining first floor elevation data from SLR, from survey conducted during LFA process.

Approve Notes / Adjourn

Approved, send to Joyce.

Next Meeting:

~~Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 10:00am~~

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 @ 10:00 am