

Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

Tuesday, December 10, 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
Leslie Zucker, AWSMP Program Manager,
CCEUC
Bobby Taylor, CSBI Coordinator, CSBI
Coordinator, UCSWCD
Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE
Evelyn Ellis, Deputy Director, UCDOE
Sally Rodgers, Emergency Management
Fellow, UC Emergency Services
Taryn Rowan, UC ES Disaster-Mental Health
Intern
John Mathiesen, CWC Environmental
Engineering Specialist and Program
Manager
Joe Bacci, CWC Construction Manager /
Coordinator for FHMIP

Remote:

Sara Bayer, Shandaken Housing Smart
Committee
Tim Koch, Lead Educator, AWSMP
Max Kelly, Watershed Educator
Adam Trescott, SMP Basin Manager, NYCDEP
Aaron Bennett, Flood Hazard Mitigation
Coordinator, NYCDEP

Introductions

- New to the Committee meeting:
 - Evelyn Ellis is the new Deputy Director of Ulster County Dept of Environment
 - Joe Bacci is the new Construction Manager and FHMIP Coordinator for CWC

Town of Shandaken Updates

- **Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, applications, etc.**
 - Peter says there is little to report in terms of floodplain development.
 - Heidi asked how Donna was doing in the role of Floodplain Administrator and about any remaining issues from CAV? Has that been closed out?
 - Peter says she's doing well so far and believes all CAV issues are resolved.
 - Heidi will reach out to Donna to set up a check-in.
 - Max asks: has the town's Parks Committee been meeting about the Rock Cut parcel, now DOT-owned, adjacent to the Mt. Tremper Bridge?

- Peter reports that the Parks Committee received a Crest grant to complete some parks updates, and were possibly looking at a Rock Cut project
 - Leslie shares that AWSMP has worked out a process with the Town of Olive to also work on Olive Buy Out parcels
 - There is potential for AWSMP to be involved and advise. There may also be funding available, as Olive was awarded funding for a riparian buffer planting project as part of their floodplain-compatible buyout property re-development.
 - Bobby says he was happy to guide Olive on re-use
 - *POST-MEETING UPDATE: The grant money is designed for specific improvements and will not be used for Rock Cut*
 - Aaron asks about potential buy-out parcel in Pine Hill. Any word from the owner?
 - Peter said there is no word. However, he is having an environmental study done on the fuel depot property. The town would like to turn it into a parking lot for Pine Hill. LaBella is working on that.
 - Heidi asks about the Stormwater Design application that was submitted to CWC.
 - John is unsure of the status. Rachael has been out for several months. John will get back to the town on this.
- **FEMA Swift Current Grant discussion**
 - Heidi suggests that it may be beneficial to apply under Project Scoping, for this grant opportunity, rather than implementation, as Peter mentioned during November's SAFARI meeting.
 - Heidi does not feel the town is prepared with what might be required for an implementation application (due Feb 5). It is unclear how many landowners would want to participate, and how many would benefit from elevation or floodproofing retrofits.
 - Heidi will reach out to DHSES to learn more about Project Scoping and what is required.

Local Flood Analysis

- **Follow-up to discussion on options and timing for possible Chichester LFA, 2025**
 - The committee looks at previous proposed Study Area boundary maps and discusses
 - The only critical facility is post office.
 - Leslie says the study could shed light on this important question: can channel or floodplain enhancement help reduce flooding on the road? This is a critical corridor.
 - The consultant wouldn't do any design work for the state route.
 - This would feed into the concept of a big partner-state planning meeting with DOT on Rte 214.
 - There is a community septic system serving approximately 30 homes, with leach field south of MOA hamlet area.
 - There is also an adjacent local community water system.
 - Study area should include this, and 'close the loop' between Phoenicia and Lanesville.
 - What would next steps be?
 - AWSMP won't have funding for Chichester until April, but the timing may be perfect to wait until late spring / early summer. The bulk of Phoenicia's design work will be done by then too.
 - For reference, West Shokan and Shokan will be starting up in 2025.
 - Lanesville LFA will be wrapping up in 2025.
 - SMIP application: Town can work with AWSMP for draft scope. AWSMP and Heidi can help define the study area bounds, etc.

CRS Activities (Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates/RLAA) Updates

- **RLAA, Substantial Damage Management Plan and Insurance Analysis – update**
 - Leslie shares that the Town has received the award letter from their SMIP grant application for the Substantial Damage Management (SDM) Plan, Repetative Loss Area Analysis (RLAA) and Insurance Analysis with the additional technical assistance requested for the town's 5-year cycle verification visit.
 - All that is needed now is to receive a final scope of work proposal and cost-estimate from Tetra Tech.
 - Heidi will follow up with Tetra Tech to make this request

Town Hall & Highway Complex Relocation Updates

- **Location options, update and discussion**
 - There is a brief discussion that the Umhey (Stony Kill Farm) property is no longer an option.
 - Heidi presents an “out-of-the box” idea to convert a large home on Rte 28 that is presently on the market. Would cost less than buying new.
 - Could the top floor of the current town hall be physically relocated?
 - Heidi thought the feasibility study said yes, others were unsure.
 - POST-MEETING NOTE: Property Protection Feasibility study DOES say the upper floors of the town hall could be relocated.

3. **Relocation.** Relocation is a feasible option for the Town Hall building, dog pound and sheds, however relocation of the highway garages is not feasible or even possible and would likely cost more than constructing a new highway garage on a new parcel. Relocation of the Town Hall would be limited to lifting and moving the upper floors and the existing lower floor (foundation) would be demolished. The upper floors would be moved to a new parcel and placed on the new foundation. Additional items to consider include decommissioning the existing septic system, building a new septic system on the new parcel or connecting to public sewer, if possible, connecting a well, and removal/restoration of paved surfaces on the old parcel. Relocation of the dog pound, sheds and dumpsters would not be overly challenging as they could be loaded on trailers and transported to the new site.

- The committee also discusses possible vacant lot across from Golf Course Road. This will need a desktop assessment for feasibility.
- **NYCDEP Progress report?**
 - Aaron, progress is slow. The next step will be to bring the proposed relocation/ DEP Big Indian property to the legal team

Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
 - **Three training opportunities to discuss coming in 2025**
 - **Floodplain Administrator Bootcamp**
 - April 8-9th
 - Practical exercises with Practical mapping that meets NYC Watershed needs
 - **Flood Disaster Assistance Workshop, February**
 - County-wide training on funding and administering recovery efforts and agency coordination
 - Will feature presentations from DSHES & DOS/CEDAR and Leslie and Aaron will be talking about City-funds as well

- **Scholarships for NYSFSMA –2025, Ithaca**
 - AWSMP will be offering scholarships and announcing them in 2025
- **SMIP program updates:**
 - All partners came into agreement on what hydrology is going to be used for Phoenicia.
 - Next urgent task: advance Bridge Street Bridge Design. Several alternatives are moving to conceptual analysis.
 - Possibly moving 2 alternatives through 30% conceptual design.
 - There may be a need to have some coordination in the near future; County is looking to have a public meeting in March. Will need to outreach on this public meeting in advance.
- **Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), DOT, Rte. 28 Bridge enlargement project, Mt. Tremper**
 - Leslie provides an explanation of the issues in FEMA's current Flood Insurance Study (FIS) model, with "unconventional" modelling, for 11 miles Upstream of Reservoir
 - If the Town only completes a LOMR for Mt. Tremper area, we'll encounter this problem every time we do more work through the 11-mile stretch.
 - AWSMP, DEP & County have been meeting quarterly with FEMA who has said they do not have the funding to conduct a FEMA-initiated LORMR / FIS for the 11 miles.
 - CCE / UCSWCD has sent a letter to Shiloh Williams to ask DEP for assistance in funding this 11-mile FIS re-model.
 - **Aaron shares that he spoke with Mike Foley at FEMA: FEMA Region 2 has just signed off on FEMA – initiated LOMR to revise 3 FIRM panels, using 2D modelling – 15 miles of the upper Esopus creek above the reservoir.**
 - State Floodplain Coordination office is aware this is moving forward and so does DEP leadership.
- **CWC**
 - Demolitions will be coming soon
 - There was a hiccup with the low-bidder. CWC is going to award to next bidder.
 - There is an eagles nest, this work has to be done by December 31.
 - Pre-bid tomorrow morning for parcels in Oliverea.
 - Hoping to have those demolitions conducted in March.
 - Heidi asked about CWC's FEMA grant (matching funds for home elevations):
 - John shares it is finally happening, however, they're down from 10 participants to 6. All in Greene County. One in Denning backed out. Phoenicia property not eligible.
 - CWC has been awarded the FEMA grant for 90% .
 - These all need to be done by February 2026.
 - CWC will have control of the process and is going to try to cluster the projects together by location. Prattsville, Windham and Hunter.
 - LaBella is going to help with the bidding and construction oversight
 - LaBella working on Design for Elevation for Plank Rd property.
 - John feels he needs to remind everyone: the Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program this is NOT an open checkbook. This is a flood protection program. JUST structural work, cosmetic work is not eligible for funding.
- **NYCDEP**

- No other News
- **Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)**
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan is out. The annual updates will be done using Tetra Tech's BaTool, an interactive plan-updating online software.
 - Heidi shows the group quickly.
 - The software will help generate annual reports for plan updates.
 - The county has paid for this software for 5 years, to take everyone through to the next 5-year update.
 - UCES will open the BaTool to all towns in the beginning of 2025 and will plan a live online demonstration of the tool and procedure for updates.

Review Notes

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14 2025 @ 10am