

# Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

February 14, 2023, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

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, Shandaken Town Supervisor  
Eric Hoffmeister, Shandaken Highway  
Superintendent  
Leslie Zucker, Program Leader, AWSMP  
John Mathiesen, Environmental Engineering  
Specialist, CWC

#### **Virtual**

Kevin VanBlarcum, Shandaken Deputy Supervisor  
Adam Doan, Stream Project Manager, AWSMP  
Tim Koch, Education Leader, AWSMP  
Aaron Bennett, Deputy Chief, NYCDEP Watershed  
Lands & Community Planning  
Mark Loete, Shandaken Zoning Board Member  
Andrew Emrich, Sr. Engineer, Ulster County DPW

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### **Town of Shandaken Updates**

- Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, etc.
  - Rte. 214 Property Floodplain Development Permit App – Peter reports that the owner has decided keep improvements below the 50% Substantial Improvement threshold
  - Property on Gray Way (definitely in the Floodway): Eric says they've applied for a driveway permit. Needs to submit a floodplain development permit application first – then Floodplain Administrator (Peter) can determine next required steps.
    - Eric – proposed driveway is a steep downgrade, he suspects the owner might want to bring in fill (in the floodway, this requires a no-rise certificate)
    - Eric – owner claims they may want to put a travel trailer / mobile home on site (this requires the structure to be on wheels, registered and ready-to-move. It cannot stay in one place longer than 180 days).
- Comprehensive Plan – Peter Reports Town of Shandaken assembled a committee to conduct a Comp Plan Update in 2023
  - Tim Koch & AWSMP offer to supply assistance and serve as a technical advisor as that process moves forward
  - Peter: committee consists of members of Planning and Zoning boards and Conservation Advisory Council. The plan will address current conservation concerns among other land-use themes. A survey will likely be sent to residents to better understand their concerns

### **Design & Implementation Project Updates**

- Bridge Street Bridge Design & Feasibility Project - Ulster County DPW (*funded by AWSMP*)
  - Public Meeting Recap & Discussion – Miscommunication between Town and Engineer/county? Peter was expecting a smaller discussion but was happy to see a full presentation by engineer.
    - Brief discussion about the comments/concerns raised that new bridge approaches are going to act like a dam
    - Brief discussion about the proposed bridge alternatives reducing the backwater effect at the confluence with Stony Clove
    - Leslie mentions that for consideration in the next 5-year funding cycle, there is

discussion about allowing towns to apply to update LFAs. Phoenicia would be a strong candidate.

- Eric suggests it would be beneficial to finish Bridge Street (and possible floodplain enhancement?) and prepare a Letter of Map Revision, as the new modelling data will inform an updated Stony Clove study.
- John, CWC suggests that the town consider (down the line) having a design in place for Main Street bridge, that way when funding is available, a design is in place and ready to go.
- AWSMP will be sharing YOUTUBE link for the public meeting and providing email address for submission of public comments.
- Leslie shares a few of the county's thoughts:
  - Second public meeting: September, an informal meeting where maps are laid out and Ulster County, Consulting Engineers and partners are available to answer questions for a set number of hours (open house style)
  - Ulster County will want to start landowner outreach in the coming weeks and will want to have a town representative present.
    - Leslie suggests having Heidi available to educate and provide alternative acquisition options, where more than just a construction easement may be desirable.
    - Construction is not likely to start until 2025. The flood buy out program may likely take as long, should any landowners participate
  - Ulster County is aware of concerns re: rail corridor. County Legislature must weigh in, however that cannot be done until design is further along. This will have to be closely coordinated.
- SLR will have design report done early summer
- Leslie suggests inviting SLR back to the March SAFARI meeting to discuss possible floodplain bench design in coordination with bridge design
- Andrew (*joining late*) reminds the group: SLR has received comments requesting sidewalks or shared-use paths and this should be discussed. If it's a dedicated lane, the county will not maintain it, the town will be responsible for maintenance. (If there are simply 5-ft shoulders on each side, that would be maintained by the county)
  - Eric suggests no sidewalks, wide shoulder
  - Any lighting requested would also need to be maintained by the town
- Andrew asks if the town would like public input on this discussion? He won't present it as an option when discussing with the public if the town prefers to not have input.
  - Peter responds that these options should be kept with the town for now
- Pine Hill LFA
  - Leslie – needs to check: SLR should have included a LOMR as a recommendation following projects completed. If the LOMR is recommended, it can be funded through local grant funds (SMIP)
  - Eric and Peter are reporting serious concerns over stormwater, system along main street needs to be replaced.
  - Leslie suggests that while SLR may be attending the March meeting, the committee could ask for additional information and even additional modeling to explore scenarios for Bonnie View crossings.
    - If additional modeling to advance a project is proposed, Shandaken could apply for SMIP funding
  - Committee members discuss the possibility of making a case to the county to take on select town bridge reconstruction projects, because they might be so beneficial to the

- community and meet county climate change resiliency goals
- Eric states that in working with the county to replace both the county and town bridges on Bonnie View, the county estimates the cost to the town would ROUGHLY be about \$160,000 in materials. Eric states that the County would provide engineering and installation. The town would be responsible for the materials only at the town crossing being replaced in this scenario.
  - John offers that maybe there is an opportunity to share these expenses with CWC
  - Leslie points out that she doesn't believe the engineering would include H & H modelling, which would be required for an LFA project to be funded, as it must demonstrate flood-reduction benefits
  - Leslie suggests that the town consider applying for funding for modelling & engineering so that construction costs might be funded by one of the partners.
  - Andrew (*joined late*) reports to group that he's been in contact with Verizon for lines along Bonnie View and he's planning to survey. If Shandaken wants to seek funding from partners, the county would no longer take the lead on design
    - Leslie asks if Ulster County remains the lead, would there be hydraulic modelling, a look at sediment transport, scour protection, etc?
      - Andrew: No – if the county replaces the town's crossing (more-or-less in kind), engineering would be minimal; working with existing geometry
      - Eric suggests that when Andrew goes to survey, they can meet and discuss further.
- Shandaken/Allaben LFA
  - Town Hall & Highway Garage complex feasibility studies (*funded by CWC*)
    - Property Protection Measures Study: John reports the LaBella Engineering has gone up to do a site survey and initial evaluation of the Town Hall, but that he hasn't heard back yet.
    - Relocation Study: John has not received the application for this yet. Peter said he had the application signed and it may be with his secretary.
- Phoenicia/Mt. Tremper LFA
  - LOMR Mt. Tremper - Town (*funded by AWSMP*)
    - No news. AWSMP may step in and give DOT a call, as the information should exist somewhere on some server. The committee discusses: Town could also call, or even County Planning? Peter will call Dennis Doyle
- Big Indian LFA w/ Oliverea study add-on
  - Advancing application
    - Group discussed focusing on Big Indian and Oliverea, leaving Chichester for another time
      - Eric suggests taking a closer look at study area
      - AWSMP can generate a draft study area for April
        - Aaron reminds the group he has drafted proposed areas previously and those could be explored or used as a base for new discussion
      - Use this study area to discuss top priorities for modelling and mitigation

- Final details on FEMA’s Virtual TableTop Exercise:
  - At AWSMP, with Town of Olive on TUESDAY 2/21/23 (*plan to be here from 11:30 – 4:30*)

### **NYCFFBO Updates**

- Station Road Properties – *officially dropping Fudge for now. No legal, usable access*
- Sage and Shurter will be next to close- hopefully end of June. Re-Use plan to be signed by Town Board
- Internally, DEP is trying to set a standard for what on-premise materials must be removed from a property by the property owner and what items are to be removed via demo. The Sage-Shurter property will be a good exercise in this
- Van Baren and Damiana – Phase 1 Environmental Assessments are done
  - Open spill was reported on Damiana. Land Acquisition team is working with DEC to get that closed out so that the acquisition can move forward
- Aaron says the other re-use plans are drafted and ready to be reviewed (at SAFARI?)
- John asks about Reese status from DEP?
  - Aaron shares that Tweedie construction has come up with a plan for accessing the parcel; DEP lawyers need to approve
- John reports that the properties that were demo’d this fall will move to land restoration in April

### **Partner Updates**

- AWSMP
  - Announced scholarships for attendance at the NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Conference in April, and for the CFM exam
    - Discussion over NYFSMA conference schedule & NFIP prep course
  - Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention Training – slated for October
    - Training is appropriate for everyone from Supervisors to machine operators
- CWC
  - Received a phone call from Chris Nissen. He’s struggling to get Phoenicia Fire Dept to actually get the application together to get the tanks anchored.
- NYCDEP
  - New staff person (Zach) starting in the DEP Stream Management program working with Delaware County Soil and Water
- Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)
- Trout Unlimited
  - Free fly-tying seminar every Saturday in March from 10-2pm at the Olive Free Library
    - AWSMP offers to cross promote
    - Discussion on an interest in finding new ways to engage young people in outdoor activities
    - Trout Unlimited interested in applying to AWSMP for funding a brook trout stream study

### **Mount Tremper “Rock Cut”**

- Aaron asks if the town has made any progress in assembling a group to strategize creating a town park at former “Rock Cut” site
  - Peter – a committee has not yet materialized

### **Approve Notes / Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 10:00am