

# Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

**Tuesday September 12, 2023 10:00am - 11:30am**

**In-Person at AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY**

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

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### **In Attendance:**

#### In Person:

Peter DiSclafani, Town of Shandaken  
Supervisor

Eric Hoffmeister, Town of Shandaken  
Highway Superintendent

Leslie Zucker, Program Manager, AWSMP

Adam Doan, Stream Project Manager, AWSMP

Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE

Adam Trescott, Project Manager, Stream  
Management Program, NYCDEP

#### Remote:

Aaron Bennett, Deputy Chief, NYCDEP

Watershed Lands & Community Planning  
Andrew Emrich, Senior Engineer, UCDPW

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### **Town of Shandaken Updates**

- Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, etc
  - Not much activities with floodplain development permit applications
  - Donna has been talking to a few folks who have flood permits who may be going beyond their 50% - so she's keeping an eye out for Substantial Improvement
    - Aaron asks if Leslie or Adam recall: Did the town ever adopt higher standards for Substantial Improvement / Substantial Damage? Was it a 40% threshold and cumulative over 10 years?
      - Committee pulls up Shandaken's Flood Damage Prevention Law, and yes, Shandaken's SI/SD law is cumulative, but no- its not 40%, its still the standard: if the cost of improvements is more than 50% of the structure's market value, then homeowners must bring the entire building up to current code (may include elevation, wet floodproofing, etc).
  - Committee holds a brief discussion on Community Assistance Visit (CAV) and non-compliance; what are the steps if a homeowner is not in compliance. Heidi explains
- Pine Hill Stormwater Retrofit, CWC Application
  - Peter is waiting on SLR- once they get figures from SLR, they'll present their application to CWC

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

- Design & Feasibility Phoenicia Bridge Street Bridge Project - UC DPW (partially funded by AWSMP)
  - Andrew reports that SLR should deliver the feasibility report to Ulster County by the end of this week. After receipt, the report will be distributed to AWSMP, DEP, etc.
  - Leslie reminds us that the committee wanted to investigate the legality / status of Station Road and investigate Ulster County's ownership.
    - Eric explains the difference between Town road, right-of-way by use and a railroad being considered "rail banked." Railroads have a lot of protection, even if they are railbanked, unless it's been abandoned. If the reach of rail is abandoned, then the area falls under highway law.

- What does the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) acknowledge as the distance of a town road by use? CHIPS funding is only available for 300 feet of that road.
  - Andrew and Heidi to reach out to Clint Johnson, Ulster County attorney to get some clarity on status of the road and what steps might be required to relocate Station Road.
- Phoenicia Floodplain Bench and Main Street Bridge Conceptual & Feasibility Analysis
  - Leslie sees 2 potential LFA implementation projects (where AWSMP would help prepare the scope: Phoenicia Main Street bridge study and the floodplain bench enhancement.
  - These are in addition to potential Pine Hill projects – Bonnie View, Lower Main Street and/or Academy Street
    - Leslie and Adam can start drafting scopes for this and one of the other two; in time for next SAFARI so the committee can review
    - Eric says Academy Street is the very undersized and is deteriorating. He'd like to see that one advance next, if possible.
- Mount Tremper Bridge LOMR (funded by AWSMP)
  - Have not heard from SLR on this.
- Pine Hill LFA Project Area 2
  - Eric to forward SLR email re: 19.5 feet to AWSMP so they can review for design needs. Does SLR need to design grade control? If so, we'd need to get them under contract asap.
    - Andrew has been on site with Bob Moores, bridge foreman. He can put bridge construction on his schedule for next year.
      - Will do a survey this fall. He asks, is it worth paying SLR for grade control design? Can it just be monitored?
        - Eric feels the same. He hasn't witnessed stability issues. Monitoring should suffice.
    - Is this a two-tiered approach? Or a one-and-done? Is it worth trying to achieve greater flood reduction benefits by installing a temporary bridge and moving to full design and construction which will lead to greater flood reduction?
  - Should Shandaken work just with the county to install the 19.5 ft culvert and focus its design & engineering efforts on Academy Street and/or other priorities?
    - The committee discussed whether AWSMP can pay for the cost of materials (since UC could supply labor) through LFA implementation funding?
    - Adam Trescott says that he and Dave Burns would like to have a separate conversation, laying out all the Pine Hill LFA recommended projects
      - The committee suggests that Project 2 will likely not go to full design, but yes, the committee should be thinking big picture, and understand how Bonnie View fits into the whole Pine Hill LFA project implementation plan.
      - The group looks at the LFA prioritization. Does the town agree with SLR's prioritization / categorization of the projects?
      - Adam suggests having a separate call just on Bonnie View (Project 2) and then at the NEXT SAFARI: review remaining LFA actions, summarize benefits and get the town's prioritization with DEP weigh-in.
        - Leslie to schedule a meeting before the next SAFAR for this

### **Stream Restoration Project Updates**

- Elk Bushkill (funded by AWSMP)

- Project is up and running. Dewatering has been happening for a couple of weeks. Working on in-stream features. Pretty much on schedule and going as planned. It is highly unlikely that the work will be done by Sept. 30. Adam will be seeking a DEC permit extension. Adam is trying to connect with Brian Drumm
  - One thing that did change: UCSWCD is going to do a phased de-watering, in order to capture more groundwater. Should allow for better water control. This is an unanticipated step that will take time to move the pump.
  - Once the in-stream construction winds down, there will be a substantial planning component through November.
- McKenley Hollow (funded by AWSMP)
  - No real news; waiting on conceptual report from SLR. Hopefully UCSWCD will have it before next meeting, so town can make a decision on design.

### Community Rating System

- Discussion on Actions (Meeting Thursday 9/21 at 2:30)
  - Brief discussion about CRS actions, who kept track and worked towards achieving CRS community status
  - Aaron – Tetra Tech was hired to help facilitate CRS entry - Cynthia Bianco was the point of contact, helped do the heavy lift. They did a courtesy review with FEMA

### Stream Access & Recreation

- Mt. Tremper Park: no new update, no recent meetings since June.

### Partner Updates

- AWSMP
  - Leslie shares that she hopes the town officials “Post Flood Stream Intervention Protocol” training October 11-12 at the Emerson.
    - Day One: Equipment Operators: intervention protocol and in-stream work
      - Open to ALL town officials and contractors
    - Day Two: Administrative, Funding streams for emergency work reimbursement (DEC, DSHSES & NRCS are guest speakers)
    - Pre-registration is required.
  - At DEPs request, AWSMP is starting to explore areas in town that flood that are outside of official LFA areas
    - First on the list is Oliverea, but are there other places in town that are vulnerable to flood damage?
      - The group discussed Woodland Valley and a few vulnerable areas, near fawn hill and down stream
    - Heidi shares Ulster County’s [transportation vulnerability & criticality map](#)
    - Heidi shares Ulster County’s first draft of [Repetitive Loss GIS Layer](#)
    - Heidi shares Ulster County’s first draft of [Severe Repetitive Loss Layers](#)
      - These maps can inform decision making on where to conduct future LFAs
      - *Side Note from Aaron: Shandaken can update their repetitive loss list as a CRS action. That was done the first round.*
- CWC
  - John Mathieson was unable to attend but supplied the following update:
    - *3 Feasibility Studies for Ricciardella were approved at the Board for funding and are currently in the 15 day Right-of-Objection period.*
    - *2 Feasibility Studies were approved by the Board in August for Eric Hofmeister and awaiting the return of signed contracts.*
    - *An oil tank was anchored at the M.F. Whitney Fire house in Phoenicia and awaiting the propane tanks in the back to be anchored.*

- *Drake was before the Committee at the September meeting for Design funding and the Committee has moved this application onto the CWC Board of Directors for funding approval at their October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.*
  - *Potter on Jay Street in Phoenicia was also before the Committee at their September meeting for Feasibility study funding. The Committee has recommended this to the CWC Board of Directors to be funded at their October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.*
  - *Town of Shandaken also had a Feasibility Study application before the Committee at their September meeting which was also recommended for funding approval by the CWC Board of Directors at their October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.*
- NYCDEP
    - Aaron wanted to know if there was an update on Station Road from the County. Its in UC hands...
    - Pre-Demo surveys were ordered for Sage & Shurter and Kirkpatrick
    - Damiana has still not closed yet.
  - Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)
    - No other updates

**Approve Notes / Adjourn  
Next Meeting:**

**Notes from July Meeting Approved.** Send to Joyce.  
**Monday, October 23, 2023 @ 10:00am**