

# Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025 10:00am – 11:00am**

**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 Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway Superintendent  
Leslie Zucker, AWSMP Program Manager, CCEUC  
Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE  
Adam Trescott, SMP Basin Manager, NYCDEP

#### Remote:

Aaron Bennett, Flood Hazard Mitigation Coordinator, NYCDEP  
Joe Bacci, Construction Manager, CWC

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### Town of Shandaken Updates

- **Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, applications, etc.**
  - Donna is closely monitoring, and working with landowners on a few different development projects (and issues):
    - Stony Clove Lane: there's a deck re-build that had a small shed initially as part of the plans. It has now turned into an ADU
      - Donna is working with them to get proper floodplain development permits and make sure the project is built to code.
    - Rte 42: Landowner project is in the works – Donna is working with them and watching substantial improvement.
    - Warfield Road: Donna is continuing to track development here.
  - Heidi asks about Firelight Campground. What came of that project on the Esopus Creek, off Plank Rd?
    - Peter reports that the project was stalled after developers were unable to acquire funding.
    - Peter has heard recently that they may be coming back with a smaller version of the same project.
  - Heidi asks about the cantilevered house over Warner Creek.
    - Peter reports that Bobby (UCSWCD) has recommended that the landowner re-site the proposed house by about 250 feet, raising it more, and putting further "out" of the floodplain. The landowner has apparently heeded that advice and has submitted new plans.

### CRS Activities Updates

- **RLAA, Substantial Damage Management Plan and Insurance Analysis – update**
  - AWSMP submitted comments to Tetra Tech on the proposal. Once the final proposal is received, it can move to contract.
  - Heidi will check in with Melissa from Tetra Tech to get a status update on final

- proposal.
- Ben, the town's CRS specialist (ISO, Verisk), called to schedule an initial meeting.
  - Peter is going to put it off until after April 1, so Tetra Tech can join.
- SMIP agreement should be effective April 1.

## Town Hall & Highway Complex Relocation Updates

- **Town Hall Relocation at Phoenicia School – update**
  - Town board met with the public at both a regular and special meeting.
    - School district has offered a couple of mechanisms for sale of the property, and the Town Board is considering several options.
      - The school might be posted on the open market, in which case, if the town made a bid, and if the school board accepted, the town would not be bound to only use the space for municipal or public use.
      - Another alternative is municipal transfer – however, any and all use must be for the public good / governmental agency. This option would require a referendum (public vote).
      - There is also a lease - purchase option, modelled after the Rondout Municipal building. This option does not go to referendum.
      - If the town were to buy it for a dollar, it would have to go to referendum, and the school district would have to know by March 18 of this year. The town feels that is an aggressive timeline. The town may consider a special vote instead, if it goes down this path.
  - There is a lot of community support for the school to be owned and operated by the municipality.
    - Heidi asks CWC: Can any of their FHMIP relocation funds be used for moving costs?
      - Aaron says there's 100k for structural relocation costs, but it seems vague.
      - Joe looks into it and no, it can not be moved to move equipment, furniture, and/ or non-structural materials.
- **NYCDEP Progress report on potential relocation “swap” parcel?**
  - Aaron shares that DEP continues to be supportive of this concept. Internal discussion is ongoing.
  - No meeting has occurred with DEC yet.
  - The case for Conservation Easement “extinguishment” for this sole purpose, has been made to the DEP Bureau of Legal Affairs. Aaron's team has argued why this could work, and why its important and the Bureau appears to be on board.
    - One option DEP is contemplating: preparing an MOU with the town and using eminent domain to seize the necessary portion of the property.
      - An MOU would benefit the critical facility relocation while protecting DEP lands for being outright acquired, or setting a bad future precedence.

## Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
  - **SMIP Grant Applications**
    - Due Today, March 11
  - **SMIP Project Updates:**
    - Tetra Tech CRS Activities contract:
      - See above. Should be ready to start April 1.

- **Phoenicia Additional Modelling**
  - Received report on January 31; sent out to town in early February for review; and again a week or so ago. Leslie has received no comments yet.
  - Leslie's comment to SLR: please add flood depth grids for Bridge Street Bridge alternatives, and show the depth grids with all possible flood reduction scenarios
  - Peter and Eric have no comments on the report at this time and Leslie reminds them, that now is the time to make sure the report addresses any questions you may have.
  - Post-SAFARI meeting is to coordinate with Andrew (UCDPW), look at alternatives and discuss next steps
    - We'll discuss next public meeting; hear from town officials
      - Peter says anything more than alternative 1 and 5, we're going to get major push back.
      - Robert has the same concern
- **Upper Esopus Creek LOMR**
  - Leslie updates that the FEMA modelling is still happening, as of now. FEMA's engineering consultants (ARC) are full speed ahead, with a preliminary product hopefully to be delivered by March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am.
    - Once stakeholders have conducted an internal review, the preliminary maps will go through about a year-long process of local and state review and adoption.
    - Leslie recommends extending the SMIP agreement, in case FEMA funding is suspended (or even terminated). This will be back up so that SLR could potentially complete the work.
- **McKenley Hollow**
  - SLR furnished 30% design report. AWSMP sent comments and SLR has responded. Leslie asks the Eric. Are the comments acceptable? Are there any additional comments?
    - Eric will respond asap, so that it can be constructed this summer.
    - Leslie asks DEP. If you have comments, please let AWSMP know asap.
- **Bonnie View Avenue**
  - There is landowner pushback with a couple of the proposed design alternatives. One of the landowners is steadfast: No.
  - Leslie asks. Do you want to move forward with Alternative 3? (There are no landowners directly involved in this case).
  - Eric. Wants to move ahead with Alternative 3 design but is concerned there won't even be funding for the project.
  - Heidi suggests that you might want to move forward to design (Leslie suggests 30%) because there still might be state funding for construction available. She was emailed just that day about a state resilient infrastructure grant opportunity.
  - Town decides to proceed in that direction.
- **Reminder: Scholarship Opportunities are Available.** Please get any applications in ASAP!
  - NYSFSMA – Annual Conference April 22-24, Ithaca Downtown Conference Center
- **Floodplain Administrator Basic Training April 8-9, 2025!!** Sign up today!

- **CWC**
  - No other updates
- **NYCDEP**
  - Demolitions are almost done (Oliverea parcels) just a few punch list items left.
  - Aaron shares that \$45 million has been set aside for Resilient NY project implementation, to be administered by the EFC
    - There is a webinar WEDNESDAY on the grant opportunity. Up to \$10 million per project, requiring only 10% local match.
    - Funding is distributed as costs are incurred
    - Caveat – eligible projects must be DEC-approved flood studies. Are our LFAs included?
    - Projects are required to be completed by a licensed professional
    - Projects must consider climate change and/or future-flow scenarios (some of our more recent LFAs do).
    - Aaron is checking to see if we're eligible.
      - AFTER MEETING NOTE: It appears that yes, LFA's conducted by a licensed firm should be eligible, as they generally meet the requirements.
    - Soil and water districts can apply, Not-for profit corporations (CCE could apply)
    - Eligible costs include land acquisition
- **Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)**
  - No other updates.

**Review Notes**  
**Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** ***NEED TO RESCHEDULE (would have been April 8)***