

Town of Shandaken

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

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 10:00am – 12:00am

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, CRS Coordinator

Leslie Zucker, AWSMP Program Coordinator, Grant Program Manager CCEUC

Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE

Robert Drake, Town of Shandaken Deputy Supervisor

Max Garfinkle, Project Manager, UCSWCD

Adam Trescott, Basin Manager NYCDEP

Remote:

Michael Madison, Ulster County Emergency Manager, Deputy Dir. Of Emergency Services

Aaron Bennett, Flood Hazard Mitigation Coordinator, NYCDEP

Meliya Soller, Climate Corp Intern, Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Kevin Van Blarcum, Town Board Member, Liaison to SAFARI Committee

Andrew Emrich, Sr. Engineer, UCDPW

Town of Shandaken Floodplain Development

- **Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, applications, etc.**
 - Nothing new is happening now. Working through ongoing permits
 - Heidi shares she's made initial contact with the county attorney re: Mt. Pleasant property owner court case. Heidi has inquired as to whether she can "testify" as an expert witness to better explain the codes related to fill/development in the floodway. No answer yet, however.

Town Hall & Highway Complex Relocation - Updates

- **NYCDEP Progress report on potential relocation "swap" parcel?**
 - The meeting that was referred to last month was moved to 6/10 at 11am.
 - DEC & DEP scheduled to discuss the removal of the easement on a DEP property.
 - Since the last SAFARI meeting, Robert also spoke with Tom Snow (NYC Watershed Coordinator, DEC). Robert's impression was that Tom was supportive and happy that there was a suitable test case.
 - Robert also spoke to Jeff Senterman, Catskill Center, also happy to hear that there is a viable test case.
 - What might Catskill Center's involvement be, related to either the "swap" or the CE?
 - CC is under contract to deliver the Collaborative Streamside Acquisition Program (CSAP), they are also recertified as a land-trust, and as one of the environmental partners, their

support might inform DEC's decision-making related to the CE.

- Robert also spoke, coincidentally, with House Representative Josh Riley, who also indicated favor for the relocation to DEP lands.
- **NOTE: At this time, Aaron leaves to attend DEC/DEP scheduled meeting. He LATER returns to report:**
 - NYC DEP attended with 7 staff members, including 3 of their attorneys.
 - DEC was represented by 1 individual who did not appear to have many answers, insights or feedback at this time.
 - DEC comment of note, as reported by Aaron: They believe the process will involve a public comment period and public hearing.
 - DEP expressed some disappointment with the state's seeming lack of preparation for the meeting and suggested to DEC that their staff may start receiving political pressure. Municipalities are eager to see these conversations advance to a plan for execution.


NYCF-FBO Re-Use Plan Review

- **5 previously approved Re-Use Plans for final review for consistency with town plans**
 - **Recreation activities**
 - The committee reviews and comments on the plans; some updates seem appropriate, considering, especially, that the Mount Tremper Bridge / Floodplain restoration project is complete.
 - Heidi will assemble comments in Word, track changes, and re-distribute to the committee for review and consensus next month.

Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
 - **SMIP- Funded Project Progress Reports**
 - **Phoenicia additional modeling**
 - AWSMP has made a request to SLR: include phasing information: Ex:
 - Which aspects (ie. floodplain benches) should be constructed concurrently with Bridge Street Bridge (BSB) construction?
 - Are there benches that would be beneficial on their own to start now?
 - The final modeling report will include BSB alternatives with benches constructed.
 - What would be the combined benefit of any / all alternatives
 - There will be one more opportunity for final review (town/stakeholders).
 - When sent, please review to make sure there are no other questions or concerns.
 - **Bridge Street Bridge:**
 - Aaron also shared he'll be at the Bridge Street Bridge "open house" meetings will be June 12th and 13th at Parish Hall
 - Adam adds that there are folks online "rallying" to "protect" the A-frame property owner from dramatic changes or being "forced" to move.
 - All agree it is important to provide the public with information on just how at-risk that home is *now*. No one wants to see this person at *more* risk. The county and partners will work carefully and closely with the landowner to find a solution.

- **Resilient NY funding**
 - Application for Bonnie Avenue Project Area 2, between Mill St. and Station Road, submitted.
 - \$2.8 million grant application.
 - If it were to be awarded, Shandaken could apply for the remaining design funding from AWSMP's SMIP LFA Implementation Fund.
- **McKenley Hollow**
 - Tentatively awarded construction funding, pending review and acceptance of 60% design.
- **SMIP GRANT OPEN NOW.**
 - AWSMP runs 3 funding rounds. The summer round, announced today, has a deadline of Monday, July 7th.
 - **Remember, LFA funding may be applied for at any time!**
- **LFA applications for later this year?**
 - **Big Indian / Oliverea**
 - This is a bigger project; AWSMP would recommend adding a study on sediment transport and supply for that LFA
 - The sediment supply along this part of the Esopus is not going to shut off. The stream is always going to be at risk of aggregation and avulsion.
 - As part of the LFA, the committee may explore design alternatives along the Esopus Creek corridor, where sediment can be safely stored to reduce localized flooding.
 - Andrew recommends that if/when this LFA is pursued, the upper extents include Little Peck Hollow and Maben Hollow (significant aggradation under those bridges)
 - *Post Meeting Note: If this recommendation advances, a review may be necessary. FAC must demonstrate concern for significant flood risk to infrastructure or private structures.*
 - **Chichester**
 - Peter suggests that we focus on Chichester.
 - A study here will bridge the gap between Phoenicia and Lanesville, and there is already so much data and modelling to draw from.
 - SAFARI can review the draft scope of work and study areas at July's meeting.
 - After that review, an application can be made to the AWSMP SMIP program at any time.
- **CWC**
 - No one present.
- **NYCDEP**
 - **FBO Program:**
 - Only pending buy-out is Station Road Buyout
 - *Post-Meeting Note: This is on hold with the County, pending any necessary alteration of Station Road, related to BSB, as that work may be more easily accomplished while the road remains under County Jurisdiction. Once that is settled, the road can be turned over to the town; the parcel will have access to a town road, and the FBO program can move forward.*
 - **Flood Response Planning:**
 - Aaron reports he has a meeting next week, SLR is doing flood response planning
 - The kick-off meeting next week.

- Not yet sure what the end-product will look like, but will keep us posted
- **FEMA-Initiated Letter of Map Revision (LOMR)**
 - Aaron received an inquiry from ARC team, they were looking for any information on the berm at the Farmer Jones property (Rte 42)
 - Reminder, there is a call on Friday, 6/13/25, to see updated modelling.
- **Hollow Tree Brook**
 - Adam reports they're working closely with SLR to advance with 60% design
 - Probably not going to go to construction this year. Too much left to do. Plan is to get everything bid out this fall.
 - Get everything lined up to be ready at the start of
- **Broadstreet Hollow**
 - Working with Ecosystem Planning and Restoration, a new firm (local office in West Point).
 - Starting their field work now
-  **Ecosystems** team is just starting to prepare for upcoming FAD negotiations
- **Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)**
 - **Funding Opportunities:** Consolidated Funding Application (Climate Smart Communities, Parks & Rec, WQIP, Smart Growth, etc.) – due End of July
 - Brief discussion. If Shandaken wants assistance with flood mitigation-related grant applications to support LFA or other projects, coordinate with AWSMP asap.
 - **DPW More on Bridge Street Bridge:**
 - Public Information meeting June 12 and 13th.
 - Aiming for transparency, first and foremost.
 - The project is still in preliminary design.
 - The earliest plausible date to begin construction could be 2027
 - \$8 million in funding that the state is contributing to that project, or another viable alternative, will be managed by Ulster County Soil & Water.
 - Andrew would like the County to be more looped into the funding discussion, so DPW can have a better understanding of how/if funds will be allocated to this project, for planning purposes.
 - This bridge is getting to the end of its useful life. The bridge may have to be closed. This, combined with understanding available funding and final costs to the county, will inform decision-making.

Review Notes
Adjourn

Next Meeting: July 8, 2025 @ 10am