

Town of Shandaken

SAFARI Meeting Notes

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

October 13, 2020

Shandaken Town Hall, 7029 Route 28, Shandaken, NY 12480

Attendees In-Person: Brent Gotsch, Howie McGowan, John Mathiesen, Eric Hofmeister

Attendees via Zoom: Aaron Bennett, Leslie Zucker, Rob Stanley, Phil Eskeli, Victoria Brudz

Community Rating System

Victoria B led a discussion on outstanding items needed to complete the Town's Community Rating System (CRS) application. Materials are needed by October 23, 2020.

Supervisor's Report

Rob S reported that he had heard that an individual was looking to purchase a home on Station Road in Phoenicia that he was unaware that it was for sale. This is a property that could potentially be needed for a floodplain restoration below the Bridge Street Bridge. The potential buyer would need to renovate and elevate it. If the deal falls through than the Town may consider purchasing the property for flood mitigation purposes.

Firelight Campgrounds, which had earlier put in a proposal to construct glamping facilities at the former Uncle Pete's campground, has decided to try and start the project again. An individual who is opposed to the project has repeatedly voiced their disapproval of it to the Town, but so long as the floodplain ordinance is adhered to it is an allowable use of the parcel.

Howie M reported that there are currently 3-4 projects with open floodplain development permits in the Town.

LFA Implementation

Mount Tremper

NYSDOT Route 28/Route 212 Project Updates: The NYSDOT project is progressing and is still on schedule to be completed by Spring/Summer 2021.

Mount Pleasant Bridge Demolition Update: John M reported that the bridge has been removed and the contractors are out of the water. Brinner and Larios, the engineering firm overseeing the project, and the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) are meeting at the site later this week to review the final stages of the project. Fencing, rip rap, topsoil, and signage still needs to be deployed before the project is completed. Everything should be completed by the end of October.

Phoenicia

Bridge Street Bridge: Ulster County Executive's Capital Improvement Plan (2021-2026) has been released and Bridge Street Bridge replacement has been included in it, with a price tag of \$7.5M. This does not guarantee that the County will replace the bridge, however the first step calls for a thorough evaluation of alternatives (longer, higher, removal, etc.) but it is a good sign that it is on their radar for potential work, and notes the County's intention to work with local partners during this process.

NYC DEP Updates

Phil E gave a brief update on the status of buyouts under the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) Funded Buyout Program. Both the second Reese and Kirkpatrick properties are making good progress towards closing. The Hanson property (Fox Hollow) is scheduled to close on 10/30/20.

Phil E also briefly updated the group on a recent evaluation, required by the Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD), of the Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program. The report is available on the NYCDEP website. Aaron B asked the town officials if there were ideas that they had that might make the program more successful. Rob S commented that one of the shortfalls of the program is that areas (homeowners) outside of the designated LFA, such as Oliverea or Woodland Valley, are not always eligible for LFHMIP funding even though they are at significant risk for flood damage. Another idea was to have an incentive for a municipality to complete all the LFAs in that municipality for population center that were eligible (where funding has already been allocated).

Other Items

Local Flood Analysis "Last Call": Aaron B mentioned that at a recent meeting, stakeholders were discussing the funding that was set aside for completing Local Flood Analyses (LFA) and the approaching deadline for its utilization. 2024-2025 will likely be the last opportunity to complete a LFA for designated population centers. There is remaining funding for communities in Shandaken including Pine Hill, Chichester, and Big Indian. If the Town wants to pursue LFAs in these hamlets they should begin to give this some consideration soon. A brief discussion ensued, and one of the ideas was to consider a full blown LFA for the Pine Hill hamlet as it is rather complex (stream confluences, multiple stream crossings, and more populated than the others) and perhaps piggy-back Chichester and Big Indian onto Pine Hill with a more scaled down approach as the mitigation measures needed in these locations are

most likely individual property protection efforts, and not the much more involved bridges/culvert replacements, for example.

Members of this committee thought it would be a good idea to revisit this topic at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 beginning at 10:00am. This meeting may go a bit longer than usual due to the items on the agenda.

Please note that this meeting will be entirely on Zoom. Please check your email for log-in information.