

Town of Shandaken

SAFARI Meeting Notes

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

November 10, 2020

Online via Zoom

Attendees: Rob Stanley, Kevin VanBlarcum, Aaron Bennett, Brent Gotsch, Leslie Zucker, Tim Koch, Phil Eskeli, Adam Doan

Supervisor's Report

Floodplain Admin: Rob S reported that he and Town Code Enforcement Officer Howie McGowan recently inspected two parcels in the Town - 10 and 12 Brown Road. The owners want to construct a garage, which will be located in the floodway (12 Brown Road). They plan to get a No-Rise Certificate and agreed to signing a Non-Conversion Agreement when the project is complete. At 10 Brown Road, they are looking to renovate a house. They plan to stay within the footprint of the structure, elevate it, fill in the basement and install flood vents. They also want to construct a small shed for storage.

Rob S also reported updates on Uncle Pete's Campground and the Copperhood Inn. Uncle Pete's Campground is looking to become a glamping campsite and plans to install elevated and anchored platforms for that purpose. They will be getting No-Rise Certifications. A public hearing for them will be held next week. The Copperhood Inn is looking to place a site on the island in the Esopus. It will not be an overnight camping site. Rather it will be a writer's retreat area for day use.

The former Mountain Gate Lodge at the end of McKenley Hollow Road has been torn down and new structures are being built. So far it appears to be mostly landscaping work though there is concern since a portion of the parcel is located in the floodplain. The Town will investigate more and see what is going on at the site.

On private property along Route 28 across from the Ulster County Highway Garage a resident has installed an old shipping container on his property for use as a storage shed. The concern from the town is that it is in the floodway. It is also not aesthetically pleasing to look at. The property owner did not get a permit but had a shed there prior. The Town will talk with him and see what can be done.

Status of Community Rating System Application: Garrett Byma has been reviewing the Town's Community Rating System (CRS) application and has gotten back with some comments. Activity 610—Flood Warning, has some issues but Milone and MacBroom, Inc. (MMI) has stated that they will address those issues. Activity 510—Floodplain Management Plan, has been reviewed several times and has only been awarded 266 points. The reviewers have stated that there are deficiencies even though the Town believes that the plan was written to maximize CRS points. FEMA has stated that there will be no more reviews and that the points awarded will stand as is. Aaron B will reach out to Garrett to see if there's anything that can be done.

LFA Implementation

Mount Tremper

NYSDOT Route 28/Route 212 Project Updates: Rob S and Aaron B reported that there has been significant activity at this project with large I-Beams now being installed. They will try to take photographs of the work. Rob S reported that the Mount Tremper Post Office has moved onto the grounds of the Emerson Resort and Spa and will likely stay in this location.

Mount Pleasant Bridge Demolition Update: The bridge has been removed and the contractor has finished work on site. Signage with information about the old bridge have been installed on the site. There was discussion about whether additional revegetation should occur at the site. Phil E pointed out that the streambanks were very stony and would likely be difficult to plant riparian vegetation. There was also discussion about improving access for anglers. The Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) will likely be asked to assess the site for potential revegetation. *Pictures of the site have been attached.*

Phoenicia

Bridge Street Bridge: Leslie Z reported that the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) along with the Town of Shandaken and Ulster County representatives are looking to hold a meeting about undertaking a feasibility study to see what can be done about the bridge and any floodplain enhancement work on the site. Rob S. stated that although the Town would like to acquire (via NYCFBFO) the parcels around the bridge that would allow for the floodplain enhancement to occur, there is a lot of local talk about some of them being (or will soon to be) sold.

NYC DEP Updates

Phil E gave an update on the status of buyouts under the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) Funded Buyout Program. The Hanson property in Fox Hollow has closed. They are not yet under contract with the Kirkpatrick property. NYC DEP is awaiting demolition plans for the Reese properties. They will need to look for hazardous materials and plan on doing that in the Spring of 2021. There are several sheds and outbuildings on the property that could be saved.

Discussion on Potential LFA(s) in Pine Hill, Big Indian, Chichester

The funding window for Local Flood Analysis (LFA) is ending in the near future. There was discussion about whether the Town of Shandaken wanted to have LFAs completed for any of the remaining designated hamlet areas (Pine Hill, Big Indian and Chichester) Aaron B put together a PowerPoint presentation (*which has been attached*) that showed the results of the analysis that he ran on each of those areas including where the boundaries for the hamlets are in relation to the 100 and 500-year flood zones. He also located the major stream crossings (of which there were many throughout the Pine Hill hamlet) and the number of flood insurance policies and claims made. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that scopes of work for all of the hamlet areas would be done but that the actual LFA would occur in a phased approach with priority being given to Pine Hill.

Annual Update of Town Flood Mitigation Plan

Time ran out before this review could occur. Brent G will send out a Doodle poll to Rob S, Kevin V and Aaron B and schedule a meeting where the four of them will complete the annual update.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 8, 2020. 10:00am to 12:00 Noon.