

**Town of Shandaken**

**SAFARI Meeting Notes**

**Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative**

**March 10, 2020**

**AWSMP Offices, 3130 State Route 28, Shokan, NY 12481**

*Attendees:* Brent Gotsch, Tim Koch, John Mathiesen, Leslie Zucker, Adam Doan, Mark Loete, Howie McGowan, Eric Hofmeister, Phil Eskeli, Rob Stanley, Aaron Bennett (via phone)

**Supervisor's Report**

The new owners of the Cooperhood Inn have an application in to the Town to do some development on the island they own in the Esopus Creek. They have not been issued a permit as of yet. They are interested in creating a writer's retreat area with five or so tent structures, as well as a septic on the site. A large part of the property is floodway, other than a small part which is in the 500-Year Floodplain.

**NYCDEP Buyout Parcels**

Phil E reported that there has been a lot of back and forth with the Reese property. They are still trying to settle on a closing date. The Hansen property is moving forward again, as it was briefly held up because of environmental reviews that flagged one of the adjoining properties. There was concern about contamination on the parcel with old bat factory but the reviews have come back with no concerns. Fitzpatrick parcel in Mt Tremper is now going to appraisal.

**LFA Implementation**

**Mount Tremper**

- NYSDOT Route 28/Route 212 Project Updates: Tree clearing has been ongoing to get the site prepped for construction. The former Rock Cut Cabins have not yet been demolished.
- Mount Pleasant Bridge Demolition Update: John M reported that the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) will be meeting tomorrow in Kingston at the offices of Brinner and Larios (the engineering firm assigned to the project) to finalize the contract. The hope to have a preconstruction meeting within the next few weeks. The contractor, Source 1A, wants to begin work as soon as possible, which would be May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Rob S indicated that many residents have been contacting the Town about what is going on in Mount Tremper. More people seem to be concerned about the clearing of all the trees, which is necessary for project to construction. Once the project is explained to residents, most are understanding. Rob S indicated that there have been multiple public meetings over the last couple of years which have been

posted on the Town's *YouTube* channel. These meetings justify the need and scope of the project for residents.

Rob S also reported that he has learned that Wanda Day has filed a lawsuit against the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). She appears to be claiming that the action by NYSDOT is a "taking" instead of an eminent domain proceeding. Indication from NYSDOT is that the lawsuit will likely be thrown out because the land is being used for a public works project.

## **Phoenicia**

- Bridge Street Bridge/Floodplain Enhancement: Leslie Z asked if there was a timeframe for this project as AWSMP needs to begin doing some budgeting projections. Rob S feels that he would like to meet with Milone and MacBroom, Inc. (MMI) to think about the phases and steps involved in the project. His suggestion is to meet with MMI at the May SAFARI meeting.

## **Community Rating System**

Community Rating System Update: Rob S reported that a representative from FEMA has reached out to him to schedule an appointment to discuss the Town of Shandaken formally entering into the CRS program.

Aaron B read an email update from MMI about the current status of their work. MMI stated that they are very nearly out of funding to continue their involvement in the CRS preparation process. They will need to hand over what has been done to the Town to finish up, meaning that the Town may have to do some work they did not anticipate. Additionally, MMI has completed maps for Activity 320 and open space mapping; acquired materials from FEMA for the two libraries; forms for Activity 520 have been prepared; AW501 forms have been reviewed; materials for Activities 430, 440, and 450 have been collected. Additionally, Aaron B reported that Howie was able pull together the last five years of floodplain permits, all elevation certificates, and each of the demolition permits and floodplain permits for the 15 FEMA buyouts. Aaron scanned all of this and sent along to MMI. Aaron has requested from NYCDEP staff the deeds of the 15 FEMA buyouts and the recent NYCFFBO acquisitions. Once received, he will send to MMI as supporting documentation for CRS points pertaining to floodplain open space points.

Aaron B indicated that Cynthia Bianco of TetraTech provided additional documentation to FEMA ISO to determine if the town flood mitigation plan should have received additional CRS points above the 253 awarded in the first review. She submitted additional information and it was raised to 266 points. Cynthia B then followed up with additional comments/justification for even more points that the reviewer appears to have over-looked. There has not been any response from FEMA ISO about this additional submission.

## **Other Items**

CWC FHIMP: The group briefly discussed ways to get more residents involved in the CWC Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program (FHIMP) for flood mitigation efforts like building elevations, fuel tank anchoring, raising utilities, or floodproofing. Rob S suggested a direct mail to everyone in the Town's LFA areas to better advertise the program. Should they do so, it was suggested that they contact the CWC and NYCDEP to help with language for the mailing. As there has not been a major flood since Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, many people may think flooding is not a big issue anymore. Additionally, there has been quite a bit of turnover of residents in the Town who were not around in 2011 and may not know about flooding. While there have been home elevations in the Town, none have been through the CWC FHIMP. The group agreed that it would be useful to have a project that uses the CWC funding as a showcase project. Phil E and John M indicated that in the other portions of the NYC Watershed, when one person moves ahead with a mitigation project, then other neighbors take an interest and begin to look into the program for their property.

TU Handicap Accessible Casting Platform: Mark L asked about what it would take (such as permits, etc) to construct a handicap accessible casting platform along the Esopus Creek, as well as ideas for a good location. It was suggested that when construction of the new Route 28 bridge in Mount Tremper is completed the area of the former Leimgruber property or other adjacent parcels might be ideal. Of course, the structure would need to be designed properly so that it would be resistant to future flooding.

### **Next Meeting**

No meeting in April. Next meeting will be May 12.