

**Town of Shandaken**

**SAFARI Meeting Notes**

**Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative**

**September 8, 2020**

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

*Attendees In-Person:* Brent Gotsch, Aaron Bennett, John Mathiesen, Rob Stanley, Eric Hofmeister, Howie McGowan, Kevin VanBlarcum

*Attendees via Zoom:* Adam Doan

**Supervisor's Report**

Rob S reported that there has not been much activity related to floodplain development recently. Many of the of the projects in the floodplain have been minor and usually involved repairs to roofs, garages, and minor cosmetic alternations.

Rob S also indicated that there is an issue with water main infrastructure that is attached to a stream crossing that is in disrepair at Mill Street and Bonnieview Avenue in Pine Hill. Aaron B stated that prior to the meeting he was speaking with Leslie Zucker of the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) and she indicated that there will be another round of Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) funding announced shortly from the AWSMP. This may be an opportunity for the Town of Shandaken to receive some funding to repair the stream crossing infrastructure if it meets the SMIP criteria. Adam D offered to have AWSMP staff meet with staff from the Town onsite to take a closer look.

**LFA Implementation**

**Mount Tremper**

NYS DOT Route 28/Route 212 Project Updates: Members of the SAFARI committee toured the site last month with the NYS Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) staff. Rob S reported that the project is progressing, and the new portion of Route 212 is now officially re-opened to all traffic. It had been closed to all but local traffic for about a month. The bridge construction is continuing with pier and abutment work ongoing on the west side of the Esopus Creek. The project remains on track to be complete by summer 2021.

Mount Pleasant Bridge Demolition Update: The center pier of the bridge has recently been removed. The abutment site along the Riseley Road has been seeded and fenced. The Route 212 side has been leveled to where it needs to be. Seeding and restoration, including fence and signage, of this location will commence shortly. All of the in-stream work has been completed and the hope is to have all of the work completed by the end of the month. There will be an historic marker/signage placed on site to commemorate the bridge and its historic significance.

**Community Rating System**

Community Rating System Update: Members of AWSMP, the Town of Shandaken and its consultant Milone and MacBroom, Inc. (MMI), met with Garrett Byma of the Insurance Services Office (ISO) via Zoom to review the Town's

Community Rating System (CRS) application. FEMA has recently changed the schedule for CRS applications. The original hope was for the Town to have its application in this fall so it could begin getting the benefits of CRS in spring of 2021. Unfortunately, according to Garrett B, it is much more realistic that the Town not officially enter CRS until the fall of 2021. It takes FEMA roughly 6 months to review final CRS applications. Garrett B requested that the Town submit their final CRS material by October 2020 for review, with the final application being accepted in April 2021.

There was discussion about the activities that the Town has been doing to gain points in the system including outreach activities. The Town could create an annual newsletter that has a blurb about floodplain management and where to go for floodplain management questions. There was debate on whether it would be better for this to be an independent newsletter or as an addition to the annual tax bill. There could also be handouts available with floodplain development permits.

Aaron B shared some updates from MMI (the consulting firm that is preparing the Town's CRS application) about percentage of floodplain open space, and also scrolled through a checklist of "to do" items that need to be addressed by the end of the month for the CRS application. Brent G indicated that he prepared a list of educational programs that AWSMP has done related to floodplain management that could count for CRS credit.

According to MMI staff, they will need information from the Town in order to update the Flood Emergency Response Plan for additional points.

An idea to develop a Program for Public Information (PPI) was discussed. The PPI requires a good amount of effort to set up and administer but could be worth the effort if the accrued points move the Town to the next CRS class.

TetraTech BATool: Aaron B spoke with Cynthia Bianco of TetraTech about the one-year free trial of the Baseline Assessment Tool (BATool) for the flood mitigation plan. She agreed to extend the trial for a few more months to the end of the year so the committee can get a chance to utilize it. Rob S believes it is probably not worth the subscription fee.

The SAFARI Committee will need to review and update the Town's Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan prior to the end of the year. The SAFARI committee can tackle this during the November meeting.

## **Other Items**

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Funding: Aaron B announced that there is currently FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program (HMGP) funding available. The focus of the funding will be on elevations, planning, and acquisition projects. FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program will announce funding categories soon.

## **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, October 13, 2020. 10:00am to 12:00 Noon at the Shandaken Town Hall.