

SAFARI Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2014
AWSMP Office
10:00am-12:00pm

In attendance:

Rob Stanley, Town of Shandaken
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken
Al Frisenda, Town of Shandaken
Aaron Bennett, UC DoE
Candace Balmer, RCAP Solutions
Beth Reichheld, NYC DEP
Danyelle Davis, NYC DEP
Leslie Zucker, CCEUC
Brent Gotsch, CCEUC
Heather Eckardt, CCEUC
Mark Loete, Trout Unlimited
Mark Carabetta, Milone & MacBroom

Introductions were made. SAFARI is now the official flood commission for the town of Shandaken. Rather than ask multiple agencies to attend SAFARI (or other town specific meetings), they will be invited to the Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group meetings.

Shandaken's Flood Mitigation Plan by TetraTech is on their website.

The focus of the meeting was on Phoenicia (Mt. Tremper will be primary focus of next meeting).

Since the FEMA Community Assistance Visit (CAV) after Irene, the list of eligible properties has changed. Rob S. plans to call and see if a more current letter can be issued. 19 properties are still on the buyout list in Shandaken.

Elevation of properties could cause issues with fire code. A list of properties that would benefit from elevation should be made.

The Town is moving forward with bridge and culvert projects funded by FEMA. It's hard to upgrade beyond plans submitted. Projects included in the CR plan require mitigation better than as-built.

Estimate for new floodplain map adoption is now October 2015.

Leslie Z. gave a presentation of Local Flood Analysis (LFA). LFA will replace the previous term Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis (LFHMA).

The presentation covered what LFA is, funding, how process works, eligible population centers, and scope of services.

It was discussed that additional town priority areas should be added, particularly Oliveria.

The Flood Buyout Program referenced in the presentation was non-FEMA.

Owner of choice for buyouts is towns. Buyouts combined with relocation can preserve tax base. The point is to get people out of harm's way and relocate them within the towns. The towns have to approve buyouts for residential properties. Flood buyouts with FEMA money are in process.

LFA process takes approximately 4 – 6 months. The goal timeframe is to have LFA for Phoenicia/Mt. Tremper done by the end of 2014.

A separate handout displayed the draft template Scope of Services. There are two phases. Phase one encompasses project management, coordination, and meetings; data collection and field assessment; modelling and evaluation of alternatives; reporting. Phase two is the feasibility analysis.

Mark C. said the modelling process starts with the FEMA analysis (2009; cross section updates post Irene (2011)), and is modified to account for differences between initial models and current conditions.

Several flood maps were viewed. Irene was considered a 50-year storm on the Stony Clove in Phoenicia, and an 80-year storm on the Esopus at Phoenicia. Differences between 100-year flood plains and 500-year flood plains were viewed.

Chichester is a separate hamlet from Phoenicia, and has less flood risk.

Possible flooding solutions discussed included sediment captures on land. When scoping LFA, look at need for additional cross-sections. Mark C. responded this is standard part of process. Also look at adjusting FEMA models for supercritical flows.

Updated cross-sections (post-Irene; ongoing monitoring by UCSWCD) are available above and below the Main Street bridge.

Need to answer questions related to how much flooding the Stony Clove contributes versus Esopus Creek during differing event scenarios and flood-return intervals. Look at relative performance of solutions.

Phoenicia LFA boundaries were discussed. On the Esopus, it would begin at Woodland Creek Bridge and end at the Phoenicia water plant. On the Stony Clove, Beth R. suggested that all properties newly in the floodplain should be covered. Everyone seemed to agree. The northern area has a bedrock control point, which is good.

Hydraulic modeling recently completed by Tetra Tech indicated the Route 28 bridge constriction caused flooding at Mt. Tremper.

Next Meeting: June 18, 2014 at 9:00am.

At the next meeting, continue to work on boundaries, Scope of Services template, and discuss Mt. Tremper. Begin to develop public outreach plan.