

SAFARI Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2014

AWSMP Office

9:00am-11:00am

In attendance:

Brent Gotsch, CCEUC
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken
Rob Stanley, Town of Shandaken
Aaron Bennett, Ulster County Department of the Environment
Leslie Zucker, CCEUC
Adam Doan, UCSWCD

Committee Representation

The Town of Shandaken decided that SAFARI (flood advisory) committee membership would include 10 local representatives, plus representatives from the AWSMP and Ulster County agencies. The committee will interact with state and federal representatives at the AWSMP Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group, and upon invitation to SAFARI meetings as needed.

The Town of Shandaken's engineering services provider, Milone & MacBroom, Inc (MMI), will be invited to attend regular SAFARI meetings. Consultant attendance at a minimum number of SAFARI meetings will be written into the Local Flood Analysis (LFA) Scope of Services.

Town Supervisor Update

Preliminary Flood Maps

Supervisor Stanley sent a letter to the Town of Shandaken Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Town Board to explain the new preliminary flood maps and how they, along with changes in the National Flood Insurance Program, will have a significant effect on the Town. R. Stanley and E. Hofmeister will attend the next Planning Board meeting to discuss implications for the Town and why Planning Board members should be knowledgeable about the new maps and laws.

At a meeting between Ulster County Town Supervisors, there was discussion about town-to-town shared services. This is a mandate from the State that requires towns to consolidate services for mutual benefit to maintain a 1% tax reduction. Supervisors are discussing the idea of sharing a regional floodplain manager to support local code enforcement officers/floodplain managers.

NY Rising Community Reconstruction (CR)

The CR process is ongoing. The State has advised a July meeting will be scheduled to discuss implementation. No projects have advanced in Shandaken, despite the Town having multiple shovel-ready projects. The Town did not submit a Consolidated Funding Application.

FEMA has advised the Town that CR funds cannot match FEMA funds, because federal funds cannot match other federal funds. State representatives have been unclear on this issue.

Community Rating System (CRS)

The Town has not yet submitted an application to the CRS. This is partly because the Town's community assistance visit (CAV) letter is now too old. NYSDEC may reissue a past CAV letter with a new date, which would be acceptable to FEMA. This procedure has been done in other communities. However, the Town is considering a new visit as the preferable option. The original community assistance visit occurred shortly after Tropical Storm Irene and much has changed. One change is a more manageable reduction in repetitive loss properties that the Town must document (some properties were sold, bought-out, or brought-up to code, etc.). Also, the Town would like to review their floodplain management codes for improvements, an action that DEC recommended. Improvements could give the Town more CRS points.

LFA Scoping and Study Areas

The committee discussed the LFA Scope of Services for Phoenicia and Mount Tremper. The Town will give the completed Scope to MMI to obtain a cost estimate.

Study Areas

Phoenicia study area:

- Extent based on 900-foot contour line
- Begin on Stony Clove near Chichester (adjacent to bedrock that acts as grade control)
- Begin on Esopus at Woodland Valley bridge
- End on Esopus past Phoenicia Diner

Question: Should the study area include portions of the MOA-designated hamlet outside the 900-ft contour line (and 0.2% floodplain) for reason of making these areas eligible for CWC funded relocation funding? CWC LFHMI draft program rules indicate that eligible projects, including relocation of an anchor business, critical community facility, or public infrastructure must be identified through an LFA, but can be relocated anywhere within the Town.

Mount Tremper study area:

- Extent based on 900-foot contour line
- Begin at Catskill Mountain RR depot
- End south of Migorelli Farm Stand (Cross Section I on FIRM)
- Begin on Beaver Kill where Miller Road meets the Beaver Kill

Two separate study areas that share a boundary at a yet to be determined FIRM cross section.

Scope of Services

Recommended that consultant services include 6 public meetings:

- 1st public meeting would be a general overview before the Town Board.

- 2nd and 3rd public meetings would be held in Phoenicia and Mount Tremper, respectively. They would be brainstorming sessions where MMI and community members would discuss the issues as well as known and potential problem areas.
- 4th and 5th public meetings to be held in Phoenicia and Mount Tremper, respectively. They would be follow-up meetings with the community to present some preliminary findings and gather mitigation ideas.
- 6th public meeting would be before the Town Board to present findings.

The consultant should attend at least 3 planning meetings with SAFARI.

Town of Shandaken Flood Mitigation Plan

Discussion on whether the Town needs to update its 2013 plan yearly to obtain full CRS credit for floodplain management planning, or if the update is only needed after CRS submission.

Note: Since the meeting, Tom Blanchard (Floodplain Coordinator for NYSDEC) has confirmed that the Town needs to update its plan and submit a report to FEMA yearly to obtain all potential points for CRS. The Town can use the sample update form provided by TetraTech, which should be acceptable to FEMA.

FEMA formally evaluates the plan every 5 years. Next formal evaluation for Town of Shandaken Flood Mitigation Plan will be 2018.

Next Meeting

Next SAFARI meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2014 from 10:00-12:00 at the AWSMP Office in Phoenicia.