

## **MINUTES**

July 25, 2019 Flood Advisory Board  
25 Lenox Avenue  
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

**CALL TO ORDER** “In conformance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting of the Flood Advisory Board has been posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building and notification made to the Suburban Trends.”

## **SALUTE THE FLAG/ MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **ROLL CALL**

Lauren Venin, Chairwoman  
Steve Flormann, Co-Chairman  
Pat Lenoy, Corresponding Secretary  
Cristiane Jennings, Recording Secretary  
Julie Doncoes  
Josie Brown  
Maria Kent  
Joe Christiano  
Katie Cole  
Al Evangelista, OEM Manager

**WELCOME/ INTRODUCTIONS** No food or drink in Council Chambers

**MINUTES** Josie made a motion to accept the June minutes, seconded by Pat.

**MOTION TO OPEN/CLOSE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS** Steve made a motion to open for public comments, seconded by Lauren.

**ELEVATION CERTIFICATE FAQ** Questions about elevation certificates are sporadic but have noticed more lately on social media. Would be a good idea to come up with an easy to understand handout made available on our website. Steve will use FEMA’s handout and tweak it to fit our needs. Al Evangelista offered to hand it out at National Night Out on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Handing out the flyer and putting it on our website will give us CRS points as well. It’s important to point out that an elevation certificate will affect each property differently and to consult your insurance agent for more specific information. It was noted that the elevation certificate list on the OEM site is out of date. Liz Brandness will be advised.

**GARDEN ROAD WATER PROBLEM** No new updates. Kevin Boyle’s mom passed away, so any updates will not occur until he returns from his bereavement leave. PLFD is unable to de-water the pond. Al noted that it is a large job and mud pumps are required. Suggestions were made to contact DMK or possibly the PLMUA who might have large enough mud pumps. The pond would need to be temporarily dammed, water pumped out and then remove the buildup of debris to properly inspect the outlet and determine a course of action.

**USGS GAUGE REQUEST** Al Evangelista advised that a National Weather Service Senior Hydrologist will be reaching out to a USGS Senior Hydrologist about potential locations of a river gauge on the Pequannock River near the confluence with the Wanaque River.

**DRONE REINSPECTION** Lauren and Steve spent some time entering data from the March flight. Flight inspection of the Pequannock River is scheduled for end of October or early November when the leaves have fallen. Need to show completed inspections for this year for our CRS report and credits.

**NEW EMAIL AND DATA STORAGE** It's been confirmed that there is no data storage available for volunteer committees. Our committee however requires a centralized location to keep large document files. A Google account has been created for that purpose using the Flood Advisory email address and a password. Currently we have 3.5GB of data. The information we store is important to our residents as well. Katie Cole will check with borough to see what other options we have.

**DEP REGARDING MAPS AND FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT** Joe Skupien (a consultant engineer) has been working on with neighboring municipalities to provide an alternate method for delineating floodways. The Board was advised that Joe Skupien met with Vince Mazzei of NJDEP and the alternate method was agreed upon. The board is not sure if a proposal/contract has been submitted to continue work with Joe Skupien and there's no guarantee that FEMA will agree with his approach. However, if DEP does, it would help to pull back the floodway, allowing residents in the floodway to make improvements to their properties, like adding a shed, under State and Borough regulations.

**RUTGERS MASTER PLAN** Preliminary results were received in March. Steve and Lauren were advised that a second preliminary plan should have been received by end of May and a final plan by end of June. The board has not received either of them yet. Lauren and Steve will reach out for an update.

**DUPONT FOOT BRIDGES** Foot bridges along Acid Brook have been noticed to be in bad shape by Al Evangelista. Al recommends removing them and has reached out to Kevin Boyle and DPW Superintendent. Kevin agrees that they are unsafe. Van Ave bridge has already been removed. DPW wants to know which other ones are to be removed. Concern is that this could cause flooding where it has never flooded if the bridges fall into the waterway. However, once removed, there will remain an opening in the fence of private property owners along Acid Brook. Flood Plan Administrator/Code Official will be asked to write a letter because it is a safety issue. Since these bridges were initially installed by Dupont, we will ask them to replace the fence openings where the bridges are removed.

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK** Al Evangelista commends the board for a job well done. He has seen many bad floods but explained that now he can sleep at night knowing all of the hard work this board has done and pushed to get done. Al attended an OEM meeting recently where he was asked by other communities on how our town has done it. Keep up the good work!

**PASSAIC COUNTY OEM** The revisions for the 5-year mitigation plan for 2021 are beginning. Al Evangelista asked the board to provide any projects that can be used for mitigation and also what projects have been completed. The pond issue on Garden Road may be a potential project for the list. We will need to show what projects have been completed and upcoming new ones. Discussion followed on possible projects. During heavy rain, Dawes Hwy is draining well since the remediation of pipes. However, "Roadway Floods" sign should be put there. Had some problems at Firehouse during the last heavy rainstorm which turned out to be plastic bottles in storm drainpipes. Riverdale Rd @ Van Ness Ave floods when there is heavy rain. Josie explained it might be due to no storm drains on Van Ness, which causes all of the water to go to the lowest point, which ends up on Riverdale Rd, whose drains are probably clogged. Al Evangelista updated us on temporary debris holding locations as part of the post-flood event procedures. OEM requires a 6' fence around the debris pile, which is asking a lot of a small community.

**BY-LAWS/MEMBERS** Confusion of membership and recording secretary has been resolved. By-laws were amended in 2017 to allow the recording secretary to serve as a member as well. All member positions are filled now. Lauren mentioned that we could use a few more Storm Water Management Committee members and that they do not need to be board members. Maria Kent advised that Lake Restoration Committee could use a few more members as well.

#### **COMMITTEES:**

**LAKE RESTORATION COMMITTEE** Lake cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, August 17 @ 10am. Rain date August 18. Maria Kent advised boats will be needed. Al Evangelista will provide a big red john boat. New company Solitude is doing

testing of the water. Discussion followed on posting results. Council liaison will be contacted with more information to help make an informed decision on posting results. It was agreed that the results should be posted in Layman terms for all to understand and maybe include limits and ranges for comparison. Since our lake is not a swimming lake it is not tested for the algae bloom that has affected many other lakes in New Jersey. Maria Kent advised that Bob, a former consultant, was in a bad motorcycle accident while on vacation and is in a coma. The board will send a card.

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT** Steve was approached by a local resident who teaches in Orange to provide a green infrastructure lesson to her students through Skype. He will happily set it up.

**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE** No meeting due to St. Mary's Carnival.

**FLOOD LEGISLATION COMMITTEE** New bill HR3167 has been approved by House Committee 59-0 to renew the National Flood Insurance Program for five years and institute various reforms, including increased affordability, improve mapping, enhance mitigation and modernize NFIP. The bill now goes to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

**RAIN TAX** Lauren reported that the Rain Tax permits entities of government to create storm water utility authorities to collect tax on amount of water runoff. Legislation is very loose and not specific of what it can be used for. A portion of the money goes back to the DEP. This rain tax shouldn't have impact on Pompton Lakes, but Passaic County may use it. She will email a summary to members.

**CRS COMMITTEE** No update.

**CLIMATOLOGY** June finished at 6.39" of rain. Record is 8.25" back in 2013. Second quarter total rainfall is 16.64" (Highest was in 2013 @ 16.74") Heavy downpour couple weeks ago resulted in 3.14". This Monday we had 2.75" and Tuesday was .74". Currently for the month of July we are at 8.34" (Last year we had 9.48") Reservoir end of June was at 302.2. Currently it's at 299.95. The reservoir has practically been at 100% since 11/14/18 until the end of June. Total rainfall so far for 2019 is 37.75".

**ADJOURNMENT** Pat made a motion to adjourn and Maria seconded the motion. **9:27pm**

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
*Cristiane Jennings*