

MINUTES

January 26, 2023 @ 7:30pm
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.”

ROLL CALL

Lauren Venin, Chairwoman	Josephine Brown
Steve Flormann, Co-Chairman (excused)	Kathleen Cole
Pat Lenoy, Corresponding Secretary	Julie Doncoes
Cristiane Jennings, Recording Secretary	Lauren Simpson
Maria Kent, Council Liaison	Harold Vandermark (excused)

VISITORS

None

SALUTE TO THE FLAG, MOMENT OF SILENCE/WELCOME/ INTRODUCTIONS – Lauren welcomed new member Lauren Simpson and thanked everyone for their continued support.

MINUTES – Motion by Josie Brown to accept the December meeting minutes, seconded by Julie Doncoes, all in favor.

Open Public Comments – No public present.

Lincoln Ave Roadway Flooding – Members reviewed a document prepared by Lauren Venin and Steve Flormann with green infrastructure recommendations from last month’s meeting to help alleviate some of the roadway flooding on Lincoln Ave. Councilwoman Maria Kent explained that she mentioned some of the recommendations at the last council meeting and advised members are interested to hear more. Waiting on Passaic County to make repairs will most likely take too long. Discussions followed. Lauren Venin would like to see an engineer experienced in green infrastructure training involved. It was suggested that we get some photos of the flooding as it is happening to help provide a visual effect. In addition, we would like to see council pass a resolution to get Passaic County involved so we can help alleviate the issue jointly.

Willow Field – Councilwoman Maria Kent provided copy of approved Willow Field permit with conditions of the Rutgers Plan to be used for reforestation. Lauren Venin will scan and upload to the file folder for all to review. On that note, Maria advised that a new IT department will be formed to help with technology including storage for committees like ours.

FAB New Member – Lauren Simpson was welcomed by all. As a resident on Olive Ave she has been affected by flooding in the past. Discussion followed of the Pompton feeder dam, the flood gates, and government buy out of the homes on Riveredge Drive. The current mitigation work is helping to keep the flood levels down. Rivers are cleaner and allow better water flow. Porous asphalt could be another way to help improve water flow.

NJ River Coalition – No update.

Habitat for Restoration – No update. Maria will check with Paula. Lauren reminded us that grant money needs to be used by the deadline.

Dawes Highway Bridge – No update.

River Work/Hazard Assessment/River Action Plan – Updated river work action plan has been submitted to Paula. Drone flight should be done soon. It was suggested that we hire someone instead of relying on volunteers. Maria asked Lauren to provide her with an estimated cost to present to the council for inclusion in the budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT – Next project will be the rain barrels in the spring. Lauren Simpson has volunteered to help Lauren Venin at the next meeting to be held 30 minutes before the regular flood meeting.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – Mayor Mike Serra chaired the meeting. He explained that DEP has approved the permit and that the engineers will follow it as outlined. In addition, a \$100,000 grant has been confirmed for the recreation department. Mayor is open to ideas. Julie recommended that the money is used for a water truck to help keep the new trees in good shape. Lauren Venin asked that plans be shared with the flood advisory board when available.

FLOOD LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – Bill S-790/A-4200 has been introduced and referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee and Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee to help lower reservoirs before a significant rain event. Maria Kent provided a copy of the summary report and suggested that we email the sponsors and co-sponsors of this bill and others that are still pending. In addition, Lauren Simpson offered to reach out to our local assembly contacts for an update.

CRS COMMITTEE – No update. However, have not heard from our consultant Nick Agnoli. Maria Kent suggested Princeton Hydro, which Lauren Venin would also recommend. On a side note, we proudly announce that Lauren Venin will be providing a presentation in Atlantic City on January 30 about her involvement with the flood advisory board and trails maintenance committee for the last 13 years. Katie Cole commented that we will receive continuing education CRS credit for watching.

CLIMATOLOGY – It was noted that passing this task to a member of the OEM or CERT would be appreciated. Lauren Venin provided the following details. Rain totals: Oct – 6.26", Nov – 3.97", Dec – 6", 2022 – 50.99" (Avg – 45"). January so far at 5.6".

ADJOURNMENT – Pat Lenoy made a motion to adjourn, and Josie Brown seconded the motion at 9:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Cristiane Jennings