

MINUTES

April 28, 2022 @ 7:35pm
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.” In addition, notice of remote meeting call in number and web access were made available on the Borough website, Facebook page and at the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

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

VISITORS

Al Evangelista (OEM)

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

MINUTES – Motion by Pat Lenoy to accept the March meeting minutes, seconded by Julie Doncoes, all in favor. Cristiane, Julie, and Katie abstained.

Open Public Comments – No public present.

CRS Audit – Every three years there is a full audit. September we will find out official due date. Kathy Troast attended CRS Audit session in April and provided us with some useful information. CRS stands for Community Rating System used to adjust flood insurance rates. Mitigation is the key. We have continued to receive high ratings due to all the little things we have done including drone flights which have given us extra bonus points.

Green Infrastructure to Mitigate Flash Flooding – Rain barrel workshop and rain garden plans were discussed. Spring is a challenging time to get residents to participate in a workshop. Councilwoman Maria Kent commented that Passaic County is offering rain barrels for sale and suggested that we advertise details and include our rain garden plans. Maria explained that she offered Passaic County to sell rain barrels out of Pompton Lakes, but they chose Wayne instead. Lauren advised that this effort should be included with our CRS audit. The children’s program will be postponed until the fall.

Drone Schedule- Drone footage obtained from CERT member was very thorough, at a slower pace and low to the ground. Only missing Wanaque north of Hamburg Turnpike, which is extremely hard to get to. We will need to get that recorded and noted before September 1st. Julie Doncoes emailed Lauren photos of debris at confluence. There are three trees down causing water to back up. These photos were also shared with Kevin at just the right time, who was working on the 2022 plans.

Logs on Dam – Al Evangelista explained NJWS has had a procedural bidding issue causing delay in selecting a contractor to remove the logs building up at the dam. Councilwoman Maria Kent has brought up the subject at every council

meeting. Fear is that the logs will either further jam up the dam or eventually fall over the falls into the river below. Lack of maintenance has caused the need for a crane, which now requires the State of New Jersey to hire a contractor. Lauren advised that the best time to conduct such maintenance would be in November. In addition, having a contractor available for maintenance would allow for quicker resolutions than having to go out to bid each occurrence. Katie Cole made a motion to request that NJWS create an annual maintenance plan, seconded by Pat Lenoy, all in favor. Councilwoman Maria Kent will present the motion at the next council meeting. In addition, Hal suggested that we may want to contact Passaic County officials to make them aware of the potential damage the logs could cause to the Passaic County owned Norton House Bridge below if they were to fall over it.

Dawes Highway Bridge – AI shared that Passaic County engineers are actively working on plans. Alignment and crest are the main issue. Sidewalks on both sides will need to be wider, overall width of bridge will also need to be wider and elevation of bridge will need to be above flood levels. All these factors may bring the bridge further into the intersection causing a new traffic pattern. Councilwoman Maria Kent has been asked to follow up on status at the next council meeting.

NFIP Expiration and Reform/Risk Rating 2.0 – Josie Brown explained the deadline is still September 30, 2022. However, there is a new bill that was just introduced about flood forecasting and communication. It was noted that our local OEM has been incredibly good about keeping residents informed. However, not all towns are the same. This bill is being introduced at the federal level.

River Clean Up Update – Dave at DMK will be retiring. It will be important to find a new contractor soon and familiarize themselves with our plans while Dave is still available. Lauren advised lower Pequannock River has downed trees. She made AI (OEM) aware and mentioned it to Randy (Tree Commission). However, it should be managed by NJ State who would have the proper equipment. If we could get all the surrounding towns to join us in contacting our state representatives, maybe we would have a better chance of getting something done. It was also noted that our river work budget was reduced from \$100,000 to \$60,000.

Dam – AI Evangelista explained that lights will come on by manual control when the dam siren sounds and two additional river gauges were added that are not on the map yet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT – Haroldson Place Restoration Project permit has been approved and Councilman Erik DeLine has filed necessary paperwork to move forward with use of grant money. Mug wort will be smothered Sunday May 1st concurrent with the river clean up scheduled for that same day. DPW procured temporary fence, stakes, weed barrier, and pins using grant money. Plants will be ordered after engineering costs have been determined to see what remains of the budgeted grant money.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – No news on Joe Grill/Willow Field yet, DEP has not responded. Julie Doncoes explained PLRYO has asked for Open Space funds to upgrade Carlough field. They are looking to fix structures, remove trees, and add additional parking. It was noted that Carlough field is in the flood zone and will have more strict guidelines. Open Space will review the request and see if there will be any funds available. The \$300,000 grant needs to be used by June 2023. Additional permitting fees equaling approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000 each may reduce available funds.

FLOOD LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – See above.

CRS COMMITTEE – See CRS Audit above.

CLIMATOLOGY – Rain total for March was 3.34 inches. Average. April so far is at 5.98 inches. First quarter was 10.0 inches. Average. YTD is 16.46 inches. Reservoir is at 100.7% full.

ADJOURNMENT – Steve Flormann made a motion to adjourn, and Katie Cole seconded the motion at 9:19pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Cristiane Jennings