

MINUTES

July 28, 2022 @ 7:33pm
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	Joseph Christiano (excused)
Pat Lenoy, Corresponding Secretary	Kathleen Cole
Cristiane Jennings, Recording Secretary	Julie Doncoes
Maria Kent, Council Liaison	Harold Vandermark

VISITORS

None

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

MINUTES – Motion by Josie Brown to accept the June meeting minutes with corrected date, seconded by Pat Lenoy, all in favor. Maria Kent and Katie Cole abstained.

Open Public Comments – No public present.

Mayor Michael Serra Update – Mayor Serra recently met with Joe Pennacchio to discuss flood mitigation and ways State of NJ should be able to help. It was noted that during Scott Rumana’s term there was a proposal to create a NJ River Coalition Committee that would help boroughs like ours with flood mitigation. Joe would like to see it return and asked Pompton Lakes to pen a letter requesting to bring the bill back. In addition, Joe would like to see no charge for permits and allow multiple towns to apply for one permit per river, allowing several towns to work together. With the retirement of our current contractor, we need to secure a new one. Ideas of creating a regional paid position spanning several towns to continue river dredging was discussed. Mayor Serra also mentioned Little Falls received FEMA funds to purchase equipment to dredge the rivers but does not have anyone to operate it. Lauren explained our current 5-year river permits will be expiring soon, with some of them already expired. It is important to re-apply so we can continue to work to keep the rivers clear of debris.

Mayor Serra also advised Quality of Life police officers may be introduced to handle complaints such as loud noise, loud music, grass too high and other non-emergency issues. Katie Cole suggested that warnings should be issued first instead of tickets.

New Borough Administrator – Lauren met with the new borough administrator Paula Cozzarelli and invited her to join us at our next meeting. During their discussions, Paula confirmed permits for rivers have expired except for the Wanaque River. That is why no other river work has been completed. Paula is looking forward to meeting us and establishing a connection. Lauren explained that Paula will also be attending Pompton Day.

Dawes Highway Bridge – The bridge will be part of a bigger project to redo Hamburg Turnpike.

CRS – Nick Agnoli has been contacted and all information needed for CRS has been received. Although we would like to get maps with river obstructions completed as well, they are not necessary to complete the packet.

New Residents in Flood Area – Three new south end residents in the flood area visited borough hall today to log complaints of not being able to add additions to their homes due to flood regulations and the 50% valuation rule. Although we are not required, the flood advisory board may want to produce easy-to-understand flood legislation laws for new homeowners in the flood area.

Rain Barrel at Hershfield Needs Attention – Gutter and downspout leading to rain barrel are clogged. DPW will be contacted to explain easy maintenance instructions. Usually, barrel is turned upside down when stored for the winter.

Maintenance of Trails, Trees, and other Projects – Discussion of how maintenance of projects like trails, trees and other plantings are managed. Mayor Serra explained DPW does not have the needed manpower to keep up with all the maintenance. However, a resolution with expected rules can be introduced to the council for a vote. Further discussion ensued with replacement of trees if they should not survive. Lauren explained most contracts should offer 100% replacement if a tree does not make it. Trees are a 50-year commitment. It was suggested instead of investing in a large quantity with a higher rate of loss, we should invest in smaller quantities with higher yield. In respect to the habitat restoration project, Lauren would like to discuss stipulations when hiring a professional to complete the project.

Fall Outreach Program – Anticipated resources for the rain barrel and rain garden workshop plans on Lincoln Ave have fallen through. We will need to find another host. Tentative date for workshop was October 9th. Further details and who will host is yet to be determined.

Habitat Restoration Grant – Waiting on response of inquiry made to find out what is left of grant funds after engineering fees are deducted so plants can be ordered.

Pompton Day – We will not host a table at Pompton Day.

Summer Camp Presentation – Maria Kent and Kathy Troast put together a flood presentation for the kids at Hershfield Park summer camp using material obtained from FEMA and American Red Cross. The kids were very responsive and enjoyed the presentation. Maria wrote up summary report that will provide us with seventy-two service hours and approximately 35 CRS points. Members were provided with sample handouts including family communication plan, emergency supply kit list and certificate of completion.

WGHT Radio Station – Borough Administrator Paula was recently interviewed by WGHT and mentioned all the happenings in Pompton Lakes. In addition, she made a shout out to the Flood Advisory Board. It was noted that the radio station will be operated by a new station soon and we will be able to use them for future announcements.

Senator Corrado / Proclamation – Maria Kent has requested a proclamation from Senator Corrado's office for all the hard work Pompton Lakes has done and still does to mitigate flooding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT – Mug wort smothering is continuing. Still waiting to find out what is left of the budget to order the plants and trees to be planted in the fall.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – Did not meet.

FLOOD LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – Nothing has moved. Governor Murphy and new investment in protection is a lot about the shore, Bound Brook, \$50 million dollar investment in Blue Acres, flood resilience, etc.

CRS COMMITTEE – Reach out to Liz to confirm details complete.

CLIMATOLOGY – No official report, but only had two rain events. July 8th we had .35 inches and July 19th we received 3.39 inches.

ADJOURNMENT – Katie Cole made a motion to adjourn, and Pat Lenoy seconded the motion at 9:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cristiane Jennings