

MINUTES

August 25, 2022 @ 7:32pm
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 (excused)

VISITORS

Al Evangelista – OEM
Paula Cozzarelli – New PL Borough Administrator

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

MINUTES – Tabled to next month. Corrections to be made.

Open Public Comments – Lauren motioned to open for public comments, seconded by Katie Cole, all in favor.

Welcome Borough Administrator Paula Cozzarelli – Lauren introduced and welcomed new borough administrator Paula Cozzarelli. Paula looks forward to working with the flood advisory board. She explained that she has already spoken with DEP to continue to de-s snag the rivers using permit by rule, which will take place within the next three weeks. In addition, Paula advised that Dave would take care of us this year. However, other contractors such as Downes Tree Service which are in the Bergen County Co-Op can also be used in the future. Because the downed trees in the river are of priority, Paula can send Dave out to clear the debris immediately under her authority without direct borough council approval. Formal bids are required when costs exceed \$44,000, but Paula believes additional de-s snagging may fall under that and will only require a few bids. Overall, members were happy to see progress being made.

River Work/Hazard Assessment – Steve has completed the mapping and is ready to be submitted to Liz. The Pequannock River has lots of debris and the others are not as bad.

NJ River Coalition – Maria Kent spoke with Senator Pennacchio and explained that he is all in with the NJ River Coalition. Paula advised that she remembers when four towns or more would join in on permits, making it an easier process. She hopes the NJ River Coalition becomes a reality as well. Katie thanked Al Evangelista for introducing it. Al reiterated that the flood advisory board is to be commended for being so good and involved. He has spoken with many others in the field, and we are ahead of many other towns.

Habitat Restoration Grant – Lauren would like to see a contractor hired to complete the restoration project with watering stipulations included in the contract specifications for better chance of success. Project needs to be finished by March 2023. Trees have already been selected for their water retention capability. A landscaping architect or engineer

could write the specifications. Paula will check. Katie suggested to have Lauren unofficially review proposed project ideas with Paula before completion.

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

CRS – Maps with river obstructions to be submitted.

Fall Outreach Program – Tabled for now. Need to concentrate on Habitat Restoration Project.

Pompton Falls Dam – Sign with instructions of Pompton Falls Dam siren is down. Paula will make note to notify Passaic County. In addition, Randy Hinton of the Shade Tree Commission has removed a tree that was obstructing one of the dam sensors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT – Rain barrel and rain garden at Hershfield Park need attention. Cristiane, co-chair of the PL Woman's Club Environment Committee volunteered to maintain them. Lauren will meet up with the co-chairs to discuss maintenance instructions.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – Looking for funding for different projects, including Hershfield Park and PLRYO field. Paula toured the fields recently to see what can be done. Paula also advised that Pomptonite dust, donated by Tilcon will be used for a sculpture at Lakeside Park and in the concrete to fix the steps at the Pompton Lakes Library. Passaic County is paying for the sculpture and mason at Lakeside Park, facilitated by Paula and Kelly Ruffle from the Passaic County Historic and Cultural Affairs. In addition, local artist David Crum constructed a large stainless steel picture frame to take selfies at the lake. It is going to make its debut at Pompton Day. Willow field project still waiting on ground water recharge results for permit. Hoping to allow trenches. Katie Cole commented that the back fields have been wet even during the dry season. They will have to prove that the water levels are not that high. In addition, Lauren wants to make sure when it finally goes to bid, that there is a 100% replacement guarantee of failed trees for the first two years.

FLOOD LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – HR7776 Water Resources Act of 2022 passed house and senate. On way to president. This will give more money to the Army Corp of Engineers. It includes 17 proposals to reform FEMA, make insurance more affordable, and tools to manage flood risk. There have been 21 short term extensions since expiration in September 2017.

CRS COMMITTEE – Hazard Assessment to be provided.

CLIMATOLOGY – June below average at 3.82 inches, July 3.74 inches, August currently at 2.59 inches. Second quarter 13.49 inches, third quarter is below average. YTD 30.3 inches. Ramapo at 6.87 feet and Wanaque at 283.26 feet. Lauren explained Joe is unable to continue and will be stepping down. Will need to find replacement. Lauren explained to Paula that we started recording climatology reports to keep track of rain events to see if what we were doing was having a positive effect.

In Closing – Paula thanked all for the information provided tonight and being experts at what we do. Maria Kent thanked Julie and Pat for attending council meeting to make residents aware of flooding issues. Discussion followed on how to provide flooding education to new residents, including channel 77.

ADJOURNMENT – Cristiane Jennings made a motion to adjourn, and Josie Brown seconded the motion at 9:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Cristiane Jennings