

## MINUTES

March 23, 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 (excused)
Pat Lenoy, Corresponding Secretary	Julie Doncoes
Cristiane Jennings, Recording Secretary	Lauren Simpson (excused)
Maria Kent, Council Liaison	Harold Vandermark (excused)

### VISITORS

Randy Hinton – Shade Tree Commission  
Al Evangelista – OEM Coordinator

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

**MINUTES** – Motion by Josie Brown to accept the February meeting minutes, seconded by Pat Lenoy, all in favor, Lauren Venin abstained.

**Open Public Comments** – Josie Brown motioned to open the meeting for public comments at 7:32pm, seconded by Pat Lenoy.

**Randy Hinton Shade Tree Commission – Widening of the Rivers** – Randy reiterated his concern over suspected erosion of the riverbanks in town. He requested clarification of the stipulations for the removal of trees. Councilwoman Maria Kent explained trees are being removed when they have fallen into the river. Lauren Venin advised during the recent trail maintenance she and councilman Erik DeLine noticed a hollowed tree leaning towards the river. Clarification is needed to determine if Shade Tree Commission would be responsible to have it removed or wait for it to fall into the river and have it become the responsibility of the Flood Advisory Board. Further discussion continued with respect to the widening of the rivers. Randy would like to know if there is any data to compare it to. Lauren commented that past storms have eroded the rivers and changed the trails. She has been in discussion with councilman Erik DeLine about restoration and the committee will come up with a proposal. Al mentioned that stabilization and restoration of the riverbanks will be costly. In addition, Randy Hinton shared his thoughts on deer causing erosion of the riverbanks based on an article by Ray Kelly. Lauren added that beavers, ash bore beetles and lanternflies are causing lots of damage as well.

**Willow Field** – Permits granted. No further update.

**Lincoln Ave Roadway Flooding** – Residents have not provided photos and there have not been any heavy downpours either. Lauren Venin reviewed storm water management recommendations to help ease some of the street flooding with members and made a motion to submit proposals to the Mayor and Council, seconded by Cristiane Jennings, all in favor. Photos to follow if available. Grants for green infrastructure and green streets were also mentioned.

**NJ River Coalition** – Josie explained there is an odd legislation for flood measures, which also includes legislation on condemning hate, interracial marriage, and menstrual health.

**Habitat Restoration** – Councilwoman Maria Kent will follow up on grant money and the project's progress.

**Dawes Highway Bridge** – Councilwoman Maria Kent explained that Dawes Highway Bridge project will not entertain width or span of bridge, which is unacceptable. Al advised the purpose of this project is, so the water runs under the bridge, not around it during a flood event. Not sure what caused the county to change their minds about updating the bridge. The current construction is functionally obsolete, including the sightline. Al explained that engineers might be worried widening of the bridge would cause more water to flow down river. However, the bridge is not meant to be an impediment. Al suggested venting the abutments instead.

**River Work/Hazard Assessment/River Action Plan** – Lauren commented that river work is more of maintenance now and that there are no longer large amounts of debris to be removed. As it evolves, we should be looking at restoration. Our budget used to be \$100,000 but that has been reduced to \$60,000. We'd like to request the budget be increased back to \$100,000 and find the right professional that specializes in restoration. During the recent trails maintenance Lauren Venin and Councilman Erik DeLine discussed trails day restoration as well and noted that the topography has changed. A proposal will be drafted to present to the Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Maria Kent explained borough administrator Paula has been working with someone from CRS that has done a lot of work with just this kind of waterway restoration. Shade Tree Commission member Randy Hinton has concerns about the Wanaque River section across from the library where it takes a 90-degree turn. During heavy water flow it can cause issues. Lauren advised we'll need the advice of a specialist on how to stabilize that area and suggested that we make it a joint effort with the Shade Tree Commission to help resolve it.

Lauren Venin spoke with borough administrator Paula about hiring someone to do drone surveys of the rivers. In the past we've used volunteers, however it is unreliable. Paula explained she would reach out to the county for advice. River assessment needs to be completed soon. If necessary, we can ask one of the previous volunteers to help. Al mentioned that the county has used the sheriff's department services and will reach out to see if that would be an option for us.

**Climate Tracking Sheet** – Lauren will get in touch with Debra Ross of the CERT team and see if anyone would be interested in keeping track of the climatology report. Al Evangelista explained there are a few storm spotters on the team that may be interested.

**OEM** – Al Evangelista, OEM coordinator advised that operation plans have gone digital on a statewide level under a new system called Emmett. No more phone calls. That means all plans need to be made available digitally and updated every two years, compared to every four years as previously required. Grant money is available to help make the transition. Al requires some of our information that we will happily supply.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT** – Lauren Venin will send Lincoln Ave flash flooding recommendations to the Mayor and Council for review. Councilwoman Maria Kent reported that grant money applied for in January has been awarded towards storm water management at the highest value available of \$25,000.

**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE** – Maria Kent reported that a \$100,000 grant has been awarded for use at Hershfield Park.

**FLOOD LEGISLATION COMMITTEE** – Josie advised new bill Flood Insurance Affordability Act introduced. In addition, Governor Murphy introduced flood protection rule to protect from extreme flooding. This won't affect flood insurance but will affect permitting needed for home improvements if in the flood zone.

**CRS COMMITTEE** – Liz Brandness thanked us for showing our appreciation for her and Kathy Troast at the last council meeting. Thanks to her and Kathy’s continued efforts we have been ranked at the highest rating of 5 again. Al also commented that this has been the best flood advisory board and he’s been doing this for many years.

**Close Public Comments** – Lauren Venin motioned to close the meeting for public comments at 9:12pm, seconded by Josie Brown.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Pat Leno made a motion to adjourn, and Julie Doncoes seconded the motion at 9:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Cristiane Jennings