

MINUTES

April 27, 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	Kathleen Cole
Pat Lenoy, Corresponding Secretary	Julie Doncoes
Cristiane Jennings, Recording Secretary	Lauren Simpson
Maria Kent, Council Liaison	Harold Vandermark

VISITORS

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 Pat Lenoy to accept the March meeting minutes, seconded by Lauren Venin, all in favor, Lauren Simpson, Hal Vandermark, Kathleen Cole, and Steve Flormann abstained.

Open Public Comments – Lauren Venin motioned to open the meeting for public comments at 7:33pm, seconded by Katie Cole.

Financial Disclosure Statement Due – Lauren V. reminded members to submit financial disclosure statements online by April 30th.

Riverbank Stabilization – Lauren V. explained that the riverbanks have changed. Removing debris from the rivers is now more of a maintenance issue and efforts should shift to riverbank stabilization. This would be a good opportunity for grant money. We will come up with a statement to submit to the council with recommendations of concern to be addressed where stabilization of the soil would be needed the most. Wanaque river is of great concern where lots of construction points of entry exist from when debris was removed from the river.

Disaster Response Seminar – Al attended recent disaster response seminar and explained that Joseph Branstine, a presenter from FEMA, is very interested in attending one of our upcoming meetings. At the seminar Joseph discussed a larger and longer funding system to help with pre-disaster risks to help prevent damage. One of the topics Al discussed with Joseph was the need for a chair lift at the Carnivale Center. Since the Carnivale Center is used as a shelter during disasters, it should qualify. Al will invite him to one of our upcoming meetings to discuss in more detail what funding is available. We might be able to use funding to get a river assessment and survey.

Willow Field – Willow field project is going out to bid next year. A \$70,000 grant has been received to go towards the project.

Carlough Field – PLRYO has started fundraising for Carlough field restoration projects. The borough has received a \$50,000 grant for improvements, but that will not be enough. They will need to stay within the current footprint and will

not be permitted to remove any more trees because the property is within the floodway. In addition, no new structures will be permitted.

Lincoln Ave Roadway Flooding –Storm water management recommendations to help ease some of the street flooding on Lincoln Ave have been submitted.

NJ River Coalition –No updates.

Habitat Restoration – Councilwoman Maria Kent will follow up on grant money and the project’s progress. Grant money needs to be used by the fall of this year.

Dawes Highway Bridge – Councilwoman Maria Kent explained that Dawes Highway Bridge project is expected to maintain the same width and span, which is unacceptable. The engineers are worried that changing the footprint of the bridge will affect river flooding downstream. However, it was mentioned that the bridge in its current state causes unnecessary flooding in and around the bridge for our residents. 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. To help get our voices heard, Katie Cole made a motion for a resolution to be submitted to the Mayor and Council, seconded by Pat Lenoy, all in favor. The following resolution request was reviewed and motioned by Steve Flormann, seconded by Pat Lenoy, and submitted to Councilwoman Maria Kent.

The Flood Advisory Board requests the Mayor and Council pass a resolution concerning the redesign of the Dawes Highway Bridge. The bridge’s current design and existing abutments constrict the flow of the Ramapo River and increase flood risk to the adjacent neighborhood. Redesign of the bridge as part of Passaic County’s proposed reconstruction project must alleviate or mitigate adjacent and upstream flooding effects. The Borough of Pompton Lakes has invested significantly in increasing flood resiliency and in flood mitigation projects in the vicinity of Dawes Highway and the Ramapo River. The chances of significant flood events are increasing, as demonstrated by the Rutgers STAP report and the soon to be released NJDEP Inland Flood Protection Rules. Allowing the reconstruction of the Dawes Highway Bridge without modification of the hydraulic opening to accommodate future climate-adjusted flood events is a disservice to **the Passaic County residents in the floodplain of the Ramapo River.**

We respectfully request the Mayor and Council pass a resolution and communicate the above statement to Passaic County Engineering and all County Commissioners.

River Work/Hazard Assessment/River Action Plan – Drone survey of the rivers was discussed. The option of relying on volunteers is not sustainable. Al offered to reach out to Passaic County to request a drone survey for the fall. It was recommended that drone surveys are to be scheduled every year to avoid any lapses. The costs of such surveys should be included in the budget. Discussion followed of getting this year’s drone survey competed by a volunteer or Passaic County until we can have it included with the budget.

Climate Tracking Sheet – Lauren invited Rutgers grad students to research lake restoration and climatology reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT – Waiting on Lincoln Ave recommendation response from council. Rain gardens are at the discretion of the homeowners.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – No update.

FLOOD LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – None.

CRS COMMITTEE – Resolution awarding a contract for professional community rating system services to Eoadapt Strategies, LLC was adopted at the council meeting last night. Katie provided a copy to members.

Close Public Comments – Lauren Venin motioned to close the meeting for public comments at 8:48pm.

ADJOURNMENT – Josie Brown made a motion to adjourn, and Steve Flormann seconded the motion at 8:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Cristiane Jennings