

## MINUTES

May 25, 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 (excused)  
Steve Flormann, Co-Chairman  
Pat Lenoy, Corresponding Secretary  
Cristiane Jennings, Recording Secretary  
Maria Kent, Council Liaison

Josephine Brown  
Kathleen Cole (excused)  
Julie Doncoes (excused)  
Lauren Simpson  
Harold Vandermark

### VISITORS

Mayor Michael Serra

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

**MINUTES** – Motion by Pat Lenoy to accept the April meeting minutes, seconded by Lauren Simpson, all in favor.

**Open Public Comments** – Cristiane Jennings motioned to open the meeting for public comments at 7:33pm, seconded by Pat Lenoy.

**Members Sworn In** – Mayor Michael Serra thanked members for their continued support and officially swore in Lauren Simpson and Josie Brown to new terms. Julie Doncoes was also recognized and will be sworn in for another term.

**Dawes Highway Bridge** – Mayor Michael Serra confirmed receipt of our recommendations for the Dawes Highway Bridge, and we were happy to hear that he and the council agree with them. An attorney that was instrumental in changing the floodway near the bridge on the Wayne side giving them permission to build will be consulted on how we can convince Passaic County that updating the bridge will not affect boroughs downstream. It will take the county probably another two to five years and in the ten-million-dollar range to get the project started. The best scenario would be to have the entire river addressed including communities along its path.

**Riverbank Stabilization** – 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. Habitat restoration would be a wonderful way to help stabilize the Wanaque River where lots of construction points of entry exist from when debris was removed from the river. Once we establish the current smaller habitat restoration project along the Ramapo, we will be able to apply for larger grants for the Wanaque River.

**Willow Field** – The Willow field permit has been approved and another grant of \$80,000 has been received for a total of \$380,000 so far. The project will cost approximately \$500,000. The borough is hoping to have the necessary funds and start the project in late spring or early fall of 2024. The T-ball fields will be retaining fields with trees. Plans are to have the DPW with the capacity to water the new trees.

**NJ River Coalition** –No updates.

**Habitat Restoration** – Waiting on contractor bids that include watering for a better chance at plant survival. It will mean less plants, but a greater chance of success.

**River Work/Hazard Assessment/River Action Plan** – Drone survey of the rivers was discussed. The option of relying on volunteers is not sustainable. Hal mentioned a new type of drone that is being tested by his employer. It was suggested that September when the leaves are down would be the best time. Mayor Serra suggested that Passaic County might want to get involved to help keep track of data and offered to reach out to them. Steve advised that we could supply samples of video footage and the kind of data that we collect. In addition, Mayor Serra explained that we had a good relationship with Mikie Sherrill when she was our representative and asked our current representative Pascrell to reach out to her about flooding. Now that she is at the federal level, we are hoping her help will trickle down to us. Furthermore, Mayor Serra shared with us that a resolution to continue cleanup of the rivers passed.

#### **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** – Discussed Joe Grill field and high cost on expansion of the docks at Lakeside to the bridge.

**FLOOD LEGISLATION COMMITTEE** – HR1540 NFIP Affordability Act announced March 2023.

**CRS COMMITTEE** – Ecodapt Strategies, LLC, which was recommended by Paula has been hired to help with our CRS filing and continue our high rating.

**Close Public Comments** – Steve Flormann motioned to close the meeting for public comments at 8:09pm.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Josie Brown made a motion to adjourn, and Pat Lenoy seconded the motion at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Cristiane Jennings