

Oakland Flood Commission Meeting
Bergen County, Oakland, New Jersey
May 10, 2021

- Lew Levy, chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.
- Roll call.
- Sub Committee Reports:

Lew Levy discussed the Stream Maintenance Manual that he and Nick Agnoli have been working on, to address and document stream maintenance, daylighting channels, and storm drainage. At this time, they are awaiting for the Borough to adopt it. The manual will cover the entire town. In addition, Anthony Smid has requested Storm Water Maps from DPW. Nick Agnoli stated that per FEMA, every ditch, stream, and channel must have an identification number. Anthony Smid reported that drainage ditches in the Glen Gray Bridge area were found to have numbers on them and pictures were taken. Lew Levy reported that these were mapped by Boswell a couple of years ago. Nick Agnoli indicated that he will request the locations of these and those locations will be placed on the storm water maps. Anthony Smid asked if water retention basins are labeled in the Reserve and elsewhere. According to Nick Agnoli, if it is on private property, the basin is named after the owner of record and it is not Oakland's responsibility to maintain. Nick Agnoli will provide Anthony Smid and Steve Farley an abbreviated version of the manual, who will, in turn, inform Nick Agnoli if anything needs to be changed. Lew Levy added that this includes the Ramapo River and all tributaries.

Anthony Smid and Steve Farley have begun to walk and assess the river. They have covered the area from Glen Gray Bridge to the Elks Club. They will report their findings to the Flood Commission, and the DPW will then be informed.

Nick Agnoli discussed CRS. At this time, Oakland is not receiving credit for an Office of Emergency Management or Emergency Operation Plans. Nick Agnoli and Roy Bauberger are working on getting together paperwork to show that Oakland has an early warning system and swift reach, formerly known as the reverse 911 system. Nick Agnoli reported that Little Falls scored well and is similar to Oakland. Nick Agnoli mentioned using Little Falls as a template. Once Oakland's system is cataloged and memorialized, it will be provided to FEMA. This will help Oakland obtain additional CRS credits.

Michael Pritchard reported that in a meeting with Borough administration, getting information to the residents in the flood zone was discussed. FEMA has a list of recommended basic supplies to have on hand. He also spoke with a disaster responder with the Red Cross, Diane Brown, who developed a "Grab and Go Kit". This information was forwarded to Nick Agnoli. The Commission discussed whether it would be best to

develop a Basic Supply Kit with specific items, which may be distributed to the residents in the flood zone, or to provide them with a list, on paper, of items they should have on hand. A list of basic supply items can be included in the annual mailer. Nick Agnoli stated that this would count as public outreach and would increase our CRS credits. Ali Fleeson stated that she would research if and how to obtain funding for these supplies. Nick Agnoli recommended reaching out to CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) for possible funding. Anthony Smid stated that it would be important to get CERT back up and running in Oakland.

- Presentation from Carrie Terwilliger:

Carrie Terwilliger discussed the Sustainable Jersey Program, and the benefit of town committees interfacing, combining resources, working on projects together, and supporting each other. Carrie will be the liaison to the Green Team.

- Additional Comments from Members:

Nick Agnoli reported that educational handouts for the Flood Commission are available at Borough Hall and the Library. Information regarding a supply kit can be added to the annual mailer and distributed to all residents, as well as, provided to FEMA. The mailer is updated every two years; the last one dated 2019.

Lew Levy reported that during the pandemic, he and Nick Agnoli put together a seminar regarding flood insurance along with Smart Vents Company. Residents were able to save themselves a great deal of money by obtaining a flood elevation certificate and/or installing Smart Vents. Information can be added to the annual mailer regarding mitigating flood insurance. Nick Agnoli stated that survey companies can be contacted to ask about reducing the price of the elevation certificates, if a group/cluster of residents request surveys. Lew Levy stated that the town cannot require a resident to provide a flood elevation certificate but can require it if it is part of the permit process in the course of significant home repair or improvement. Lew Levy shared his positive personal experience having had Smart Vents installed and a flood elevation certificate.

Ali Feeley and Carrie Terwilliger indicated that they will become members of the Flood Commission. The Oakland Flood Commission Annual Mailer, from Nick Agnoli, and the Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk, from Carrie Terwilliger, was forwarded to the members.

Anthony Smid suggested that the Flood Commission can try to meet in person at the Senior Center, where we can socially distance.

- The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

In Attendance:

Lew Levy-Chairman

Anthony Smid-Co-chairman

Nick Agnoli
Steve Farley
Michael Pritchard
Ali Fleeson
Carrie Terriwilliger

Respectfully submitted,
Zulema Sanchez,
Secretary