

Oakland Flood Commission Meeting
Informal Meeting General Notes
Bergen County, Oakland, New Jersey
September 11,, 2023

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence in remembrance of September 11, 2001.
- Lew Levy inquired as to repairs for 40 Nokomis. Per Mr. Saliani, waiting on one approval from DEP. It will then go out for bid. Charles DiPalma stated that as of September 1st, 2023, it has been two years since he has been waiting for repairs. Lew Levy discussed the difference between gabions and concrete, as well as the damage caused by water velocity. He stated that the problem starts at the property behind Faber Brothers and discussed the compilation of issues that brought the situation to where it is now. Roy Bauberger discussed having had a conversation with Richard Kune regarding repairs. He showed the commission pictures of new material and debris that has built up.
- River Restoration:
Lew Levy provided an update. By the next Flood Commission meeting, a proposal from Dresdner Robin will be provided for the commission to review; to see what they will charge to get the commission to a pre permit meeting with the DEP, and be reasonably assured that a permit will be obtained. The proposal will be provided to the town, the council will vote on it, and a purchase order will be issued.
Lew Levy stated that the Ramapo River is now a C1 waterway.
The Eastern Lampmussels were a significant issue. The River is declining and if this continues it will not be environmentally sound for the mussels. A consideration could be to harvest them in order to propagate the species; will the DEP be amiable to this consideration. A study on the Eastern Lampmussels was conducted five or six years ago. In addition, an archaeological study was conducted in the past, and a drone fly over was conducted which documented the condition of the river. This may have to be repeated. The next step: Dresdner Robin reached out to Trout Scapes for design input. They will then contact the DEP. Roy Bauberger stated that the funds are available. Lew Levy stated that there is \$600,000 in the budget.
Roy Bauberger stated that the concept is to realign the river bed with natural materials; to discharge the energy within the river bed.
Lew Levy stated that what is ideal is for the rehabilitation of the banks, removal of shoal, and removal of as much of the material as possible. Ideal timing is 60 days from the day the work is begun. He also stated that work in the river is restricted from June to Mid October due to the water flow. The scope of the work is 2.1 miles with areas in between. Steve Farley mentioned that this project has been on the table for eight years.
- Roy Bauberger spoke on the degradation of Allerman Brook. There are four large trees behind the nursery which need to be removed from the river. This has been addressed. Vincent Dies, the fire chief and the property maintenance officer, is aware of this.

Lew Levy reported that New Jersey flood rules state that soil cannot be disturbed within 100 feet of river banks. Roy Bauberger also reported that Rebecca Jones, formerly with the DEP, is now managing CRS (Community Rating System). An annual report was brought up regarding what was applied for, what was approved, and what was denied. A meeting with construction officials and DPW was conducted regarding the annual report on maintenance and steam dumping. The next meeting will be at the end of September. Roy Bauberger mentioned that the shed on Lakeshore needs to be addressed as it is an endangerment to the bank. Also, leaves are building up behind a house on Lakeshore. Steve Farley recommended providing a Public Service Announcement on leaf dumping.

- Michael Pritchard asked about RML and that allegedly Mirror Lake would be filled in to put in housing. Per Roy Bauberger, this a groundwater system for the town.
- Motion to approve minutes of the meeting held on June 12, 2023 was made by Tony Smid and seconded by Michael Pritchard. All in favor.
- Motion to adjourn was made by Michael Pritchard and seconded by Charles DiPalma. All in favor.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

In attendance:

Lew Levy-chair

Tony Smid-co-chair

Roy Bauberger

Steve Farley

Charles DiPalma

Michael Pritchard

Councilman Steve Saliani

Respectfully submitted,

Zulema Sanchez

Recording secretary