

Oakland Flood Commission Meeting
Bergen County, Oakland, New Jersey
March 11, 2024

- The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.
- Roll Call
- Charles DiPalma stated that he received notice today regarding registered mail from Boswell.
- Tony Smid stated that an election is needed for Flood Commission Chairman and Co-chairman. Motion was made by Steve Farley to elect Tony Smid as Chair and seconded by Charles DiPalma. All in favor. Motion was made by Tony Smid to elect Charles DiPalma as Co-chairman and was seconded by Steve Farley. All in favor.
- Motion was made by Michael Pritchard to approve Flood Commission minutes from the meeting held on February 12, 2024. It was seconded by Steve Farley.
- Members discussed Allerman Brook and Crystal Lake. Bill Woolford mentioned that the three foot pipe by the spillway was cleaned and is pumping the water, well. It does not have a grate. The two foot pipe has a grate. The water came over approximately one foot over the wall. Charles DiPalma stated that he was at Crystal Lake a couple of weeks ago. He spoke with Ed Clark who stated that the first three feet of pipe is corrugated and needs to be replaced. Estimate will be provided to RML. In addition, Ed Clark will get estimate to RML for liners and sleeves.
- Steve Farley discussed the Hovnanian project. Charles DiPalma stated that he heard Hovnanian will be planting 1,000 trees and there will be 193 units. Also, Hovnanian will contribute \$80,000 to the town. They are restricted by law and can only contribute a certain percentage. Steve Farley suggested that Hovnanian should have to put up a bond for ten or fifteen years, should something go wrong.
- Councilman Steve Saliani stated that permits for Allerman Brook were submitted and July appears to be an approximate start time. In regards to the River Restoration project, it is not finalized but there will be a flyover by a drone on March 13th, 2024. The previous Drone flyover and the current one will be reviewed and compared.
- Bill Woolford inquired as to the money that Hovnanian will contribute. Councilman Saliani stated that the latest update is that the money can be contributed to Allerman Brook.
- Bill Woolford discussed speculation that the Crystal Lake Dam would be widened but that the DEP will not allow it because it would increase water velocity and would scour the river bed. However, the water coming off the Patriot Development is scouring the river bed.
- Tony Smid discussed the West Oakland property where Kathleen Gibbons resides. Kathleen Gibbons informed the members that the pump was removed and thrown into the dumpster. The pump was not operational since October 2023. Tony Smid will be inviting Mr. Yakimik to attend the next Flood Commission meeting. In addition, he will recommend to meet at Kathleen Gibbons' residence with the required people, including the landlord. Tony Smid and Steve Farley walked the property. Tony Smid recommended that a dry well and pump be added to the end of the existing berm.

Councilman Saliani recommended bringing this up at the next council meeting or in the Flood Commission report. Tony Smid will email Mr. Yakimik and include Councilman Saliani. Kathleen Gibbons stated that Mr. Yakimik was intrinsic in getting the property approved and should be present at the residence as well.

- Charles DiPalma inquired as to the new engineering company. Councilman Saliani stated that Neglia Engineering was formerly approved at the last council meeting. Neglia Engineering will assist on some projects, however, certain projects are strictly Boswell's. Boswell is the main engineer and Neglia Engineering will handle other projects.
- In regards to the River Restoration, Dresdner Robbin was approved for a contract. A kick off meeting to start the project has not happened, to date.
- Kathleen Gibbons inquired as to the flat surface at the Van Allen House. Councilman Steve Saliani stated that the area sits over a stream. There was a stream house on that area which was taken down by state funding. It is the community's responsibility to rebuild it. It is a historical property and criteria must be met. In addition, the Historical Society needs volunteers. Councilman Saliani recommended putting up a railing to keep people off the platform. Tony Smid stated that the inside of the Van Allen House is almost completed.

In addition, Bush Plaza was discussed. Construction is deemed to start in two weeks and expected to be completed by September of 2024. A clock tower has been ordered, as well. A kick-off meeting for the project has occurred.

- Tony Smid and Steve Farley will be walking the river to assess the area, in approximately two months. Steve Farley inquired as to who would like to attend with them. He and Tony Smid will keep members updated as to when the hike will occur.
- Councilman Saliani and Bill Woolford discussed Blue Acres and the buy-out of Bill Woolford's home. Bill Woolford hired two appraisal companies to assess comparable properties. Blue Acres will reassess after November 2024.
- Michael Pritchard requested that the borough website be updated with the current Flood Commission members' names. Councilman Saliani will have them updated.
- Kathleen Gibbons inquired as to Allerman Brook. Tony Smid summarized that there was bank erosion, the state put in Gabion Baskets, and the baskets are currently compromised, undermined, and have collapsed. Repair is required.
- Charles DiPalma stated that the permits will cover taking care of the shale under 202, the bridge and repairing his property. The responsible party is Boswell. Councilman Saliani inquired as to the property at 140 Iroquois which has property erosion. The Flood Commission will check this property.
- Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bill Woolford and seconded by Michael Pritchard. All in favor.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

In attendance:

Tony Smid-Chairman

Charles DiPalma-Co-chairman

Steve Farley

Kathleen Gibbons

Bill Woolford

Councilman Saliani

Respectfully submitted,

Zulema Sanchez

Recording secretary

Oakland Flood Commission