



Flood Advisory Committee

Minutes of June 24, 2010 Meeting

- **The** June, 2010 meeting of the Cranford Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) was called to order by Mayor Mark Smith at 7:40 PM in room 108 of the Cranford Municipal Building.
- **The** following people were in attendance:
Mayor Mark Smith, Township Engineer Rick Marsden, Gregory Sgroi, Ed Trush, Mike Pender, Bob Puhak, CJ DeCotiis and Louis C. Lambe.
- **April Minutes** were distributed and individuals in attendance given the opportunity to comment on or correct them. Corrections were noted. Stipulating these updates, Mayor Smith requested a motion to accept the final minutes for April 22, 2010. A motion was offered by Mr. Ed Trush and seconded by Mr. CJ DeCotiis. Subsequently, the minutes of the April 22, 2010 meeting were accepted by the attending members of the committee.
- **Township Engineer Update:**
 1. *Mr. Marsden* reported that the project manager for the Army Corps is no longer John O'Connor but Ms. Lisa Gould. Also, Mr. Defendorf of the NJDEP has retired and there is no announcement of a replacement, yet. Mr. Marsden went on to say that the expectation is to have the two new representatives at the September Meeting. Finally, Mr. Marsden announced that, to date, the NJDEP has not committed to any matching of federal money towards the project.
 2. *The Township Committee* is expected to approve the \$130,000 to de-silt a 500 foot stretch of the river. A copy of the plans and the 2008 permit are available in the engineering office for anyone interested in reviewing them.
 3. *Orchard Brook:* Mr. Marsden reported that the lawyers are working on acquiring the easements needed for this project. He stated that his office is working with residents to inform them of the limit of disturbance. Mr. Sgrois added that he believes that this is a big challenge and that it is very likely that the only way that the Township will get the easements is through eminent domain.
- **Phase 2B Funding:**
 1. *Mayor Smith* informed the committee that the Township Committee should be able to bond, if necessary, during the 2011 budget year.
 2. *Senator Kean* has drafted a bill to provide \$5 million dollars for Cranford's flood efforts. Assemblyman Bramnick is expected to introduce an identical bill in the Assembly.
 3. *Mayor Smith* reported that our Federal Senators and Representatives are well aware of our needs and he is hopeful that funding from these sources will come through in the upcoming year.
 4. *Mr. Marsden* reported that the contractor for the pump station is still due about \$240,000 and we can only expect approximately \$360,000 to be available to supplement 2B if the Township committee permits.



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- **Phase 5 Express Sewer:** Mayor Smith informed the committee of his discussions with Mr. Gregory Sgrois about the idea of connecting the west side of the river to the pump station on the east side with a connecting sewer in lieu of an addition pump station dedicated to the west side. The sewer would allow the pump station to drain the sewers on the west side and pump them through the new pump station and into the river. Mr. Sgrois canvassed the homes in the area adjacent to the footbridge on the west side of the river and reported that there were no incidents of flooding into homes unless the river breached the dike. Mayor Smith added that the east side always flooded badly around the pump station but the west side only experienced similar flooding when the river overtopped the dikes. Mr. Marsden added that the homes on the west side may be OK but the pumps had to be deployed to the west side during the March storm to alleviate the flooding in the streets; therefore, he is not prepared to rule out a pump station on the west side until Hatch Mott MacDonald studies the idea further. Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Sgrois for his efforts and stated that the Township Committee would further explore the idea. Mr. Trush inquired as to how this change in direction would impact the plan put forward by Hatch Mott MacDonald. Mr. Marsden reiterated that we are not considering all of the facts and he is reluctant to endorse the idea until Hatch Mott MacDonald has conducted a thorough review. Mr. Puhak thanked Mr. Sgrois for his efforts and asked if the properties along Crescent would be affected. Mr. Sgrois replied no.

- **Comments:** Mayor Smith informed the committee that the next meeting will be on September 23, 2010. Mr. Pender reported that the trees on the dike near the footbridge are on the verge of coming down.

- **Mr. Puhak** made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Pender at 8:45 PM.

- **Progress of Committee Goals:**
 1. Update and Improve the CFAC Website. **Done.**
 2. Produce a half hour television show for TV 35 which educates the public about flooding in Cranford without creating a scare or adversely affecting property values. **No Progress**
 3. Find a way to advance 2B to compliment the now operational pump station.
 - a. Balance of PS budget (\$360,000) could be committed to partially fund the project.
 - b. Bill in the NJ Senate and Assembly will be introduced in the months to come.
 - c. U.S. Senators and Representatives are aware of our funding needs.
 4. Aggressively pursue funding for the NE Quadrant project. **See item 3.**
 5. Aggressively pursue funding for the phase 5 Pump Station and location. **Alternative is being explored.**
 6. Push for the completion of the USACE study. **No Update**
 7. Advance the study of the Lenape Basin and Control Structure to determine the feasibility of increasing the size of the orifice or retaining one foot above the current employed elevation. **No Update**
 8. Attend a Union County Freeholder Meeting with the USACE's support. **No Update**
 9. Install curbing along the dike on Riverside to protect the pump station and along Park Drive to prevent parking on the dike. **No Update**