



Flood Advisory Committee

Minutes of December 3, 2009 Meeting

- **The** final meeting of 2009 for the Cranford Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) was called to order by Mark Smith at 7:30 PM in room 108 of the Cranford Municipal Building.
- **The** following people were in attendance:
Deputy Mayor Mark C. Smith, Township Engineer Rick Marsden, Robert Puhak, Leo Coakley, Ellen Hunt, Joe Musillo, and Louis C. Lambe.
- **The Minutes of the October 22, 2009 FAC meeting** were distributed and individuals in attendance given the opportunity to comment on or correct them. Five corrections were noted. Stipulating these updates, Mr. Smith requested a motion to accept the final minutes for October, 2009. A motion was offered by Ms. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Musillo. Subsequently, the minutes of the October 22, 2009 meeting were accepted by the attending members of the committee.
- **Township Engineer Updates:**
 1. **Pump Station:** Mr. Marsden stated that even though there are a few small items left on his punch list, the pump station passed its final inspection and a Certificate of Occupancy can be expected soon.
 2. **Lenape Basin Control Structure:** Mr. Marsden explained that he received a set of plans for the Lenape Basin without the analysis. Mr. Marsden conveyed that Mr. Mineo has promised to try to get someone to look at the outflow structure. Mr. Marsden optimistically stated that the original analysis has to be available or stored somewhere and it will probably be found. Mr. Lambe speculated that the NJDEP must have a copy of the design and analysis somewhere if the county cannot locate it. Mr. Coakley stated that we need to review the stage storage analysis and suggests that it should still be valid. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Marsden if it is possible that we may have lost storage capacity as a result of long term deposits of silt and debris. Mr. Marsden remarked that it is possible in some areas and in others not so likely.
- **Discussion of Phases 3 & 4, 2b and 5a** - Mr. Smith stated that it is a possibility that we may hear back from the USACE that we can do Phases 3&4 providing we address its impacts which may prove to be too costly and subsequently the reason why it does not get done. Mr. Puhak stated that if the USACE determines that the dikes are not sound, it may present us an opportunity to address some of the problems along the dikes. He went on to say that there is money out there to be had but we (Cranford) need to be in the right position to receive it and we may have to ask the state to provide additional funding. Mr. Puhak stated that it would be nice if we could receive regular updates from the USACE on what has been done and what types of funding we should be pushing for from our various elected officials throughout all of the remaining phases. Mr. Smith suggested that we might want to consider that we provide at least annual updates from the Flood Committee to the public and perhaps TV35 could play a role in delivering that update in an attempt to arouse support and improve awareness. Mr. Coakley stated that the USACE must come back with a positive cost benefit analysis or we will not receive the funding that we need. To that end, Mr. Coakley suggested that we can and should continue to make improvements on our own and seek funding from any and all levels of government because it will not affect the conclusions of the USACE and it may actually help our



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cause when it comes to funding. He also explained that we need to be cautious in pursuing Phase 5 to ensure that it will not interfere with the USACE's study or plans. Additionally, we should keep the USACE abreast of all of our efforts to ensure that we do not hurt our chances of getting their help. Mr. Coakley finished by saying that if we have to do a repair to the dike while this process is going on, we may want to repair to the suggested levels in the Long Term Control Plan as opposed to just making the repair to the original level. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Coakley if we should inform the USACE of all of the locations that are being considered for Phase 5. Mr. Coakley suggested that there is certainly no harm in sharing the information. The discussion shifted to the location of the Phase 5 pump station at the end of Park Drive and Mr. Coakley cautioned the committee that building a pump station at the end of the street may not be permitted because it is park property and not Public Right of Way. Mr. Marsden asked Mr. Smith where the township was with the condemnation of the property in question and Mr. Smith replied that there has been no progress. Mr. Puhak asked if the county paid the assessed value could we raise the balance of the owner's asking price from another funding source. He continued questioning whether we could make the argument to the county that we have contributed about \$4 million towards the acquisition of open space and we would like to take this opportunity to seek their help in paying the owner's asking price and acquiring this land for our pump station. Mr. Musillo asked if we had enough money left over from the pump station budget to do 2b. Mr. Smith stated that we would like to do 2b which is estimated to cost about \$1.2 million but there may only be about \$600,000 left from the pump station budget and we would have to make up the difference somehow. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Marsden if the permits were still in place. Mr. Marsden stated that he believes they may be but he will have to check. Mr. Coakley stated that technically the construction was started and we may not need to renew or extend the permit, suggesting that we look into the Permit Extension Act for guidance.

- *Mr. Smith* asked the committee for any comments. Ms. Hunt informed the committee that she received notice that the property at 12 Park Drive is before the Zoning Board of Adjustment for several variances. She alerted the committee that she wished to object to the award of these variances given the fact that the property is well within the flood plain. Mr. Smith suggested that she submit her objections in the written form to the Board and she may consider appearing in person to testify as well. Mr. Coakley asked Mr. Smith if the proposal for 5A made to the Township Committee by Hatch Mott MacDonald was still being considered. Mr. Smith responded that it is going to be tough in this economic climate to get support for this project without the promise of funding from an external source. Ms. Hunt informed the committee that despite her repeated complaints, people are still parking on the dike on Park Drive and its taking its toll. She asked the members if anyone knew when or if the county is going to install curbs to protect the dike. Mr. Puhak suggested that we ask Mr. Mineo to provide us an update of the county's effort to curb the park's roadway.

- *Mr. Puhak* made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Marsden at 9:00PM.